A digital illustration of five young people standing in a city at dusk, looking at a glowing tower. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light from the setting sun, with long shadows cast across the city streets. The five individuals are seen from behind, looking towards a tall, illuminated tower in the distance. The tower has a distinctive conical top and is surrounded by other city buildings. The overall mood is one of wonder and discovery.

A NOVEL BY K.N. SMITH

Discovery of the Five Senses

THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | PART ONE

DISCUSSION GUIDE



an urban fantasy adventure

A suspenseful incident in a forbidden preserve heightens the senses of five friends. Sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell become super-gifts that forever change the world. But furious battles confront the boys as they try to understand their sensory super powers in a race to save mankind. With light beings and mysterious strangers complicating their plight, can the boys defeat the evil Druth before it's too late?

A carefully crafted universe.

Those living in the perfectly-organized, nature-friendly Danville Heights enjoy safe streets, beautiful scenery, and loyal friends. What many do not know is that all these things bear a price - a determined fight against evil.

Mystery in the lush landscape.

Perfection is not the only characteristic of Danville Heights. The luxuriant preserve shelters universal secrets known by the Naculeans who work tirelessly, guarding a primordial energy, and the balance between good and evil.

A NOVEL BY K.N. SMITH

Discovery of the Five Senses

THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | PART ONE



DISCUSSION POINTS

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THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | QUESTIONS

plot concepts



- In your opinion, what is predestination? Is this concept applicable to everyday life, or is it a mythic concept present only in works of fiction?
- Who are Della Sato and Juson Yamada? How are they related to a protagonist in the story?
- Is power a negative or a positive aspect of the human experience? How did power change the characters in the novel? Is power dangerous in the hands of the wrong people? Do you know someone who has used power in a negative manner? How would you use power?
- ‘The one who strayed must be stopped. He is near, yet far from the intention of the gift’. Based on the previous statement, what was the intention of Joaquin’s gift? How were the gifts used by the gifted ones throughout the story?
- Can a football game be compared to a war? Was the match between the Danville Heights Chargers and the Markley Lions announcing another kind of battle? Were any story themes or sub-themes evident in the football game, or the player interactions? Which one(s)?
- What kinds of personal challenges did the boys face? What characteristics did they rely upon to pull through? Can this build character in real life? In you? How so?
- Who are the Naculeans and where do they live? What is their purpose and how are they connected to the protagonists?
- In your opinion, does history repeat itself? Why? Did this happen in *Discovery of the Five Senses*? How?
- Who was the mysterious lady who joined the fight in Sandry Lake when the boys started losing hope? Was she related to the boys? How did this affect the remainder of the story?

Welcome or unwelcome. Fate has arrived.



I love to read, but live a hugely busy life. It gets more complicated upon that rare occasion when a book is so captivating, so enthralling, that it is impossible to walk away. With only definitive hours in a day, something has to give. For me, that was sleep! And it was worth every sacrificed minute. *Discovery of the Five Senses* was the grand slam home run and exceeded my wildest expectations and I would bet, maybe yours, as well. Totally new concepts and a rich crew of characters – good, bad and ugly... and suspenseful twists that keep you guessing, and such beautiful, strong writing. A must read for fans of YA action/adventure/fantasy.

Reviewed by Laura Clarke for Indie Book Reviewers



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THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | QUESTIONS

characters



- Were the lives of Della and Juson changed after they ventured into the forest? If so, what happened? Afterward, what was their perception of the forest?
- Can secrets influence people's lives? How did secrets influence the lives of the characters in the novel? How do secrets influence your life?
- Who is Mrs. Perkins? Why is she special? What would Danville Heights be like without her?
- In your opinion, what could have caused the tragedy of Talia's accident? Who was responsible?
- Based on the novel's title, how many superheroes are in the story, and what are their powers? Which of the superpowers would you like to have? How would you use that power?
- Who is Druth and why have Jordan and Mason awakened memories in him? Why did he want to return home?
- Mason held back information from his father, Russell Parker. On an emotional level, why did he do this? For safety's sake, was he right or wrong?
- Coach Thomas had a positive impact on the players. What lessons did they learn from him? Does this relate to the novel's theme? Do you see Coach Thomas returning at a later date?
- What gift did Jordan receive, and how did it help the heroes in the battle against evil?
- Is the Dark Stranger a villain or a hero? Why?
- What do you think happened with Alina in all her years away from her family? How do you imagine she survived?

