

Discussion Questions for DARK SURF by T.C. Zmak

SPOILER ALERT! To provide reading groups with the best questions possible, it's necessary to reveal important parts of the plot. If you haven't yet finished reading *DARK SURF*, we suggest you finish *BEFORE* reviewing these questions.

1. Which DARK SURF character do you like the most? Which do you like the least? Why?
2. Is Tristan a hero, a villain or an anti-hero? What do you like and dislike about him? What kind of character do you think the author intends for him to be?
3. Why is Tristan so adamant about enforcing the Rules? And is that a good thing or a bad thing?
4. Why do Jake and Leilani become enamored with the Nomads so quickly after meeting them?
5. Why does Tristan fall so quickly for Leilani? How do his previous relationships with Julianna, Skylar and other women play into his feelings?
6. Why does Leilani fall so quickly for Tristan? How do her adult life and her childhood play into her feelings?
7. Which of Tristan's and Leilani's personality traits complement each other? Which traits might create conflict in their relationship in the future?
8. How do you feel about Skylar? Is she a villain or a tragic character or something else?
9. How do you feel about Dean? Why doesn't Dean just kill Tristan and the Nomads when he first arrives with Lance on Tristan's doorstep in Chapter 66, "Men in Gray Suits"? Why does Dean wait?
10. How does the book deal with the divide between perception and reality, or between the public images that people present and their private, inner lives? Which characters most skillfully navigate this divide, and how?
11. How big of a role does the locale play in the book? Does it make the story more or less appealing? Are there any parts of the story that feel unique to the locale?
12. The book blends non-fiction elements into a fictional story (e.g. facts about the Farallon Islands and its status as a nuclear dumping site; facts about shark senses and anatomy; San Diego beaches, beers and restaurants). Does this make for a better fictional story? Why or why not?

13. In the book, Tristan & Leilani keep big secrets from each other. So do Jake & Skylar. Are they justified in keeping these secrets from the person they're dating? Why or why not?
14. Why do you think Tristan was never able to fully commit to Skylar? Why would he always pull away?
15. In Chapter 103, "Becoming," were you as surprised as Tristan and Jake to learn about Jake's partial transformation? What clues appeared earlier in the book to let you know that Jake had begun transforming—long before he and Tristan were aware of it?
16. What kind of future can Dean and Skylar expect together, considering her 10-year history of intense feelings for Tristan, and his secrets about his "wedding" and his plot against Tristan, Torrey and Cruz?
17. The author tells the story from multiple perspectives and provides insight into the thoughts of several characters, including Jake, Leilani, Tristan, Skylar and Dean. Is this beneficial to you as a reader? Or would you prefer to see the story told from a single character's point of view and, if so, which character?
18. How does DARK SURF build upon other vampire stories that have come before it? Which existing vampire myths does this story draw upon? Which are new and unique to this story?
19. Who and/or what do you think were the author's influences or inspirations for DARK SURF (e.g. authors, books, movies, TV shows)?
20. If you were given the option to live up to 1,000 years, but as a vampire, would you do it?
21. Do you feel that ocean conservation and other environmental themes are woven into the story well? Or do feel they detract from the story?
22. Were you satisfied with the book's ending? Do you think Tristan is gone or will he surface in the sequel? What do you think the future holds for Leilani and Jake, and for Skylar and Dean?
23. Would you be interested in reading the sequel to DARK SURF? Would you be interested in reading a prequel? Why or why not?