

OMAR EPPS

CLARENCE A. HAYNES



NUBIA

THE RECKONING

DISCUSSION GUIDE

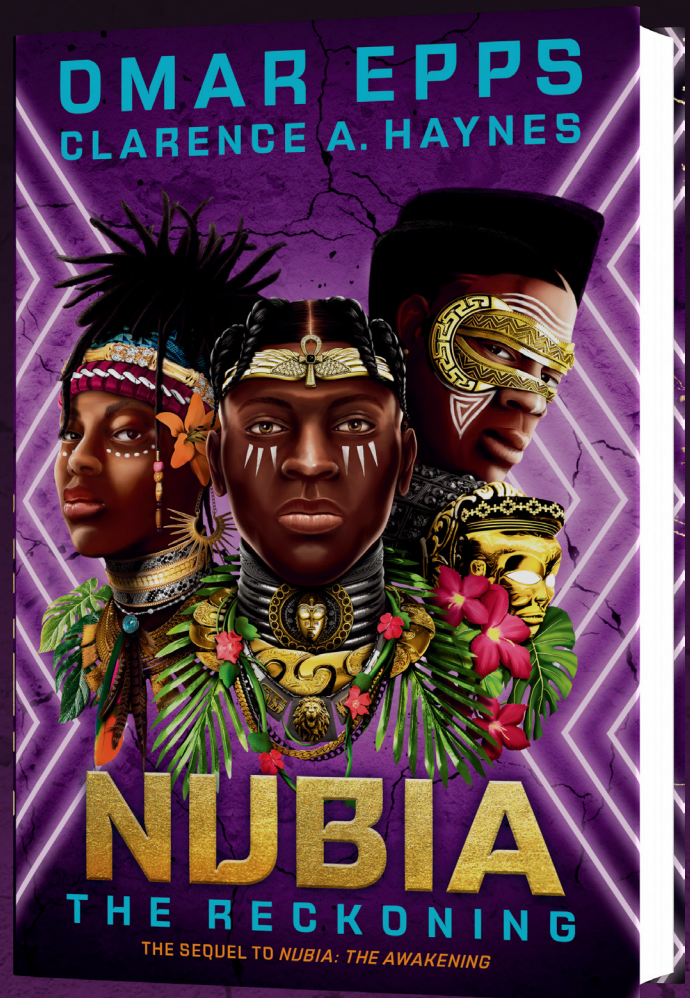
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Zuberi, Uzochi, and Lencho were among the first of a new generation of Nubians to awaken to extraordinary powers—gifts their parents lost when they fled their island home decades ago. And now that Uzochi has been declared a Nubian catalyst, everyone expects him to lead.

But what should be a time of rebirth and celebration is instead one of turmoil. The so-called sky king, Krazen St. John, is bent on harnessing Nubian gifts for himself, and he has assembled a special superhuman militia to do his bidding, putting a ruthless Lencho in charge.

Facing down his cousin feels insurmountable for Uzochi, even with Zuberi at his side, but now there's more at stake than the hostile government of Tri-State East. Uzochi's training has led him to discover an ancient, forgotten force hungry for conquest—and it won't stop until all of Tri-State East . . . and possibly the world . . . is under its control.



Themes: Fantasy, Adventure, Boy Interest, African American Interest, Heroes & Heroism

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Actor and producer **OMAR EPPS** was introduced to audiences as Q in Ernest Dickerson's film *Juice*, opposite Tupac Shakur. He has gone on to

star in the beloved romance *Love & Basketball*, as Dr. Eric Foreman on *House*, and as Darnell on *This Is Us*. He is the author of the memoir *From Fatherless to Fatherhood* and both novels in the Nubia series.



CLARENCE A. HAYNES has worked as an editor for a variety of publishers, including Penguin Random House, Amazon Publishing, and Legacy Lit, an imprint

of Hachette Book Group. He has edited top-selling fiction titles like *The Hundredth Queen*, *Scarlet Odyssey*, and *Washington Post* bestseller *The Vine Witch*, along with its two sequels. He is also the author of the nonfiction work *The Legacy of Jim Crow*.