scenery

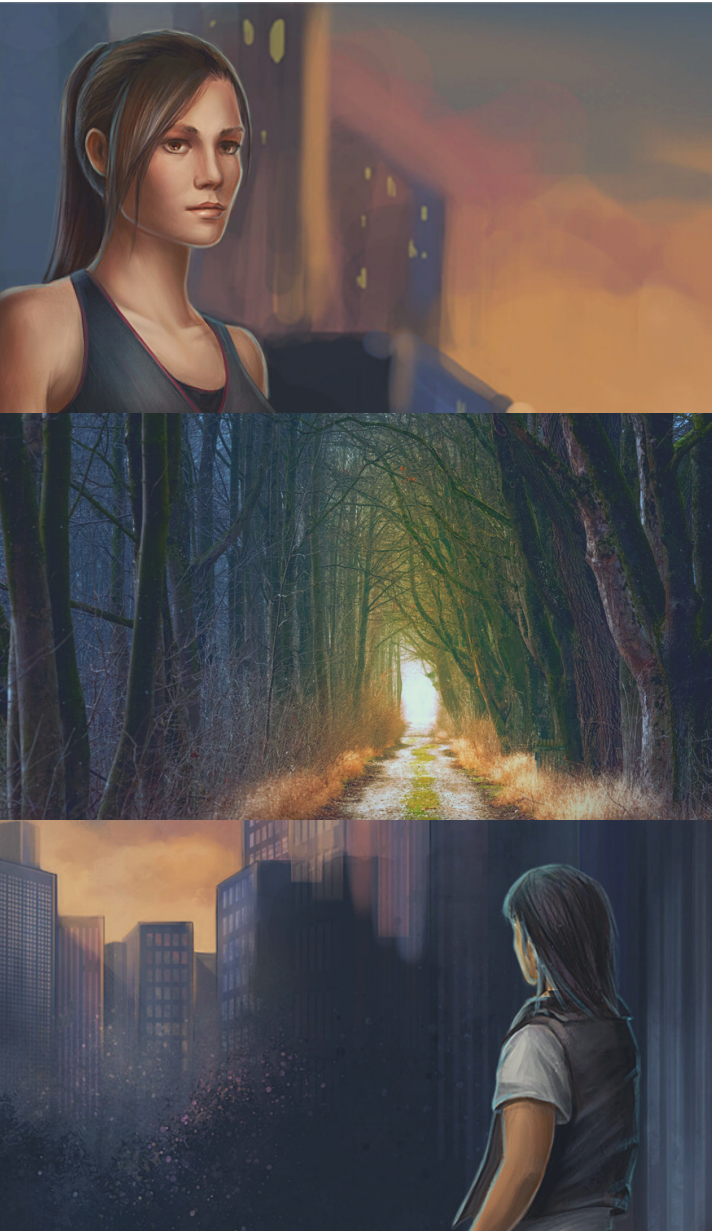


- Would you like to live in Danville Heights? Why? What makes this place unique and special?
- What would you do if your town experienced what happened in Sandry Lake? What are the first three things you'd do to stop the evil in your town?
- The scenery in *Discovery of the Five Senses* seemed to be closely related to the emotions and lives of the citizens. Have you ever felt an emotional connection with the scenery in your area? How so?
- Were Jordan and Kinsu more in tune with nature after they inhaled the energy dust? What was their response?
- How would you feel with broken glass under your feet? Did the visual climate in Sandry Lake change your mood? How so?
- 'Huge wavy leaves danced beneath the moonlight'. Would this setting, in full view of a yellow-gray moon, scare or enchant you? Did the preserve seem eerie or strikingly beautiful? Both? Why?
- How did the succulent bearing the nectar influence the natural elements of the forest?
- Describe the relationship between the natural environment and the boys, including the soothing voice of the river.
- The earthly home of the Naculeans seemed full of life. Was it scary or heavenly beautiful? Which character in the story was most like the preserve?
- Compare and contrast the landscapes of Sandry Lake and Danville Heights.
- Green is a soothing color. Was this a factor in why the boys went to the forest so often, especially when they were stressed? How does color play a role in your life?

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THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | QUESTIONS

story



- Why did the elected officials in Sandry Lake run away? Did you think they would return by the end of the story?
- Explain what could have caused the bonds of the five friends to be ‘intertwined, strong enough to never be broken’.
- During their first encounter, the Dark Stranger helped the boys keep appearances and get out of the forest. Why did he help them?
- Was Diane in danger the night the stranger went to the café, stating that she was the ‘sister of that boy’? Could this event have been avoided? How?
- In your opinion, will Alex and Josie stick to their plan of leaving Danville Heights? What would happen to the group if they left?
- Discuss a plot twist you didn’t expect.
- In your opinion, which character should have had a more prominent role in the story? How would that have changed the story ending?
- Officer Johnston had historical knowledge of Ross Dawson’s death. Did this help him or hurt him in discovering the mysterious mess?
- What are your thoughts about Omar? He’s in the wind. Will he carry the plot forward? Where is he going?
- The Naculeans’ reliance upon the nectar helped drive the plot, but was this selfish of them or simply a life-sustaining fact?
- Why is it important for the five friends to stay together?
- What might happen to Danville Heights if the nectar runs out? Who will protect the two towns in the years ahead?



