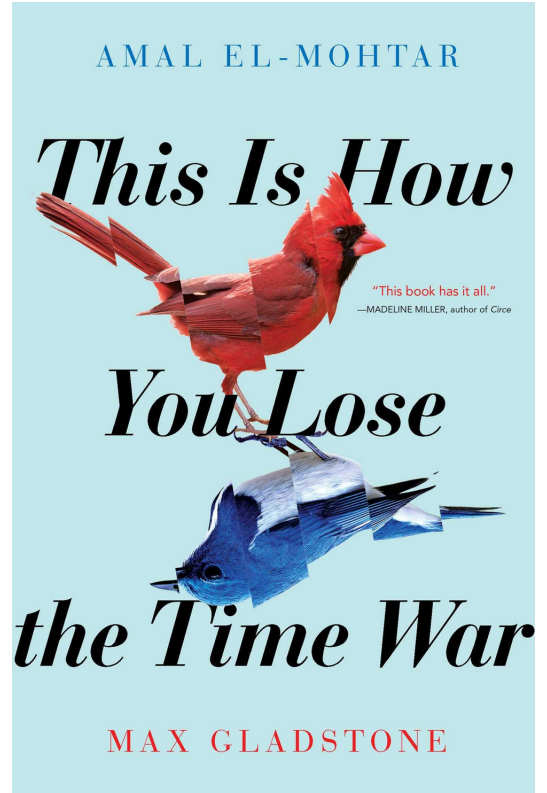


# About the Authors

Amal El-Mohtar is a Canadian award winning author and critic, as well as the fantasy and science fiction columnist for the New York Times Book Review. Her writing has won the Hugo, Nebula and Locus awards.

Max Gladstone is a graduate of Yale University where he studied Chinese literature. He is an American fantasy author, best known for his books *Empress of Forever* and the *Craft Sequence* of fantasy novels. His writing has won Nebula and Locus Awards.



# About the Book

In the ashes of a dying world, Red finds a letter marked “Burn before reading. Signed, Blue.”

So begins an unlikely correspondence between two rival agents in a war that stretches through the vast reaches of time and space.

Red belongs to the Agency, a post-singularity technotopia. Blue belongs to Garden, a single vast consciousness embedded in all organic matter. Their pasts are bloody and their futures mutually exclusive. They have nothing in common—save that they’re the best, and they’re alone.

Now what began as a battlefield boast grows into a dangerous game, one both Red and Blue are determined to win. Because winning’s what you do in war. Isn’t it?

# Discussion Questions

1. The book is written by two different authors. What did you think of this concept? Could you tell the difference between the authors and whose side of the story did you prefer?
2. Do you enjoy the epistolary format in writing? What do you think the letters added to the story?
3. The book references so many points in history, pop culture. Were there any in particular that stood out to you? Do you enjoy when authors do this?
4. According to the synopsis "Red belongs to the Agency, a post-singularity technotopia. Blue belongs to Garden, a single vast consciousness embedded in all organic matter." Did this make sense to you, was it written in a way that explained it enough and how were these "beings" able to form the relationship they did?
5. We meet Commandant and Garden each once in the book, what did you think of these leaders?
6. While reading what did you think of the "seeker"? Was the revelation at the end a surprise or did you suspect?
7. What did you think about the ending overall?

# General Questions

1. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
2. What did you think of the writing overall? Were there any standout sentences?
3. Which was your favorite part? What about your least favorite?
4. Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?

