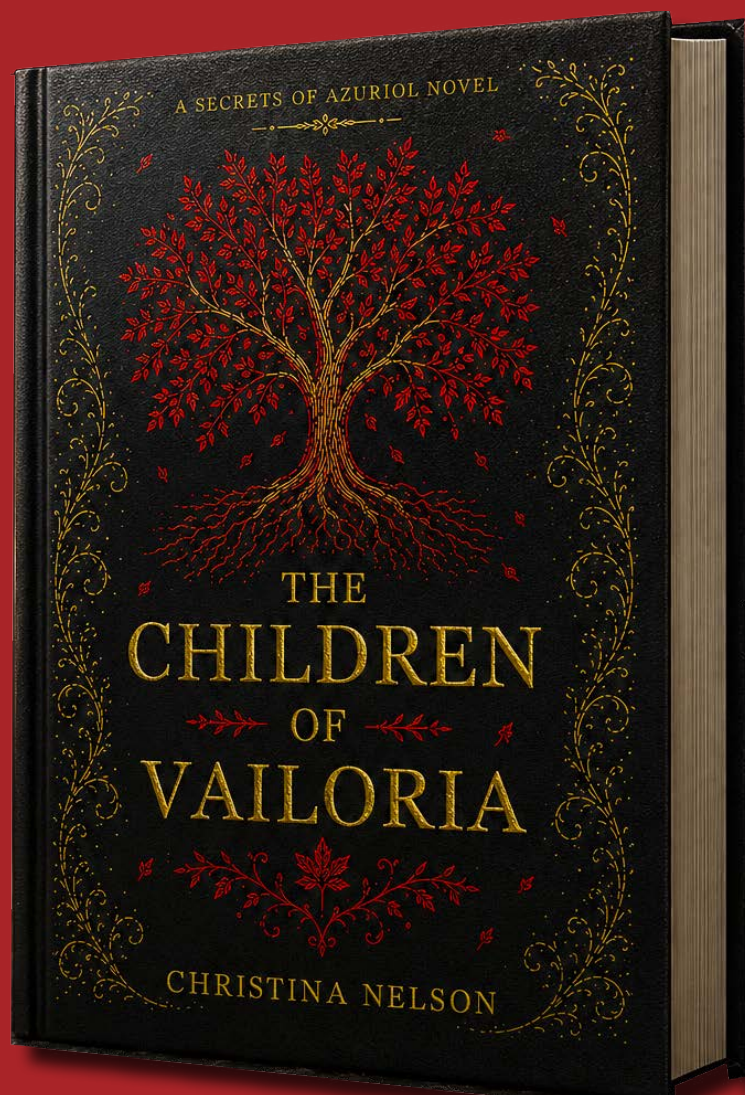


BOOK CLUB KIT.

THE CHILDREN OF VAILORIA
CHRISTINA NELSON

Enjoy 16 Pages
of Clues &
Conversation



Welcome note

Thank you for reading *The Children of Vailoria*, a *Secret's of Azuriol* novel. This guide is designed to help you explore the deeper themes, questions, and world of Azuriol.

About the Children of Vailoria

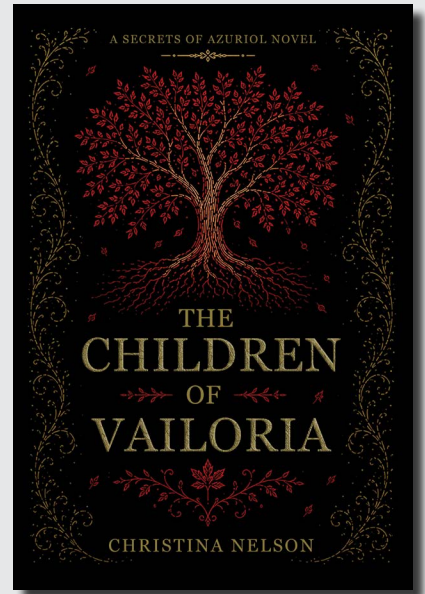
A century after a civil war fractured the nation of Azuriol, the highland city of Vailoria stirs once more. Strange disturbances ripple through its streets. Signs that could echo a conflict long buried.

