



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR **CREW OF EXILES** BY NEAL HOLTSCHULTE

## **QUESTION 1**

Did the book appeal to you? Why or why not?

## **QUESTION 2**

Were parts of the story confusing? Which parts? How do other readers explain or interpret those parts?

## **QUESTION 3**

Who was your favorite character and why?

## **QUESTION 4**

One theme of the story is how to cope with the benefits and drawbacks of existing in a body that one did not choose for one's self. Did the story lead you to reflect on your relationship with your own body? How so?

## **QUESTION 5**

Another theme is isolation, especially self-imposed isolation. How does this theme manifest in the story and how does it relate to modern life?

## **QUESTION 6**

In fiction writing, there is a concept called “the lie the character believes,” referring to a misheld belief a character holds at the beginning of the story. Eventually, the lie falls apart, which allows the character to grow as a person. Does each character believe a lie? If so, what do they believe and how does their belief change over time?

## **QUESTION 7**

Transhumanism is a philosophical and intellectual movement which advocates the enhancement of the human condition by developing and making widely available technologies to enhance longevity and cognition. -Wikipedia

How do you feel about the idea of transhumanism? Does it appeal to you?

## **QUESTION 8**

What does it mean to be human? What are the most noble attributes of humanity?

## **QUESTION 9**

Fife and Beryl contrast directly, but Ohnsy and Nesh are also quite different. How do Ohnsy and Nesh challenge Fife and Beryl? (And how do they challenge each other?)

## **QUESTION 10**

Is Fife a naïve gamer or is she wise and heroic? How much do motives count or are actions the only things that matter?

**QUESTION 11**

Virtual reality and other constructed realities are prominent sci-fi elements. How does control over reality (or lack thereof) contribute to the story?

**QUESTION 12**

Do you have a favorite passage or quote? Why is it your favorite?

**QUESTION 13**

Did you notice any similarities to other books? What did *Crew of Exiles* remind you of?

**QUESTION 14**

Are there any themes that you identified within the novel that have not been mentioned? What are they?

**QUESTION 15**

Did you have any expectations going into this book? What were they and did they turn out to be accurate?