



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE DIVIDING SKY

BY JILL TEW

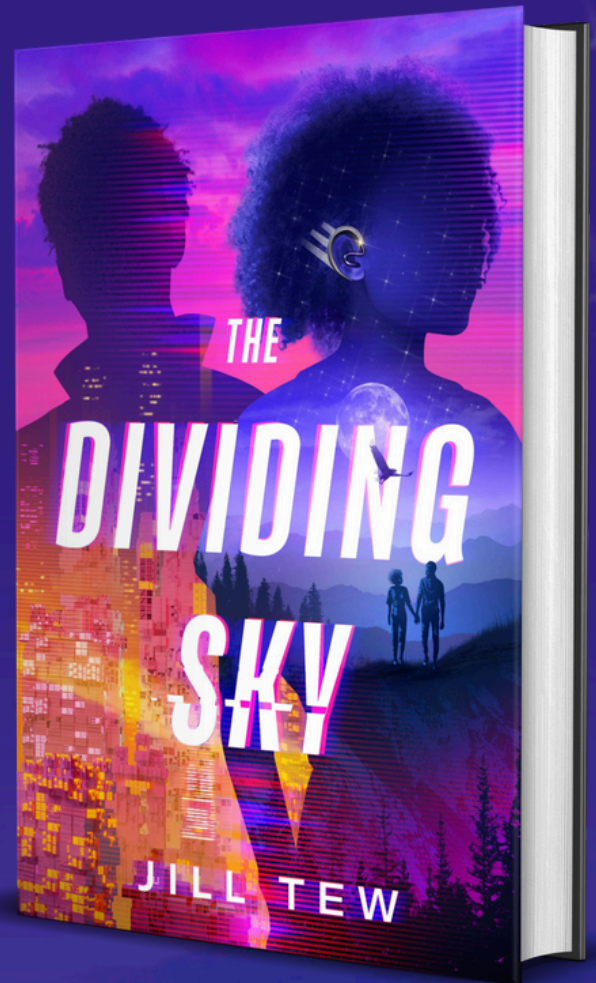


ABOUT *THE DIVIDING SKY*

In 2364, eighteen-year-old Liv Newman dreams of a future beyond her lower-class life in the Metro. As a Proxy, she uses the neurochip in her brain to sell memories to wealthy clients. Maybe a few illegally, but money equals freedom. So when a customer offers her a ludicrous sum to go on an assignment in no-man's-land, Liv accepts. Now she just has to survive.

Rookie Forceman Adrian Rao believes in order over all. After discovering that a renegade Proxy's shady dealings are messing with citizens' brain chemistry, he vows to extinguish the threat. But when he tracks Liv down, there's one problem: her memories are gone. Can Adrian bring himself to condemn her for crimes she doesn't remember?

As Liv and Adrian navigate the world beyond the Metro and their growing feelings for one another, they grapple with who they are, who they could be, and whether another way of living is possible.




AUTHOR'S NOTE FROM JILL TEW

Before I was a writer, I worked a lot of high-stress, high-demand jobs. To help manage everything, I paid other people to buy my groceries, care for my dog, and do my laundry. All of that saved me time, but I never filled that time with anything fulfilling for me. I always filled it with more work.

With *The Dividing Sky*, I envisioned a world where the limits of which tasks humans can outsource to one another are nearly nonexistent. In the novel, Proxies raise the Uppers' children and run their errands. But they also go on dates on their Upper clients' behalf, read books for them, and watch the sun rise. At what point, if ever, would someone in a world like that reach their breaking point?





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE DIVIDING SKY

1. How do Liv's actions as an EmoProxy affect her sense of who she is? How do her thoughts and actions change once she erases her memory? Why do you think memories are important in shaping a person's identity?

2. How does the use of neurochips and memory trading affect people's lives in the story? Do you think this technology is more helpful or harmful?

3. What moments in the story show Liv and Adrian starting to change their feelings toward each other? Can you identify a specific scene where their relationship begins to shift?

4. Why does Adrian initially think it's important to enforce the law? How does his understanding of right and wrong change as he learns more about Liv?

5. How is the dystopian society in the story different from the world we live in today? How is it the same? What elements make it feel dystopian?

6. What are some rules or laws in this dystopian society that seem unfair? How do these rules impact the characters and their decisions?

7. How does Liv's role as an EmoProxy impact her interactions with others?

8. What causes the initial conflict between Liv and Adrian? How do they start to see things from each other's perspectives as they work together?

9. If you could use a neurochip to sell or trade your memories, would you? What kind of memories do you think would be most valuable or desirable?

10. Imagine Liv and Adrian did not end up working together. How might the story change? What do you think would happen to each character if they never crossed paths?

11. Liv often bends the law to survive. Can you think of a time when breaking the rules might be the right thing to do? What real-life situations might compare to her decisions?

12. If you were a character in Liv and Adrian's world, which role would you prefer—being a Proxy, an officer like Adrian, or something else? Why?

13. The Dividing Sky is often compared to *Serpent and Dove* and *Arcane*, can you think of your own comparisons for the book?

14. If Liv had to choose another unexpected ally besides Adrian, who might it be, and why? What kind of character would be interesting in helping her on her journey?

15. If there was a book 2, how would you like to see Liv and Adrian's relationship develop?