



# *A Philosophy of Thieves*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we first meet Daxian and King Canarvier in *A Philosophy of Thieves*, they are entertaining a party of successful entrepreneurs. How might you evade capture in similar circumstances? How might you outwit one of the thieves?
2. King Canarvier values the history of his craft. He teaches others by resourcing artifacts and books for use in his performances. How could such elaborate preparations make the Canarviers better than others at their chosen form of theater?
3. The effects of the Mess (aka, the Turbulence, if you're wealthy) are etched into the surfaces of New Washington, with familiar places transformed, but still visible, and some even usable. If you were a time traveler, how might you be able to find your way around the area?
4. Roosala Vane can shift between city culture, Skirts culture, and Enclave culture smoothly, and yet, in order to stay in any one of these places for good, she may have to give up people she dearly loves. What kind of choice might you make in her situation?
5. What would you do with a wardrobe like the one Sasha Limere designs for Roosa?
6. If you attended the Graves' party, would you be on the lookout for thieves, enjoying the food and other entertainments, or trying to acquire a valuable or two of your own? How might you go about doing so?
7. While Mason Graves is ambitious and accomplished, the risks he's taken to get where he is are something he desperately wants to hide. How far would you go to belong? To gain wealth? To be successful?
8. Evangeline Benford's upbringing has been as overprotective as it's been luxurious. How might someone in her position develop different coping mechanisms as they grew up? What might her family (multiple people, as well as the family trust) be worried about on her behalf?
9. The New Washington city feed conveys news in the form of education, information, and gossip to a curious audience in *A Philosophy of Thieves*. In a space where these are intricately intertwined, who gets to say what is truth and what is fiction?
10. Why would an analog watch like King Canarvier's Timex be important to him, and his family, in a place like New Washington?
11. The book is set in a post-event(s) world, where many things have gone wrong, and society is only now righting itself, in various ways depending on location and wealth. There is a sense of loss and grief buried beneath the surface—how does the way different groups treat artifacts and valuables reveal their experiences?
12. Would you rather live in the Enclaves, the New Washington, or the Skirts? Why or why not?