

THE FLOTILLA AT BIRD ISLAND

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Kyle and Bobby, long-lost lovers from different backgrounds, reconnect in a South ravaged by global warming. The disparities and inequities between their two worlds are juxtaposed against nature and utopia on an eco-protected island in North Carolina. In a United States where the walls seem to be closing in, a sci-fi solution is proposed to forge ahead against encroaching coastlines.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Twenty thousand people have migrated to and now live on the flotilla at Bird Island. But Bobby's real mission is to save humanity. What does it mean to hope for something better, not just for the few but for everyone?
2. Upon entering the flotilla at Bird Island, Kyle says, ". . . this was the future I wanted for all of us, one that I didn't know was possible." How closely does the flotilla at Bird Island resemble the future you want for our nation? What might you keep and what might you change?
3. What are some of the most promising solutions to health, equity, and climate change?
4. Think about divides in your own community—racial, political, economic. Would these divides widen if a wide-scale catastrophe were to take place, or do you believe that such strife would bring people together?
5. The characters in both "Paradise" and "The Flotilla at Bird Island" have fled dangerous situations—seeking refuge from the atrocities in Syria, and the impacts of climate change, respectively. Whose responsibility is it to provide shelter to refugees, regardless of where or why they flee? How do we plan for a future where the number of climate refugees is likely to increase?

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