When a group of young friends set out to uncover the truth, their search leads them deep into the forgotten corners of their country's past. What begins as curiosity soon becomes revelation, buried truths and a faith once forbidden.

Their discoveries will challenge everything they've been taught about their history, their country, and the power that still reaches for them in the present.

As they piece together what was erased, they begin to see that the battle for Azuriol's future is bound to the truth that was silenced a hundred years before.

Some secrets were never meant to stay hidden. And some lights, once found, can never be extinguished.



World of Azuriol

Azuriol is a small coastal nation on the southwestern edge of the continent of Veridia, where tropical shores give way to fertile plains and the rugged Highlands in the east beneath the Azuriol mountains. With a population of around 500,000, Azuriol is rich in indigenous heritage, shaped by tradition, agriculture, and a growing sense of change as the country begins to emerge onto the global stage.

Set in the 1990s, Azuriol exists at the edge of modernisation, where landlines, letters, and early computers connect a society still deeply rooted in community, culture, and belief. In the Highlands, life is shaped by breathtaking landscapes, strong traditions, and a close connection to nature, but also by limited infrastructure and growing inequality between regions. The capital, Princica, is rich with developments, high society and opportunities. As the nation invests in development and faces environmental and social challenges, a deeper tension lingers beneath the surface, between past and progress, truth and what has long been left behind, desperate to resurface.

Character guide (main characters)

Liora Stormwind.

Originally from Eirah and raised in Vailoria, Liora and her family are deeply connected to the traditions and spiritual heritage of Azuriol. Drawn to understand the disturbances within her beloved city, her perspective begins to shift, leading her into questions she cannot ignore. Thoughtful and grounded, Liora seeks answers but values discernment, encouraging the others to pause and consider the path ahead with caution.

Cassius Cree.

Born and raised in Vailoria, Cassius comes from a respected, hardworking family with deep roots in the city. Outgoing and naturally charismatic, he is known for his easy charm, sharp wit, and ability to bring people together. Though he prefers to keep the peace, Cassius is guided by a strong sense of intuition and quiet conviction, aware that there is more beneath the surface than most are willing to see.

Nova Gold.

Originally from Whispwood and now living in Vailoria, Nova is intelligent, driven, and endlessly curious. Known for her sharp mind and quiet confidence, she excels in her studies and is always searching for deeper understanding. Unafraid to question what others accept, Nova is drawn toward the unknown, pushing boundaries and seeking truth, even when it comes at a cost.

Aurora Rivers.

From a wealthy and high-achieving family in Creston, Aurora has been surrounded by expectation, discipline, and success. As the youngest, she follows in the formidable footsteps of her brothers and her father. She is driven, intelligent, unwavering in her convictions but has and always felt the quiet pressure to prove herself. When she is drawn beyond the city by the words of a young woman from a very different world, Aurora finds herself confronting questions she cannot ignore, and a reality that compels her not just to understand it, but to act.

Finnian (Fin) Silverlake.

Raised in a distinguished family in Princica, Finnian has grown up with privilege, influence, and little reason to question the world around him. Easygoing and often untested, he is used to life unfolding in his favour. But as deeper questions begin to surface, Finnian finds himself drawn toward something more, something that challenges not only his assumptions, but who he is becoming.

Author's reflection on key themes

Truth and deception

Author's Reflection: One of the themes I explored while writing *The Children of Vailoria* was the tension between truth and deception. Throughout the novel, the characters uncover pieces of history that have been hidden, forgotten, or deliberately suppressed. I wanted to explore what happens when people begin asking questions about the stories they have always been told.

Discussion Questions:



- Do you agree that truth and deception are central themes of the novel?
- Did you support the children's approach to finding the truth?
- Did your understanding of Azuriol change as the story unfolded?

Faith, belief and Christianity

Author's Reflection: Although *The Children of Vailoria* seemingly begins as a mystery and adventure story, faith is woven into its foundations from the very beginning. As the characters uncover hidden truths about Azuriol's past, they are also confronted with deeper questions about belief, purpose, and God. I wanted to explore how faith is often a journey rather than a single moment, shaped by questions, experiences, relationships, and personal choices.

