

Onyx Storm

by Rebecca Yarros

- 1. How does Violet's personal growth in Onyx Storm reflect the larger themes of selfdetermination and identity? What moments best illustrate her evolution, and how do they compare to her journey in previous books?
- 2. The bond between rider and dragon is central to the Empyrean series. How does the breaking of Violet and Andarna's connection reshape our understanding of that bond? What does it say about power, sacrifice, and independence?
- 3. Trust is a recurring theme in Onyx Storm. How do Violet's relationships—with Xaden, her squad, and her mentors—test the boundaries of trust? Which betrayal or act of loyalty stood out the most to you?
- 4. The novel frequently blurs the line between hero and villain. Do you think the antagonists are justified in any of their actions? How does Yarros use moral ambiguity to deepen the story?
- 5. Violet's physical and emotional vulnerabilities are often at odds with her role as a leader and warrior. How does the novel handle the balance between strength and fragility? Do you think it challenges or reinforces gendered expectations?
- 6. How does Onyx Storm portray the cost of war—not just in lives, but in truth, memory, and morality? Were there any moments that made you question the righteousness of either side?
- 7. Romantic tension continues to play a major role in the story. How does Violet and Xaden's relationship evolve in Onyx Storm? Do you think their bond is strengthened or weakened by the events of this book?
- 8. How does Yarros use world-building—geography, magic systems, military hierarchies—to reflect or subvert real-world ideologies and power structures? Which elements felt most grounded in reality?
- 9. If you could ask Violet one question at the end of this book, what would it be? Do you feel her actions and decisions will lead to lasting change, or is she destined to repeat the mistakes of those before her?
- 10. How does this book compare to the previous two books? What do you expect to happen in books four and five?