

#QueerasBooks | 4th June 2020



Paned o Gê

Queer as Books
Book Club
18:00, 4th June

Freshwater
by Akwaeke
Emezi
£8.99

Women's Prize for Fiction 2019
Longlisted

“I’m giving everyone to read it.”
Sophie Mackintosh
author of *The Water Cut*

“Completely blew me away.”
Daisy Johnson
author of *Everything Under*

“One of the most dazzling debuts I’ve ever read.”
Taiye Selasi
author of *Cherry Moon Girl*

@panedoge

Discussion Questions

1. How do you view the relationship between Ada and Asughara?
2. What effect did the nonlinear narrative have upon you as a reader?
3. How would you describe Ada’s view of her plurality/plural identity? Does this change throughout the novel?
4. Why do you think the plane occupied by Asughara, Saint Vincent, We/brothersisters and Ada is depicted as the ‘marble room’?
5. Did your reading of *Freshwater* widen, diversify or challenge your understanding of Western cultural concepts?

Related Materials

Freshwater is the second instalment in a trilogy of cultural products called *The Unblinding*. The first was a series of self-portraits and the third was a comprised of several pieces of video art. Both of these, as well as a reading list that accompanies *Freshwater*, are available on [Emezi's website](#).

Around the time that the novel was published, Deesha Philyaw interviewed Emezi for [The Rumpus](#). The contents of it might provide further context regarding some of the questions above.

Emezi has also written in detail about the relationship between their surgeries and their identity as ogbanje (and more) for [The Cut](#).

Erik Gleibermann has written [an article](#) that references the works of many contemporary queer Nigerian writers.

Other Related Fictional Texts

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Beloved by Toni Morrison

The Famished Road by Ben Okri