Discussion Questions



- How did your expectations change as the Christian themes became more prominent?
- Which character's spiritual journey felt the most authentic or relatable to you?
- How did each character's personality influence the way they responded to God's call?

Choice, freedom, and destiny

Author's Reflection: Throughout the novel, the characters often wonder whether the events unfolding around them are coincidence, destiny, or something greater. The discoveries in *Vailoria* seem almost impossible to ignore, yet each character still had the freedom to choose how they responded. I wanted to explore the tension between purpose and personal choice, and whether finding a calling removes freedom or gives it greater meaning.

Discussion Questions



- Was salvation destined to happen, once the children understood their history?
- Which character exercised the greatest personal choice throughout the story?
- Can a person have a purpose while still remaining free to accept or reject it?

Friendship across divides

Author's Reflection: The five protagonists come from very different backgrounds, yet they are united by curiosity, loyalty, and a shared search for answers. Their friendships cross social, economic, geographic, and cultural boundaries. I wanted to show how genuine friendship can overcome barriers that often divide people and how trust can grow through shared experiences.

Discussion Questions



- Which friendship or relationship developed most significantly during the story?
- How did the differences between the characters strengthen the group?
- What role did trust play in the success of their investigation?

The legacy of history

Author's Reflection: The past is never truly gone in *The Children of Vailoria*. Hidden stories, forgotten sacrifices, and buried truths continue to influence the present long after those who lived them are gone. I wanted to explore how history shapes identity, both for individuals and for nations, and how understanding the past can change the future.

Discussion Questions



- Which historical discovery had the greatest impact on the story?
- Why do you think societies sometimes choose to forget difficult parts of their history?
- How might the lives of the characters have been different if the truth remained hidden?

Power, authority, and influence

Author's Reflection: Different forms of power appear throughout the novel: political power, social influence, family expectations, and spiritual conviction. Some characters use power to protect truth, while others use it to suppress it. I wanted readers to consider how power shapes society and what responsibilities come with influence.

Discussion Questions



- Which character or institution held the greatest influence in the story?
- How was power displayed throughout the story and how did it affect the outcome?
- How did authority affect the decisions made by both generations?

Identity, calling, and purpose

Author's Reflection: As the mysteries of Vailoria unfold, each character begins to discover something about who they are and who they might become. Their journey is not only about uncovering secrets but also about finding purpose. I wanted to explore how identity is shaped by both discovery and choice, and how understanding who we are can influence the direction of our lives.

Discussion Questions



- Which character experienced the greatest personal growth?
- How did the discoveries influence the characters' sense of purpose?
- Do you think people find their calling, create it, or grow into it over time?

Hope and transformation

Author's Reflection: Despite themes of persecution, secrecy, and loss, *The Children of Vailoria* is ultimately a hopeful story. It suggests that people can change, communities can heal, and truth can emerge even after generations of silence. I wanted the ending to leave readers with the sense that transformation is possible, both personally and collectively.

Discussion Questions



- In what ways were the characters transformed by their experiences?
- Which moment in the novel best captured a sense of hope?
- Do you think Azuriol itself changes as a result of the events in the story?

Discussion questions

1

What were the main themes or ideas, and how well did the author explore them?

2

What does this novel suggest about truth, legacy and christianity?

3

What do you think about the themes around children driving the discoveries within this novel?

4

What do you think about the different ways the characters respond to the events and discoveries, their desire to keep searching and their response to the ultimate revelation?

5

How does faith influence the children's futures?

6

How did the novel balance adventure, mystery, history, and faith?

7

Do you think the characters' decisions at the end felt earned by their experiences throughout the story and how might the story have differed if one or more of the friends had chosen a different path?

8

Which character did you relate to most and least, and why?

9

What was the most memorable scene and why?