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- Compare the covers of *Nubia: The Awakening* and *Nubia: The Reckoning*. What differences do you notice? How do you think this narrative will develop based on the cover of *Nubia: The Reckoning*? Explain.
- Review the map and the “Key Moments in New York History” timeline. Based on these sources, describe how climate change has impacted the city’s geography and people.
- Define the word *reckoning*. If someone says “there will be a reckoning,” what does that mean? Based on the title, what are you expecting from this story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General Understanding

- Give an overall summary of this book.
- Review the map of the Lower City (Borough of the Tri-State East, 2098). What do you notice about this area of New York? What do you notice about the different neighborhoods? Review the timeline of “Key Moments in New York History” and see how they connect to landmarks labeled on the map.

Key Details

- Uzochi, Zuberi, the Children, and the elders are devising a plan to rescue Vriana from Up High. Why is Vriana in the Up High? What is the plan to rescue Vriana? What happens when Uzochi, Zuberi, and team go to rescue Vriana?
- Lencho lives Up High. What is his Nubian gift? What is his role in Krazen’s militia?
- What is the Paranormal Registration Act? What would this law require? What is Krazen’s plan for those who register?
- Who or what is the inner voice that Lencho hears? It “would speak to him, egging him on, encouraging him to embrace his greatness.”(p. 38)

As the story continues, how does it change Lencho’s behavior? What does the voice encourage him to do to Krazen while in his office?

- Sandra St. John is determined to make a name of her own and escape her father’s shadow. She pays her personal guards an additional salary to ensure loyalty. Why is she concerned about their loyalty? Why does she think it necessary to lie to Krazen? To Vriana? What is her ultimate plan? What is her gift, and how did it awaken?
- What is Sajah’s gift? Why is Uzochi’s father distrusting of and angry at their gift?
- Who is Siran? Where has he been all of Uzochi’s life? Why?
- Who is Liv’e? What is his Nubian gift? Where has he been for two millennia? Why did he choose Lencho’s body to possess? After the final confrontation, why did he inhabit Sajah?

Vocabulary and Text Structure

- Each chapter is told from a different point of view. How would the narrative change if Liv’e, Kefle, or Siran had dedicated chapters?
- What is “the kinetic”?

Author's Purpose

- Sajah's pronouns are "they" and "them." They say to Lencho, "I'm not a dude, and you need to quit calling me 'he.'" (p. 40) Why is it important that Sajah is addressed with their correct pronouns?
- Epps and Haynes detail the effects of tech implants on various characters. Is there a connection that could be made to technology we use today? Explain your answer.

Inferences

- In chapter 10, Uzochi experiences a collection of Adisa's memories. Outline each memory. What is the significance of each one?
- Uzochi talks with Zuberi. He says, "Yeah, I think it was trauma. . . . Trauma that lasted for generations. I keep on connecting the dots, Beri. Why our parents and other adult Nubians are so secretive, why they alternate between being proud of Nubia and not wanting to talk about it, like there's also a bunch of shame in the mix.

I mean, it's crazy. . . ." (p. 221) How does trauma influence the behavior and circumstances of the main characters? How do they confront their own trauma (or not)?

- Revenge motivates many characters. What characters are guided by revenge, and how does it influence their actions?
- Which characters are motivated by love? Give an example from the text.

Opinions

- In your opinion, was Uzochi wrong for trusting Siran? Should Kefle be forgiven for past acts because he tried to save Lencho from Liv'e? Explain.
- How were the tech implants developed? What are the Conway Protocols? What were they used for? Why were these experiments unethical? Connect this to the "USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee." Visit cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm to begin your research.

AFTER READING

- What would you want your Nubian gift to be? Explain your choice.
- The epilogue sets the stage for a third book. Write its prologue.
- Reflect on the following passages:
 - "'Hold your goal like a target . . . and visualize yourself achieving it with every blow or kick or turn or twist. Each day that your muscles ache after a day of training is a day that your body is breaking and building itself anew,' he would say. 'And remember, that body and mind can do seemingly impossible things.'" (p. 18)

- "What must have it been like, Uzochi thought, to grow up with the idea that your gift was something to be cherished? That it was intrinsically part of you? How would his life have been different if he'd known as a kid that what he could do now was as much a part of him as his eye color or the texture of his hair?" (p. 112)
- "Pandemonium—purposeful pandemonium, she realized—to strike fear in people's hearts." (p. 195)
- Create a storyboard or comic of the final confrontation between Lencho (Liv'e) and Uzochi and friends.

This guide was written by Dr. Shanetia P. Clark, who teaches courses in children's and young adult literature at Salisbury University.



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