

READER'S GUIDE

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Amazona (Lerner)



While tales of indigenous peoples forced out of their ancient lands by greedy corporations aren't new, readers will be hooked by *Amazona*, the story of a mother journeying home to bury her infant — while disrupting colonizers in the process.

CREATOR: Canizales

ABOUT: *Kirkus Best Teen Books of the Year, Winner, 2022.* Andrea, a young Indigenous Colombian woman, has returned to the land she calls home. Only nineteen years old, she comes to mourn her lost child, carrying a box in her arms. And she comes with another mission. Andrea has hidden a camera upon herself. If she can capture evidence of the illegal mining that displaced her family, it will mark the first step toward reclaiming their land. This socially conscious thriller from graphic novelist Canizales examines the injustices of his home country in a stark, distinctive style.

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“In a text that pulls no punches in its depiction of heavy topics such as sexual violence, Andrea’s desire for—and journey toward—justice, which is portrayed via simultaneously harrowing and tender flashbacks of her life with her husband and baby, proves a powerful exploration of hope amid displacement and despair. A contextualizing author’s note concludes.” —Publishers Weekly, 2022



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were to use three words to describe Andrea’s mission, what would they be, and why?
2. Besides guns, what tools and methods do the enemy occupants use to control and terrorize Andrea’s people? What makes their methods effective?
3. What is the significance of jaguar symbolism throughout the story?
4. If you were writing about your own life, what animal or other symbol would be significant to you, and why?

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