

DEMINIUS: THE ORIGINS SERIES • BOOK I

THE SILENT ONE

Book Club & Reader Discussion Guide

● ○ ○ BOOK I OF III

Spoiler-free edition

Fourteen discussion questions across six themes, plus pre-reading prompts and facilitator tips

Suited to book clubs, reading groups, and classroom discussion

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SPOILER-FREE EDITION

About the Book

A child born of two distinctly separate origins enters the world already marked as different, walking from the moment of his birth, carrying gifts he never asked for. Hunted by overlords from his very first breath, he is carried away by parents desperate to protect him, who leave him in a mystic realm to be safeguarded and trained. Raised apart from the world he was born into, he has always felt out of place, and he does not speak. Not because he cannot. Because he chooses not to.

His dual heritage is a gift: fire and frost carried within him, opposing forces he must learn to hold as one. What could have torn him apart becomes the very thing that lets him forge an identity entirely his own.

The Silent One opens Deminius: The Origins Series, a mythical, intimate fantasy woven from African (Yoruba) and English traditions, following one boy's search for identity, as he grows into his powers through self-knowledge and awareness in a world that has already decided who he should be.

Before You Read

Sit with these for a moment before you start:

1. Have you ever felt like you belonged to two worlds but fully to neither? What did that feel like?
2. What does it mean to have power you didn't choose and didn't ask for?
3. Silence can be a wound, a shield, or a choice. What do you expect silence to mean for this character?

THE MAIN EVENT

Discussion Questions

ON IDENTITY

1. The protagonist is defined, before anything else, by being “of two origins.” How does the story explore the tension between being between two things versus belonging to something entirely his own?
2. What role does his mixed heritage play in how others treat him, and how he sees himself?
3. He carries fire and frost within him, a gift born from his dual heritage, holding two opposing forces as one. What does the book suggest about turning what could divide you into the very thing that makes you whole?

ON SILENCE

4. He does not speak by choice, not by inability. What do you think silence protects him from? What might it be costing him?
5. How does the author use silence as a storytelling tool: what gets communicated without dialogue?

ON FOUND FAMILY

6. Who steps into his life as he's pushed from his home? What do those relationships offer him that his origins didn't?
7. Found family often forms in response to loss or displacement. What does this story suggest about the difference between the family we're born into and the family we choose?
8. His parents chose to leave him in the mystic realm to keep him safe and raise him there. What does this choice cost all three of them, the parents and the child?

ON POWER

9. His abilities set him apart before he understands them. Is power in this story presented as a gift, a burden, or both?
10. How do the forces hunting him view his power differently than he views it himself?

ON INTROSPECTION

11. This is a story as much about an inner journey as an outer one. Where did you feel the character was most honest with himself, and where was he still hiding?
12. What questions does the book leave open about who he might become?

ON WORLD & CRAFT

13. The setting blends pre-modern and post-medieval textures with African (Yoruba) and English mythic traditions. What did that world feel like to you: familiar, unfamiliar, both?
14. If you've read Tomi Adeyemi or similar authors, how does this book's approach to myth, identity, and power feel similar or different?

Looking Ahead

The Silent One is Book I of III in Deminius: The Origins Series. As you close the book, consider:

- What do you think he grows into, as he comes into his powers through self-knowledge and awareness?
- Will he ever find, or choose, his voice?
- What is still unresolved about his identity, and how do you hope the series answers it?

FACILITATOR TIPS

This is a spoiler-free guide, safe to use for pre-read anticipation or early-chapters discussion.

Questions on identity and belonging may resonate personally for readers of mixed heritage or diaspora backgrounds. Hold space for that if it comes up, and let readers answer from the character's experience rather than their own if they'd prefer.

Pair question 14 with a short read-aloud passage to compare tone and voice with comp titles like Tomi Adeyemi's work.