**THE LOST BOOK OF ADANA MOREAU** MEETING: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

**By Michael Zapata** 1:30 PM or 7:00 PM

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **This novel explores the legacy of trauma and how we carry the stories of our ancestors forward. (One example is when the pirate is explaining their family tree and says, "My great-grandfather ... was born a slave and his father was born a slave and his father was born a slave and his father was born a slave in an unknown African village near the sea and that village will haunt our family until the last days on Earth.")**

**How do the characters demonstrate this? What have they inherited from their ancestors? Do we see evidence of this in their lives?**

1. **I loved this description of the character Romário, "who was half Romanian, half Cuban and who spoke of Romania like it was a bizarre crime novel and spoke of Cuba like it was an irrevocable dream."**

**Where do you come from and how do you speak of that place?**

1. **Saul's grandfather has written ten books, and though the topics vary, it's said that the books contain one single enterprise and belief: "history and truth had nothing to do with each other."**

**What does that mean to you? Do you believe history and truth have nothing to do with each other?**

1. **This is also a story about exile. In what ways are the characters exiled and how do they cope?**
2. **When Saul discovers the manuscript of "A Model Earth" that his grandfather intended for Maxwell Moreau, that becomes a real call to action for him. ("For the first time in my life, I have to do something rather than nothing, said Saul to himself. I have to find Maxwell Moreau.")**

**What kind of a person do you think Saul was until this point? Why does this inspire him to take action? Why now?**

1. **One major theme of this book is how stories have the power to alleviate pain, elevate us from the depths of sorrow, or transport us from our daily lives.**

**Have you experienced that kind of transcendence from literature before? Which stories have done that for you?**

1. **This passage is interesting: "I asked them what they thought of the future of the country. One of the former oil workers said, 'A better question is -- in what kind of country are we living in right now?'"**

**In times of crisis, how do you access what kind of country you are living in? Do you think more of the future or more of the present moment?**

1. **In one of the scenes in Argentina, Alejandro confesses that when he told his mother that he wanted to be a journalist, "she just looked at him, as if spitting out a mosquito."**

**Have you ever received that kind of response from someone? What was it in regards to?**

1. **How did you feel reading about post-Katrina New Orleans? Did that part of the book resonate with you? Is it a different experience now while living through another kind of crisis?**
2. **We see Saul and Javier’s relationship change throughout the book. Has anything about these characters surprised you?**

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