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Beyond Bestsellers Book Discussion Group

Discussion Questions for *THE LONG WAY TO A SMALL ANGRY PLANET* by Becky Chambers

Thursday May 31

- 1) I am used to books where the central character(s) experience some sort of change, either in their own understanding of self or in a change to the world around them? What change did Rosemary undergo? Did it follow any particular dramatic thread?
- 2) Which character on the Wayfarer did you most empathize with?
- 3) Jenks builds Lovey and then falls in love with her. Is that perverted or beautiful?
- 4) What dilemma did the crew of the Wayfarer face that we were cheering for them to overcome?
- 5) Why do you think the author wrote this book? Do you feel she accomplished her goal?
- 6) Ohan is a pluralistic being. Other than that, he/she/it's a loner from the rest of the crew. Approaching death, other of these creatures say the solution to survival is to rid self of the other. Is there any meaning to this, or was it just an attempt at being weird?
- 6a) How do you feel about what Corbin did to Ohan at the end?
- 7) Why was Ashby revered as a captain by his crew? Was he a captain you would follow into the unknown farthest of outer space?
- 8) 7a) How did Ashby's Exodus pacifism help or hurt the mission?
- 9) How much variation in culture is acceptable? (ie. Jenks's mother, Sissix and her offspring, the Toremi?)
- 10) Clearly this is a work of unique fiction, but there are references to other works. What did this book remind you of? Why?