



**UNFETTERED
JOURNEY**

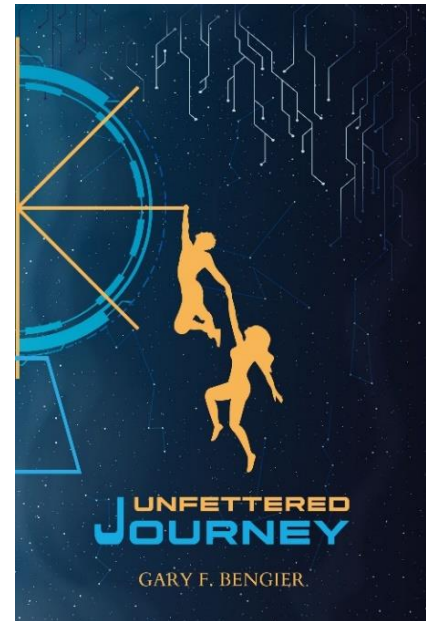
**BOOK CLUB
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

GARY F. BENGIER

Book Club Discussion Questions for *Unfettered Journey*

I've provided a wide variety of questions so that your book group can choose those of greatest interest. Your Book Club Host will suggest a list of the particular questions from below to focus on in your discussion.

Cheers!



PART ONE

1. How do you feel about Joe deleting his AI, Raidne? What do you think about having an AI in your head?
2. Joe and Raif have a background as hackers. Can hacking ever be justified to offset government privacy overstep concerns?
3. Do you think the book presents a realistic view of the evolution of robots in our future?
4. Despite the fact that everyone gets everything they need for free, people have created hierarchies that separate the privileged from the unprivileged. How does this affect them? Is this inevitable?
5. If climate change eliminates the ability to travel due to eco issues, will people be satisfied with virtual travel? What is lost if people can no longer physically travel?

PART TWO

6. What do you think about life in the Dome? What is good about it? What is bad about it?
7. How is surfing a metaphor for the way Evie goes through life? How is her approach to life different from Joe's?
8. In this future world, people have access to all the necessities without working. How will people feel when they do not need to work? Is work a privilege?
9. Why are the Levels so hated by people in the lower Levels while many people in the upper Levels see them as benign?

10. Do you think that the technology used for social communication (such as hologram projections, Prime Netchat newscasts, and the buzz of the netchat stream) impacts the emotions of the people and their ability to think clearly about issues? How do we preserve clear headspace with our technology?

PART THREE

11. Which of the two main characters is better prepared for the challenges that they face in Part Three? How have their lives prepared them for different aspects of the challenges?
12. What philosophies about the exchange of goods and services do the four characters in the Empty Zone hold, and how do those affect their mini-society?
13. In the Empty Zone, Evie and Joe split many chores, and share childcare duties. But there is still certain gendering of roles. Is there something that makes us split chores the way we do? Will that continue in the future?
14. Evie's protection of her children is powerful and raw. How does that human urge impact how we interact with the modern world?
15. Evie is a multidimensional character, sometimes showing strong emotion. Do you see those as weakness, or just being human?

PART FOUR

16. Evie takes substantial risks to advance social justice. Does she go too far?
17. Do you believe that you have free will, or is the universe fully deterministic?
18. Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?
19. Does the book leave you more or less optimistic about our future?

EASTER EGGS

- Why are there nineteen questions? (. . . mathematicians? What is special about numbers throughout the book?)
- Why is the first quotation used to introduce Part Three?
- What is significant about the dishes that Evie creates with her food artistry?
- Who does Peightân represent?