10

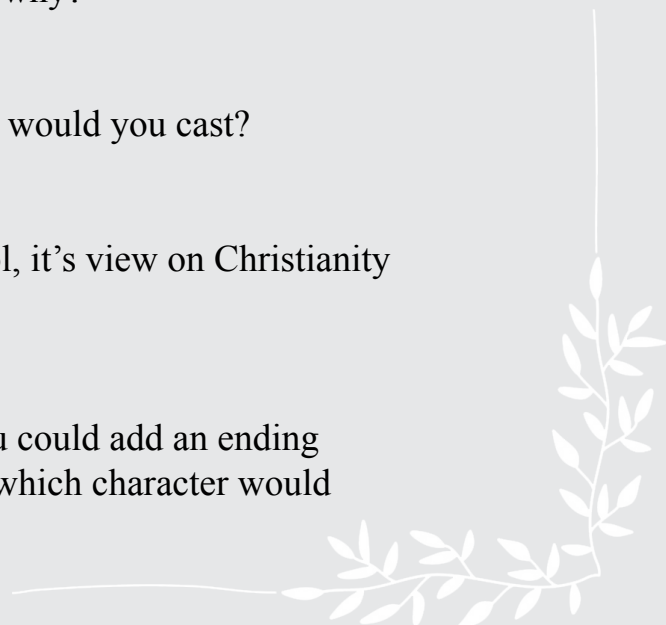
If this book were made into a movie, who would you cast?

11

What similarities can you see with Azuriol, it's view on Christianity and parts of the world today?

12

Were you satisfied with the ending? If you could add an ending summary for any of the other characters, which character would you include and why?



Author's note

1

What inspired the story?

The Children of Vailoria began with a simple question: what would happen if a generation grew up knowing almost nothing about Christianity and then stumbled across its hidden history?

I was fascinated by the idea of innocent people uncovering truths that had been forgotten, suppressed, or misunderstood. The story grew from there into a mystery, an adventure, and ultimately a journey of faith. Along the way, I drew inspiration from real historical examples of persecuted believers, hidden communities of faith, and the courage of people who chose conviction over comfort.

Why these themes matter to me

2

Many of the themes in this novel reflect questions that have shaped so many lives and journey's to God.

I wanted to explore the relationship between truth and deception, the influence of history on the present, the importance of friendship, and the tension between destiny and personal choice. Above all, I wanted to explore how people respond when they encounter God for themselves.

The five main characters each approach the journey differently. Some are driven by evidence, some by curiosity, some by experience, and some by questions. Their differences were important to me because faith journeys rarely look identical.

What do I hope readers take away?

I hope readers enjoy the mystery, adventure, and discoveries woven through Azuriol, but above all, I hope this story encourages readers to consider the deeper questions of life, truth, faith, and purpose.

At its heart, The Children of Vailoria is a story about searching; for answers, identity, and ultimately for God.

Whether you already know God, have drifted away from Him, or are simply curious, I hope this story leaves you wondering if and how He may be calling you too.

3

4

A verse that captures the heart of the story

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe.”

- John 4:48

This verse became particularly significant while writing The Children of Vailoria. Throughout the novel, the characters encounter mysteries, discoveries, signs, and revelations that challenge what they think they know. Yet the story ultimately asks a deeper question: what will they do once they have seen enough to believe?

Map of Azuriol



Oberon J. Stone

Recovered Journal Entry 012

On the Festival of the Red

Every nation has its customs. Some are born from necessity. Others from gratitude. A few begin with a story so often repeated that, in time, no one remembers who first told it. The Festival of the Red belongs, I think, to the latter.

Preparations begin weeks before the eclipse. Homes are dressed in crimson cloth, market squares overflow with music and colour, and families travel remarkable distances simply to stand beneath the same evening sky.

It is difficult not to admire the unity it brings. For a single day, quarrels are forgotten. Trade pauses. Children laugh with strangers as though they have always known them. Even those burdened by grief seem willing, if only for a few hours, to lay it aside.

There is wisdom in a people who remember the value of gathering together. Yet I have often wondered whether the festival celebrates what is before us... or what we have imagined to be there.

As the hours draw near, families emerge from their homes clothed in costumes and adornments of crimson and deep scarlet. Their faces marked with rich red pigments until the distinctions between neighbour and stranger seem almost to disappear.

Foods and wines chosen for their colour alone pass from hand to hand, each prepared with equal care for the occasion. Then as if summoned, all at once every head turns upward, towards the heavens. Thousands press shoulder to shoulder beneath the evening sky, their faces illuminated by the deepening red light. No voice dared disturb the stillness. Their silence is, perhaps, the loudest act of reverence I have ever witnessed.

