

Chaos Looming: Reader's Guide

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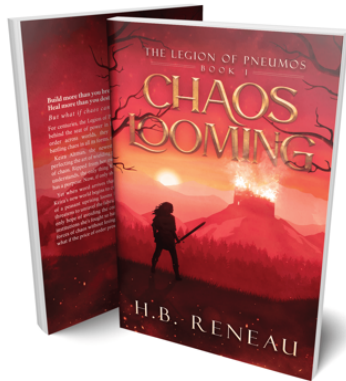
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About the Book

"Deftly crafted and impressively original." - Midwest Book Review

"Highly creative fantasy world." - ★★★★★ Readers' Favorite

"An excellent YA Fantasy read to start off 2021!" - ★★★★★ Sarah Foil, YA Fantasy Writer and Reviewer

"A fast-paced, intriguing read for fans of fantasy and action." - ★★★★★ Mary R. Lanni, Book Reviewer and Librarian

Build more than you break. Heal more than you destroy.

But what if chaos can't be tamed?

For centuries, the Legion of Pneumos has lurked behind the seat of power in Loren. To preserve order across worlds, they are charged with battling chaos in all its forms, no matter the cost.

Keira Altman, the newest Legionnaire, has spent years perfecting the art of wielding pneuma and channeling order out of chaos. Ripped from her own world and into one she barely understands, the only thing Keira knows for certain is that she has a purpose. Now, if only she knew what it was.

Yet when word arrives that the Regio lies on his deathbed, Keira's new world begins to crumble around her. As the specter of a peasant uprising looms large, and political maneuvering threatens to unravel the fabric of society, Keira realizes that her only hope of avoiding the coming turmoil may lie in the very institutions she's fought so hard against. But can she master the forces of chaos without losing herself to the chaos within? And what if the price of order proves too high to pay?

An epic YA fantasy adventure, *Chaos Looming* features a strong female protagonist coming of age amidst the turmoil of revolution and political intrigue, all with a cross-worlds twist! It's a great fit for anyone with a love for fantasy, twisty-turny adventure, and just a hint of simmering romance...

Discussion Questions

Characters

1. How does Keira's character change over the course of the novel in her pursuit of "purpose?" Does she ever find it?
2. How are Keira's actions in the book influenced by her relationship with her mother and the way she grew up? Do you think she's aware of this influence?
3. Danny and Keira are two people from very different times and circumstances, how has this influenced the dynamic between them? How do they each approach the challenges of trust? Intimacy? Dependence? Does this make them more or less well matched as partners?
4. How are the characters' mental health challenges represented in the story? How do they influence their actions? How much insight do the characters have toward this influence?
5. How might Nazon's background have influenced her choices and understanding of the stakes at play in the story? Would you have made the same choices? Why or why not?
6. Elliott tells Keira "When in doubt, I say heal whenever you can. For it is far better to fear the outcome of kindness than regret an act of cruelty that went unchallenged." Is this always true? Why or why not? Pick a character who might disagree with this statement and explain their argument.
7. Discuss Junia's role as the antagonist. What is the reasoning she claims for her actions? Do you agree with them? Why or why not?

Plot

8. Neval explains to Keira that, “the laughs, the gaiety, the constant need to make merry, all it does is hide what’s really underneath . . . a tinderbox.” What does Neval mean by this?
9. Why does Neval choose the side he does at the end? Was it for strategic or personal reasons? How might his decision have changed if Junia had talked to him first?
10. Elliott says, “Binding is about ordering the world around us. And I would remind you that we cannot hope to master the chaos of the world around us until we first master the chaos within.”
How does the theme of order vs chaos manifest throughout the book? Is there a difference between "internal" and "external" chaos? Are the two related? If so, how?
11. The mandate of the Legion of Pneumos is to fight chaos and bring order into the world. How do the characters' differing viewpoints of what chaos and order really mean lead to conflict in the story?
12. Elliott tells Keira, “the question you have to ask yourself is whether you can serve the good that lies even within flawed institutions.”
Do you view the Legion of Pneumos as a force for good in the world of the story? Why or why not?

Setting and Structure

13. How does the setting of Loren fit into the story? Do you think its cultural and political history played a role in the events that unfolded? Why or why not?
14. How does the plight of the uplanders' cultural and economic oppression intersect with the limited rights of women in their society? What implications does this have for the uplanders' moral position in the lead-up to their planned revolution?
15. How does the shifting viewpoint between Keira and Junia influence the story flow? Does it change the tension? Add perspective?

Character Interviews

- [The Cantor Edition: Keira Altman, Danny O’Leary, Elliott Hughs, and Nazor Onodugo](#)
- [Chaos Looming Edition: Inaba Sara, Landrianus Marian, Junia Marian, and Neval Brennan](#)

About the Author



H.B. Reneau is an author of YA fantasy and contemporary fiction. Author, medical student, and proud dog mom, H.B. Reneau is known for her character-driven, genre-crossing fiction that draws on her experiences in both medicine and the military. She has a particular love for strong female characters who face up to adversity and manage to subvert some expectations along the way. When not writing or at the hospital, she can be found hiking, drinking coffee to excess, and getting lost in new cities.

To learn more about her, head over to her website at www.hbreneau.com. There you'll find her books, blog, and fun extras. Or reach out directly! She loves connecting with readers through social media and email so be sure to follow her and sign up for the monthly newsletter to receive free gifts, awesome discounts, and updates on all her latest projects!