

1. What was the initial appeal of New Earth for Wynter’s family? How was it different for Wynter, Jaclyn, and their mother, Sylvia?
2. Would any aspect of New Earth—initially, at least—ever appeal to you?
3. Have you ever known someone who was a member of a cult?
4. Wynter often struggles to keep the rules. Do you think other members of New Earth struggled similarly?
5. Have you ever had to leave your family or entire social circle behind?
6. At what point did you first sense Magnus wasn’t exactly who he presented himself to be? Do you think he believed his own teachings?
7. Wynter has to learn to work a smart phone, TV, and drive a car. She is stymied by popular pictures on social media and triggered by tragedies in the news. What other norms, technology, or trends do you think someone in her position might struggle with?
8. Chase and Wynter come from very different backgrounds. How do you feel their journeys are similar?
9. What do you believe caused Wynter to trust Chase—or was she driven by sheer desperation? Have you ever stepped far outside your comfort zone out of sheer desperation?
10. Was there a twist in this book that you did not see coming?
11. Do you do any “doomsday prepping?” Do you know any “preppers?”
12. These books are set in real locations between Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado. Did you recognize any of the locations in the book?
13. The Author’s Note includes the real events and news items that inspired the story. How concerned are you about a pandemic or disease of similar nature in the future?
14. What do you believe might be the biggest challenges of waiting out a pandemic or other apocalyptic event in an underground bunker? What do you believe Wynter’s biggest challenges for her personally will be?
15. How is the Wynter at the end of the book different from the Wynter of the beginning?
16. What questions do you hope will be answered in the sequel, *A Single Light*?

Group activities:

- Print and share the articles on the frozen Siberian reindeer and electrical grid cyber-attack. Were group members aware of these news items?
- Learn more about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
- Check into the seed companies included in the author’s note—and consider scheduling a visit if you’re in the area!
- Chart Wynter’s journey on a map of the Midwest.
- Please be sure to review the book online! Reviews are not only helpful to readers, but one of the best gifts you can give an author whose work you’ve enjoyed.
- Plan to read the sequel, *A Single Light*!