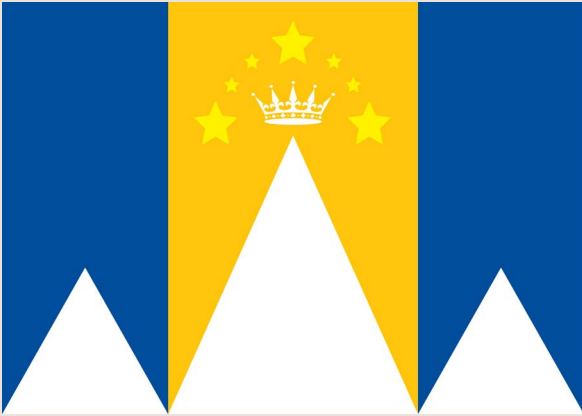
The eclipse itself is no mystery. The moon keeps its course with remarkable faithfulness, and the heavens ask no permission before following the path appointed to them. Long before we settled these lands, before the first stones of the city were laid, the same shadow crossed the same sky.

It neither knows our names nor alters its course for our ceremonies. And yet we prepare for it as though the heavens themselves had arranged the occasion for our sake. Perhaps that is simply the nature of mankind. We long for meaning. Sometimes we discover it. Sometimes we create it.

As darkness settled over the valley that evening, and every eye was turned upward, I found myself looking elsewhere. Not because the sky held nothing worth seeing...

But because I wondered whether our eyes had become so fixed upon the heavens that we had forgotten to ask who set them in motion. And in that moment I felt the weight of the stars upon my soul.

Cities of Azuriol



Azuriol

Stretching from the western coast to the eastern mountains, Azuriol is a kingdom of distinct cities united by a shared history. Its regions are known for their unique traditions, industries, and landscapes, from thriving ports and centres of learning to fertile forests and rugged highlands. Though the kingdom has endured times of conflict and change, its people remain bound by a common heritage and hope for the future.



Princica (The Capital of Azuriol)

Leadership and Legacy

The political and cultural heart of Azuriol, Princica is home to the royal family, the King's Council, and many of the nation's most influential institutions. Known for its grand architecture, bustling markets, and rich history, the city has long been the centre of power and decision-making. Though scarred by war and unrest, Princica remains a symbol of resilience, leadership, and national identity.



Creston (The City of Achievement)

Achievement and Influence

Nestled along Azuriol's southwestern coast, Creston is renowned for its distinguished families, educational excellence, and refined culture. Home to many scholars, merchants, and influential figures throughout history, the city has earned a reputation for ambition, prestige, and accomplishment. Its residents take great pride in their contribution to the nation's intellectual and economic life.



Joash (The Crossroads of the Kingdom)

Connection and Opportunity

Positioned between the capital and the southern coast, Joash serves as one of Azuriol's most important trade and transport hubs. Built upon movement and connection, its roads, markets, and businesses link communities across the country. Known for its industrious spirit and strategic location, Joash thrives as a city where people, goods, and ideas converge.



Eirah (The City of Service)

Service and Compassion

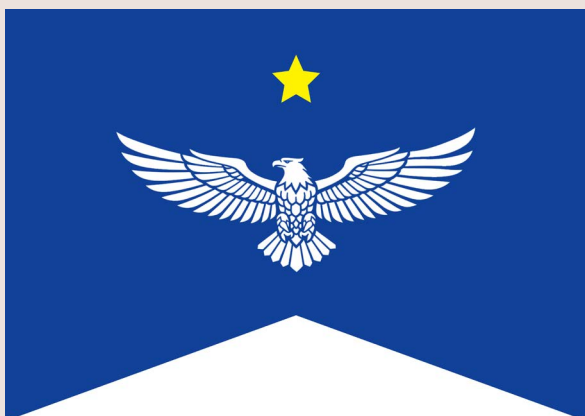
Situated on the southeastern coast, Eirah is one of Azuriol's fastest-growing cities. Renowned for its bustling harbour, thriving trade routes, and strong sense of community, the city has become a symbol of compassion, generosity, and practical service. Its people are known for their willingness to support one another and contribute to the wider nation.



