Prison Reading Groups

This Is How You Lose the Time War

By Amal El-Mohtar & Max Gladstone

This novel follows two time-travelling agents through worlds and universes. They are rivals pitted against each other, Red from Agency and Blue from Garden. They are locked in a time war where there is only one way to end things. Watch their relationship transform in a series of secret letters and hidden meanings. It is a game of cat and mouse and a story of love, words, and art.

Discussion Questions:

1. Whose world do you prefer - Red's Agency or Blue's Garden?

2. What did you think of the use of letters to tell the story of Blue and Red's relationship?

3. Red and Blue started as enemies and ended as lovers. Was it obvious to you when each character fell in love?

4. At the end of every chapter there is a mention of a ‘seeker’, chasing letters and collecting evidence. Who do you think they were and what was their purpose?

5. This book was written by two authors - Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone. What do you think it was like writing a book with another author?

6. The title of the book is “This Is How You Lose the Time War” and the finals lines are “This is how we win.”. What do you think of this?

Thank you to our volunteer Holly for choosing this title.