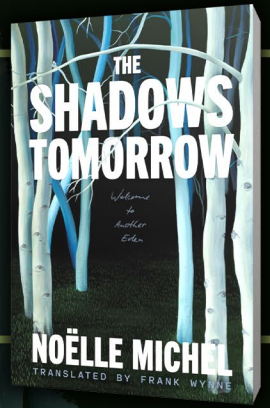


TOPICS & QUESTIONS

for DISCUSSION



1. The novel imagines a world in which Neanderthals have been recreated and placed under human control. What did the novel make you think about what it really means to be “human”? Did it blur the line between “us” and “them” in a way you found unsettling?
2. The novel brings together very different perspectives—Neanderthals, scientists, and outsiders looking in. Which point of view affected you most, and why? Did your sympathies shift as the story unfolded?
3. Blood Moon is both vulnerable and powerful, shaped by grief, love, and responsibility. How did you respond to her as a character? In what ways does she challenge common stereotypes about prehistoric women?
4. Eva is drawn to the project for scientific reasons, yet becomes increasingly aware of its ethical dangers. Did you see her primarily as complicit, conflicted, or courageous? Are scientists morally responsible for how their work is used?
5. The novel asks whether human beings are doomed to pursue whatever science makes possible. Do you think the real danger in the book comes from the scientific breakthrough itself, or from the social, political, and commercial systems built around it?
6. The Neanderthals are watched, interpreted, managed, and eventually turned into entertainment. What is the novel saying about our appetite for spectacle?
7. The contrast between the Neanderthals’ way of life and the modern world is one of the novel’s strongest tensions. In which ways did this contrast make you reconsider our modern world?
8. Adam enters the story through performance and fabrication, but does he expose the artificiality of the whole project, or become caught in it himself?
9. Several characters believe they are helping or liberating others, yet their actions can also be selfish, invasive, or destructive. Do you think the novel suggests that the desire to “save” someone can sometimes be another form of power?
10. The story raises urgent questions about our relationship to nature and to living beings more broadly. Did the novel feel hopeful to you about humanity’s future?