Whispwood (The Woodland City)

Community and Growth

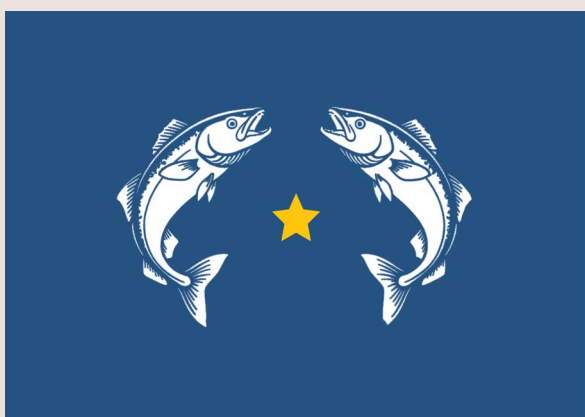
Emerging from the forests east of the capital, Whispwood grew naturally from the trade routes and settlements that formed among the trees. Known for its craftsmanship, timber trade, and close-knit communities, the city values cooperation, hard work, and stewardship of the land. Its identity is deeply rooted in nature and the relationships that bind its people together.



Vailoria (The Highlands of Azuriol)

Strength and Resilience

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Azuriol Mountains, Vailoria is a land of rugged beauty, resilience, and independence. Its fertile valleys, strong farming communities, and rich natural resources have sustained generations of Highlanders. The people of Vailoria are known for their practicality, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to community.



Celestis (The Northern Coast)

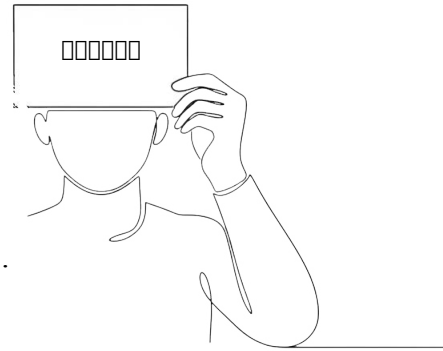
Provision and Tradition

Famous for its fishing fleets and maritime heritage, Celestis is officially Azuriol's youngest city by name, though its coastal communities have existed for generations. Once part of Princica, it was later established as its own region. Built upon the sea, Celestis is known for its enduring traditions and remains a vital source of food, trade, and maritime expertise for the kingdom.

Azuriol Personnel Files (Game)

Instructions:

1. Print and cut out the personnel file cards.
2. Each player takes a card without looking at it and shows it to the group
3. Take turns asking Yes/No questions to discover which character you are.
4. You receive 1 point for each of the following:
 - a) Asking a question
 - b) Requesting the hint
 - c) Making an incorrect guess
5. The player who correctly identifies their character with the fewest points wins.



Level Up Challenge:

- If requested, hints are chosen by the other players and add 2 points to your score.
- Incorrect guesses will add 5 points to your score.

Liora Stormwind

Hint: Cautious

Cassius Cree

Hint: Loyal

Nova Gold

Hint: Bold

Aurora Rivers

Hint: Smart

Finnian Silverlake II

Hint: Privileged

Onyx

Hint: Equestrian

Seraphina Gold

Hint: Impressionable

Chayton Cree

Hint: Fast

Elias Cree

Hint: Dad

Ayokah Cree

Hint: Festival of the Red

Callen Cree II

Hint: Baby

Mae Varn

Hint: Azure & Co.

Lucian Willowen

Hint: Mud

Theo Stormwind

Hint: Eirah

Jeshaiah Teyowan

Hint: Help

Yana Gold

Hint: Mum

Moxy

Hint: Equestrian

Thaddeus Rivers

Hint: Camera

Isadora Vale

Hint: Gilded

Leonidas Knox

Hint: 200

Matthias Emberwen

Hint: Princica Met

Oceana Dorne

Hint: Seraphis

Taye Gold

Hint: Dad

Lilah Aarden

Hint: Granddaughter

Oberon J Stone

Hint: Records

Odin Cree

Hint: Flee

Mayor Malohi

Hint: Country-wide

Personnel quiz (Game)

Are you most like Liora, Cassius, Nova, Aurora or Fin?

