

READING GROUP GUIDE *MEXICAN GOTHIC*

Discussion Questions

1. Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?
2. How would you describe Noemí Taboada, the heroine of *Mexican Gothic*? As the novel progresses, in what ways does Noemí defy expectations of her image as a privileged socialite with which the story opens?
3. The Doyle family is plagued by madness and decay. Discuss how the family's history and their obsession with purity and eugenics contribute to the novel's tension and horror.
4. At one point, Noemí believes High Place is haunted. Do you believe in haunted houses, and have you ever lived in one? Share your stories!
5. Which moment in *Mexican Gothic* did you find the most disturbing? Why?
6. Noemí's cousin Catalina has claimed that High Place "stinks of decay, brims with every single evil and cruel sentiment." Is this an apt description of High Place? How would you describe the Doyle manor?
7. Mushrooms. Did you find them a realistic force of evil, or a letdown after all the buildup? Discuss how you did or did not see the final conclusion coming.
8. The Doyle family has English roots, and a history tied to exploiting local labor for their silver mine. How does the author address themes of colonialism and racism? What impact do these themes have on your understanding of the horror elements in the story?
9. Noemí's dreams are a significant part of the narrative. What role do they play in the development of the plot? How do they help reveal more about the mysteries of High Place?
10. The book's ending suggests the possibility of a hopeful future for Francis and Noemí. What do you think their future will look like? Do you think the story is really finished? How would you have liked it to end?

About the Author

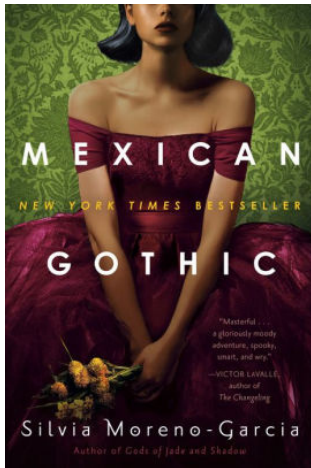
Silvia Moreno-Garcia (b. 1981)

Mexican by birth, Canadian by inclination. Cachanilla and Canuck, originally from Baja California (in northwestern Mexico), Silvia Moreno-Garcia now resides in Vancouver. She has an MA in Science and Technology Studies from the University of British Columbia.

Silvia Moreno-Garcia is the author of a number of critically acclaimed novels, including *Gods of Jade and Shadow*, *Mexican Gothic*, and *Velvet Was the Night*. She writes in a variety of genres including fantasy, horror, noir and historical. Her most recent novel is *The Seventh Veil of Salome*, published in July 2024.

Silvia has edited several anthologies, including *She Walks in Shadows* and *Cthulhu's Daughters*. She is also the publisher of Innsmouth Free Press. Her fiction has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *Best American Mystery and Suspense*.

(Biography courtesy of silviamoreno-garcia.com)



Awards for *Mexican Gothic*

Winner of:

- Aurora Award for Best Novel
- British Fantasy Award - Best Horror Novel
- Locus Award - Best Horror Novel
- Pacific Northwest Book Award
- Goodreads Award

Nominated for:

- Bram Stoker Award
- Mythopoeic Award - Adult Literature
- Nebula Award - Best Novel
- Shirley Jackson Award
- World Fantasy Award

ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, NPR, *The Washington Post*, *Tordotcom*, *Marie Claire*, *Vox*, *Mashable*, *Men's Health*, *Library Journal*, *Book Riot*, *LibraryReads*

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "It's Lovecraft meets the Brontës in Latin America, and after a slow-burn start *Mexican Gothic* gets seriously weird."—*The Guardian*

"It's as if a supernatural power compels us to turn the pages of the gripping *Mexican Gothic*."
—*The Washington Post*

"*Mexican Gothic* is the perfect summer horror read, and marks Moreno-Garcia with her hypnotic and engaging prose as one of the genre's most exciting talents."—*Nerdist*

"A period thriller as rich in suspense as it is in lush '50s atmosphere."—*Entertainment Weekly*