

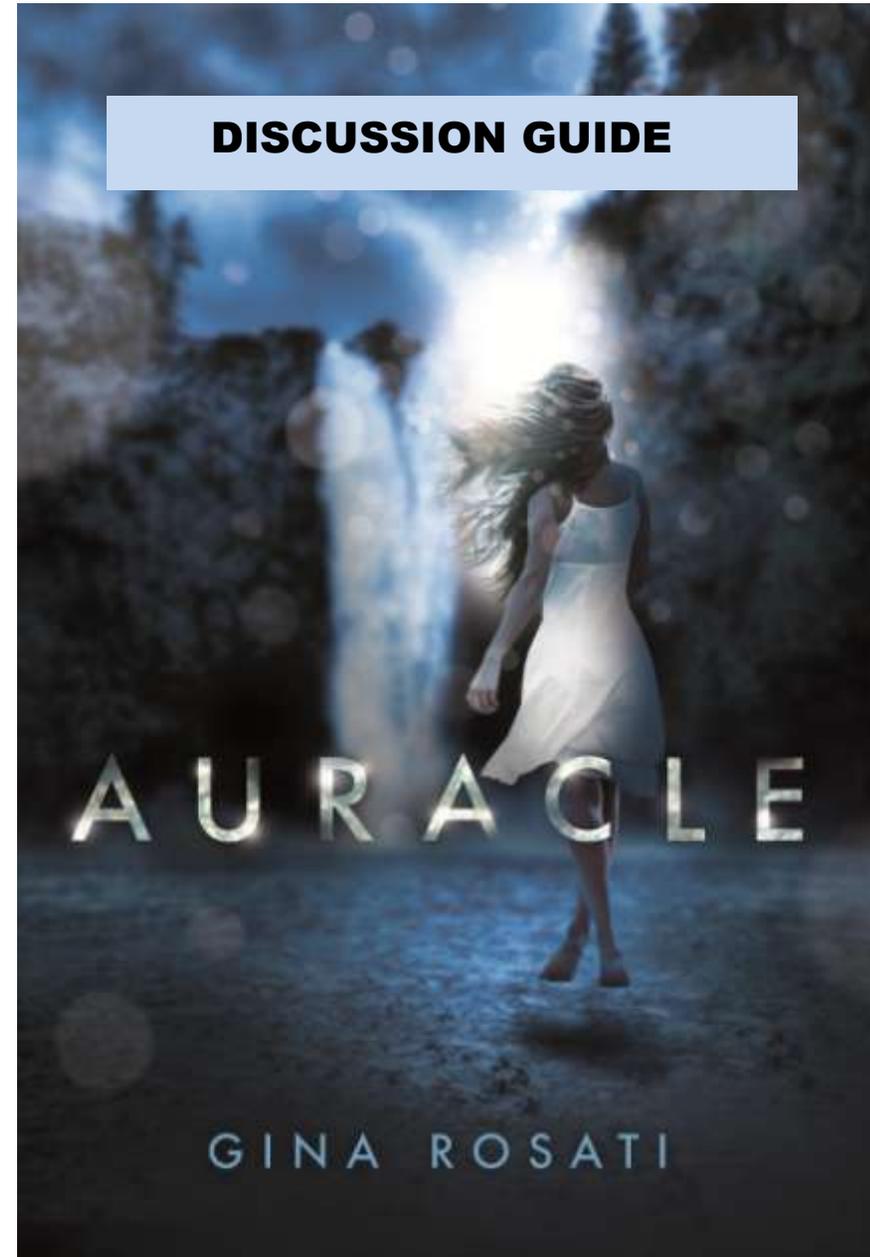
About the Author

Gina Rosati grew up in Boston suburbia, and now lives with her husband and two children in southern New Hampshire, where she is a long-time volunteer in her local school libraries. Auracle is her first novel.

Visit Gina at www.ginarosati.com



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About Auracle

16 year old Anna Rogan has a secret she's only shared with her best friend, Rei; she can astrally project out of her body, allowing her spirit to explore the world and the far reaches of the universe.

When there's a fatal accident and her classmate Taylor takes over Anna's body, what was an exhilarating distraction from her repressive home life threatens to become a permanent state. Faced with a future trapped in another dimension, Anna turns to Rei for help. Now the two of them must find a way to get Anna back into her body and stop Taylor from accusing an innocent friend of murder. Together Anna and Rei form a plan but it doesn't take into account the deeper feelings that are beginning to grow between them.

Auracle was first published in August 2012 by Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, and will be available in paperback by SquareFish in January 2014. Auracle is a 2014 Isinglass Teen Read Award nominated title.

Discussion Questions

1. Anna has the experience of seeing her body move and speak when she is not in it. How do you think an experience like this would make you feel?
2. Why do you think Anna's mother tolerates the way Anna's father behaves?
3. Taylor changes Anna's body while she inhabits it (tattoo, piercings, etc.). But how do you think being in a different body changes who Taylor is?
4. Seth did nothing illegal, but he ran away. How would you have explained yourself to the police if you were Seth? On the other hand, Rei did something illegal and dangerous to help Anna get her body back. Can you ever justify breaking the law to help a friend?
5. Rei doesn't like when Anna astrally projects out of her body. Why do you think he's so opposed to her behavior? Is he right or should Anna continue leaving her body?
6. Do you know someone with a food allergy? What are some things you learned about food allergies while reading Auracle?
7. If you could astrally project, where would you go? Would you use this ability for fun or for a higher purpose? Would you tell anyone about your ability? What are the pros and cons of telling people?
8. What do you think of Yumi's parenting style? How could Rei and his mother compromise on their differences?
9. What do you think of the relationship between Anna's mother and Taylor? Do you feel Anna should be jealous?
10. One of the things Anna loves about her friend, Callie, is that in the ten years she's known her, Callie has never asked why Anna hasn't invited her to her house. Why is that important to Anna? If you lived in a similar situation, would you be comfortable inviting your friends over?
11. Why do you think the author chose to portray Taylor as she did? How did you feel about Taylor at the beginning of the story? How did you feel about Taylor at the end of the story? How do you feel about the way people treated Taylor throughout the story?
12. Anna shows her judgmental side in the first chapter when she tosses her teacher's cigarettes in the trash. She shares some strong opinions about Taylor, as well. What does Anna learn in the course of the story?
13. Going back to the first chapter, Anna astrally visits a volcano. What do you think the volcano is a metaphor for?
14. One of the main themes in the story is mentioned twice in the first chapter. What do you think it is? What are some other themes you found in the story?
15. Find ten random metaphors or similes that Anna uses through the story. What is the common thread? Why do you think Anna is so obsessed with this topic?