1. When faced with something unknown, you...

- A. Try to understand it logically and look for patterns
- B. Take charge and act quickly to protect the group
- C. Start asking questions and challenge what doesn't make sense
- D. Observe quietly and look for meaning in small details
- E. Think about the rules, consequences, and what's "allowed"

2. In a group, you naturally become the...

- A. The planner who makes sense of everything
- B. The leader who steps forward first
- C. The questioner who won't let things go unchallenged
- D. The quiet thinker who notices what others miss
- E. The voice of reason who weighs up risk and responsibility

3. When something feels wrong, you are most likely to...

- A. Analyse it until you understand why it feels off
- B. Confront it directly
- C. Keep digging until you uncover the truth
- D. Sit with it and reflect before speaking
- E. Consider who it might affect before acting

4. What matters most to you?

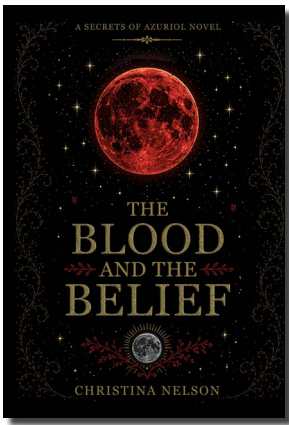
- A. Understanding how everything connects
- B. Loyalty and protecting the people you care about
- C. Truth, even if it causes disruption
- D. Meaning, beauty, and deeper purpose
- E. Stability, responsibility, and doing what's right

5. People would describe you as...

- A. Curious and insightful
- B. Brave and decisive
- C. Persistent and questioning
- D. Thoughtful and observant
- E. Practical and grounded

SCORING

Mostly A → Nova Gold
Mostly B → Cassius Cree
Mostly C → Fin Silverlake
Mostly D → Aurora Rivers
Mostly E → Liora Stormwind



Looking ahead: The Blood and the Belief

Based on what you've learned in *The Children of Vailoria*, discuss what you think happened one hundred years earlier in *The Blood and the Belief*?

Discussion points

1. What events do you think led to Christianity becoming forbidden in Azuriol?
2. Which parts of Azuriol's hidden history are you most interested in learning more about?
3. What do you think really happened during the civil war?
4. What kind of people do you imagine the underground believers were? Heroes, ordinary citizens, rebels, or something else?
5. Which historical figure mentioned in *The Children of Vailoria* would you most like to meet in the prequel?
6. What truths do you think were deliberately removed from Azuriol's history books?
7. What role do you think King Joash II will play in the story?
8. Do you think the government believed it was protecting Azuriol, or controlling it? Why?
9. What sacrifices do you think believers had to make to keep their faith alive?
10. Which unanswered mystery from *The Children of Vailoria* do you hope the prequel will explain?

Predictions

Before reading *The Blood and the Belief*, make your predictions:

- What themes from *The Children of Vailoria* will you see in *The Blood and the Belief*?
- Will the story end in victory, tragedy, or something in between?
- Which location from *The Children of Vailoria* do you think will play an important role?
- Which secret do you think will have the biggest impact on Azuriol's future?
- Whose ancestors from *The Children of Vailoria* do you think you will meet?
- What do you think "The Blood and the Belief" refers to?

Looking back

After reading *The Blood and the Belief*, return to this page and discuss:

- Which prediction surprised you most?
- Which event changed your understanding of *The Children of Vailoria*?
- Did any character, location, or symbol take on a new meaning after reading the prequel?
- Which story do you prefer, and why?

THE SECRETS OF AZURIOL

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATOR LICENCE

Investigator:

*Is hereby recognised as an Official Investigator in the
ongoing investigation of the Secrets of Azuriol.*

LICENCE NUMBER
AZ-020421K

STATUS
ACTIVE

CURRENT
INVESTIGATION
**THE CHILDREN
OF DAILORIA**

NEXT ASSIGNMENT

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**FOLLOW THE CLUES.
THE TRUTH AWAITS.**

Authorised by:

Christina Nelson

CHRISTINA NELSON
AUTHOR & ARCHIVIST

