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Acceptance (Southern Reach Trilogy #3)

by Jeff VanderMeer



About the Book

It is winter in Area X. A new team embarks across the border on a mission to find a member of a previous expedition who may have been left behind. As they press deeper into the unknown --- navigating new terrain and new challenges --- the threat to the outside world becomes more daunting. In ACCEPTANCE, the last installment of Jeff VanderMeer?s *Southern Reach* trilogy, the mysteries of Area X may have been solved, but their consequences and implications are no less profound --- or terrifying.

Discussion Guide

1. How did it feel to begin the novel by reading through the eyes of a character, as the author narrates the scene using the second-person ?you??

2. How did your perception of Saul shift throughout your encounters with him? What does his relationship with Charlie tell us about his capacity for love?

3. As Ghost Bird confronts her authentic self, what does the novel say about the nature of identity? To what extent do we all contend with disguises, if not doppelgängers?

4. What did you predict regarding the aims of the Séance & Science Brigade and the intentions of Henry and Suzanne?

5. The closing letter includes the line ?acceptance moves past denial.? Ultimately, what realities were the most difficult for Gloria to accept? What does her story say about the power of the mind?s eye?

6. Discuss the significance of the three novels? titles: ANNIHILATION, AUTHORITY and ACCEPTANCE. What does the complete story line tell us about the inevitability of these phases? How have they been experienced in the history of

humanity?

7. Jeff VanderMeer?s Southern Reach concept has led him to be compared to a variety of luminaries from around the globe, from H. G. Wells to H. P. Lovecraft and Jorge Luis Borges. How does Area X compare to other imagined worlds you have explored through fiction? How does it enhance your experience of VanderMeer?s other books?

Author Bio

Jeff VanderMeer is the author of HUMMINGBIRD SALAMANDER, the Borne novels (BORNE, THE STRANGE BIRD and DEAD ASTRONAUTS), and the *Southern Reach* series (ANNIHILATION, AUTHORITY, ACCEPTANCE and ABSOLUTION), the first volume of which won the Nebula Award and the Shirley Jackson Award and was adapted into a movie by Alex Garland. He speaks and writes frequently about issues relating to climate change as well as urban rewilding.

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