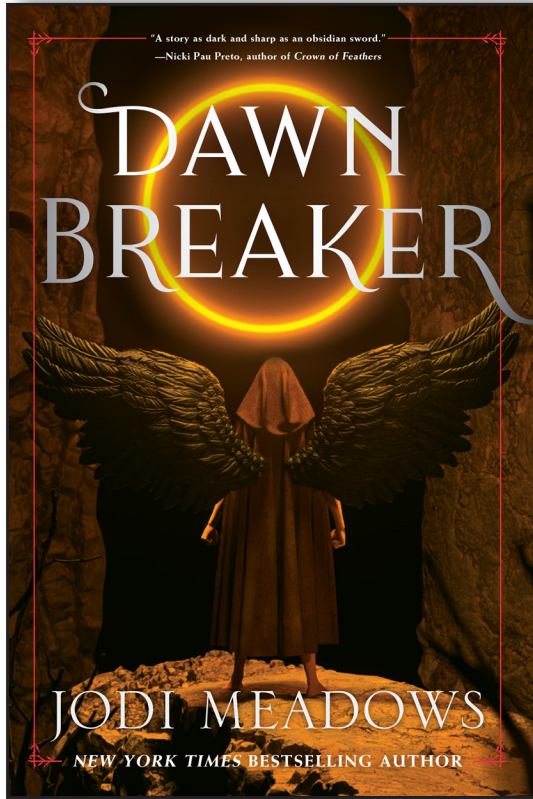


READING GROUP GUIDE



Dawnbreaker

by Jodi Meadows

ABOUT THE BOOK

The king is dead. The world is lost. Long live the queen.

The thin membrane of magic separating the human and demonic planes has been destroyed. Nightrender, the immortal warrior of the gods, must find a way to rebuild it, but Hanne—the serpent girl, always too cunning to be trusted, too hungry for power—has become High Queen, and is too consumed with ambition to cooperate. Meanwhile, Rune—married to Hanne, but in love with Nightrender—is lost in the realm of demons after a disastrous battle, wandering alone in a twisted landscape of mercury seas, black-glass spires, and winds blowing ash.

In this second and final installment of the *Nightrender* duology, the circle will close, and the world will be saved—or burnt to a cinder.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- This novel is a sequel to *Nightrender*. Consider the ending of *Nightrender*, and discuss a possible conflict of *Dawnbreaker*. At what point is the conflict revealed?
- Most fantasy novels involve an unusual and daring adventure. Characters take risks, and there are moments of tension and conflict. How does *Dawnbreaker* fulfill these elements of fantasy?
- Good vs. evil and the fight for power are underlying themes in *Nightrender* and *Dawnbreaker*. Identify the evil characters in this novel. Describe the evil acts of Dagath Mal. Which characters crave power the most? How does this desire for power lead to evil? Trust is another underlying theme. Explain why Hanne feels that no one can be trusted. Debate whether she is correct.
- What is the purpose of the Prologue? Discuss the meaning of the following sentence: “Nightrender was sculpted into a weapon of devastating glory.” In what ways is the Nightrender a weapon? The Nightrender refers to a weapon throughout the novel. What is the weapon? How is it revealed? Discuss the power of this weapon. What is its role at the end of the novel? Explain the reason for the Epilogue.
- Rune is in prison at the beginning of the novel. Who is responsible for his imprisonment? Describe his prison cell. How does Rune eventually escape? Who or what is his best ally? What is the purpose of the malice device? Explain why Rune is concerned about malice in his heart. How does he fight malice?

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- What is a soul shard? The Nightrender declares Rune her soul shard, but he is unaware of this designation. Why doesn't she tell him? She promises to eventually set him free. How does she intend to do this? At what point does he become free?
- Describe the purpose of the following: Soul Gate, Relics, the feather, and malsite.
- Contrast the kingdoms of Embria and Caberwill. Hanne vows that if the people of Embria “refuse to love her, they would learn to fear her” (p. 14). How does she instill fear in the people? Discuss Hanne’s reaction when Nadine refers to her as the Dawnbreaker Queen (p. 13). How does this reveal her view of the Nightrender?
- Discuss the element of romance in the novel. Rune is married to Hanne, but in love with the Nightrender. How does this contribute to the conflict? Explain how Rune is conflicted about his marriage. What is the reaction of those around Hanne when she reveals that she is pregnant with Rune’s child? Why does Noir call this news “scandalizing”? It turns out that Hanne is lying about the child. Explain her motive.
- Explain why the Nightrender demands an audience with Hanne. Why is Hanne annoyed by this request? Describe the meeting. Why does Hanne say that Rune breaks so many rules regarding the Nightrender? What are the rules that she references? In what ways is the Nightrender a threat to Hanne? Discuss why the Nightrender wants to know if Hanne is in love with Rune.

ALSO AVAILABLE



ABOUT THE CREATOR



Jodi Meadows is the author of *Nightrender* and *Dawnbreaker*; the Incarnate and Fallen Isles trilogies; and is a coauthor of *New York Times* bestsellers *My Lady Jane* and *My Plain Jane*. You can visit her at JodiMeadows.com, and connect with her on X @jodimeadows and on Instagram @unicornwarlord. She lives in rural Virginia.

