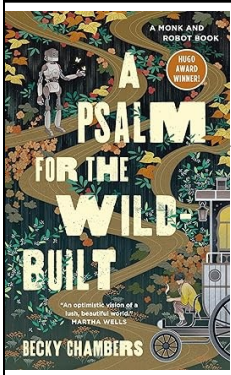




Discussion Guide



About the Book

Psalm for the Wild-Built

Author: Becky Chambers

Published: Tom Doherty Associates, 2021

<https://martamolnar.com/>

<https://www.otherscribbles.com/about>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Becky_Chambers

<https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/becky-chambers/>

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. What was the restlessness in the character of Dex? To what extent do you think they define the human condition? Have you felt that emptiness that they felt? Explain.
3. What is the job of a tea monk? Why do you think Dex was drawn to that profession? Why wasn't it fulfilling for him?
4. How does the world that Becky Chambers creates mimic aspects of our world? How is it different? Do you think the future will more like her world? Why or why not?
5. What did you think of the character Mosschap? What is his mission and why? Did you think he was compassionate? Why or why not?
6. Why did the humans set the robots free? Does that make sense to you? Why or why not?
7. Why did Dex want to go the hermitage? Did you think that was a pilgrimage? Why or why not. Do you think Dex found what he was looking for? Explain.
8. Have you ever gone on a pilgrimage or gone on a long journey to a destination that was important to you? Explain your experience. Was it fulfilling for you? Why or why not?
9. What resolution did Dex experience in this book, if any?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?

Check out Becky Chambers on YouTube

Becky Chambers with Sarah Gailey — A Psalm for the Wild-Built (59:55)

Cozy Sci-fi | Becky Chambers & Annalee Newitz (5:32)

Ambient Queerness | Becky Chambers & Annalee Newitz (4:49)



NANCY: This thought-provoking, science fiction biography, provides a window into the human journey toward meaning and purpose. Though the eyes of Dex, a wandering Tea Monk, we are invited to journey beyond success to a transformative relationship with a robot. The book raises more questions than it answers.



ABIGAIL: I found this book hopeful in many ways because in the postmodern world Chambers creates, humans have found a way to live in their environment, despite environmental changes. Yet most of them have left the wild world of nature behind, and this seems to be part of the loss and longing Dex is hoping to find.



SALLIE: A very peculiar little book, I thought. It seemed that Dex was such a lonely, sad being. And Mossicap, the robot, tries to understand Dex's restlessness, asking if he had an unhappy childhood. But Dex says no. He was actually loved, but still had to venture out, as we all do, to find ourselves. Unclear if he actually did.



PRISCILLA: What religion do these people have in Chamber's make-believe world? Certainly not any religions that we have today. Why can't she keep Christianity as part of the future? It's a timeless story. I didn't appreciate that about the book.



MOLLY: I agree with Abigail. This seems like a hopeful book, because not only have the humans figured out how to live in a changing environment, but they also have learned not to discriminate and to allow autonomy. They liberated the robots, for God's sake! Okay, now that is downright wacky when you think of it.



JANE: Well I think that Dex gives new meaning to the term social entrepreneurship. Although it was a business enterprise, this Tea Monk effort seemed more of a caring ministry, than a profit taking scheme. I did like his resourcefulness to learn as he traveled.



KATHARINE: I love how Chambers creates such a quirky world beyond anything we currently know. And I appreciate her introduction of a nonbinary character in Dex. This could be used in religion classes and those studying the future to imagine worlds that may be to come.