A NOVEL BY K.N. SMITH

Discovery of the Five Senses

THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | PART ONE

ESSAY TOPICS



powerful and perfect

According to Druth's statement, "I'm almost there. Soon, I'll be all-powerful and perfect... for my parents," what could have caused his endless determination of becoming 'all-powerful and perfect'? Was it the love of his parents, or the lack of it, that determined Druth's actions? Was he overly emotional? Or, was it all in his mind? Explain how the impact of parents can influence decisions made by their children later in life.

What makes this book particularly fascinating is the manner in which the community where the characters exist is itself a living, conscious entity. In this respect, the book has a strong fantasy element to it. The author makes great use of backstories and subtext to lend depth, subtlety, and mystery to the unfolding of the story as it vacillates from surreality to reality. Additionally, Smith introduces poetic elements into the narrative, placing the story into a mythical context, each of the characters' actions being a response to fate as they struggle to reach a balance between the demands of normalcy and the pull of destiny. I recommend this book to readers of fantasy, mystery, and even fans of certain kinds of comic books, which explore how new powers put pressure upon those who acquire them to undergo intensive personal transformations.

Lars Jackson – Amazon Customer



the right solution

The unity and determination of the heroes proved key to the story. But life is not always easy. With adversity being common among people, it seems there is always something to throw us off course. Recount a personal situation where friendship and teamwork made the difference in finding the right solution. Compare this to the five friends in *Discovery of the Five Senses*, who pushed ahead in the glow of the emerald forest.

Discovery of the Five Senses hits the ground running and never looks back. Author K.N. Smith uses her mastery of the written word to weave an entrancing, yet powerful tale of bonding, loyalty, and adventure that keeps you turning pages in an unquenchable desire to find out what happens next. The author's matchless prose details cinematic fight sequences and fully developed characterizations especially in a final, stupendous scene that will take your breath away and leave you limp with spent emotions. Five stars for this imaginative and inspiring story, sure to be as appealing to general audiences as it will be to the YA crowd!

Publishers Daily Reviews

And they followed their little friend further and further into the forest.

“

The cleverness of the premise is fully utilized by K. N. Smith whose gorgeous prose and descriptive writing sees the scenes in which the boys' senses reach out into the world to tell them something new. This turns into an enchanting description of the familiar through new eyes. The craftsmanship of the storytelling is excellent and not an ounce of potential goes to waste, with the villainous Druth creating a perfect threat for the protagonists as they learn to fight together. The plot is a veritable rollercoaster of adventure, the characters are wonderfully realized, the world of the story is pitch-perfect in its conception and description, and at the end of the tale, you'll be looking at your own world with fresh eyes.

Reviewed By K.C. Finn for Readers' Favorite





modern teenagers

Discuss the interactions between the parents/ caregivers and the boys, individually and collectively. Were the scenarios realistic according to the lives of modern teenagers? How would you have portrayed these relationships if you were the author? Keep in mind that families require trust in order to bond, and teens need room to grow, especially if they are gifted with special powers! What's your take on these dynamics?

The story brims with superhero intrigue and the true tension comes from watching the group struggle to wrestle with the “other” beyond themselves, while overcoming a battle that is closer to their hearts than they realize. Smith excellently portrays the conflict of her characters who exist in two worlds. Jordan, Rhee, Kinsu, Alex, and Chase are dynamic and multifaceted characters. Druth is equally compelling as an antagonist. Through the boys’ growing realization about their role in the bigger scheme of things, Smith deftly discusses themes of responsibility, duty, loyalty, integrity, fear, courage, and triumph. Employing a fully-fleshed-out cast of intriguing characters with plenty of emotional depth, this high action-adventure skillfully explores the fight between good-versus-evil while maintaining a fast-paced clip. A solid YA supernatural adventure.

The Prairies Editorial Book Review



fast acting glue

Is sports one of the elements that unifies your community? How can sports - or the arts or a social cause - be the 'fast-acting glue' that keeps your community together? Were the lessons from the football game partly responsible for shaping the players' characters? How so? What lessons can we learn from 'community'?

This amazing teen novel is both eerie and compelling. The reader is immediately drawn into the plot, and with its array of twists and turns, they won't be able to put it down. It is interesting to note that the characters come from less than perfect backgrounds; something many young readers may identify with. The author cleverly created the antagonist with spine-chilling malice and danger. This book will draw you in from the start. It is masterfully written, and the plot is so extraordinary, you won't be able to put it down. It certainly appeals to teens and adults alike. Share it with your family, you won't be sorry.

Professional Book Reviews for Rocket Book Tours

K.N. Smith



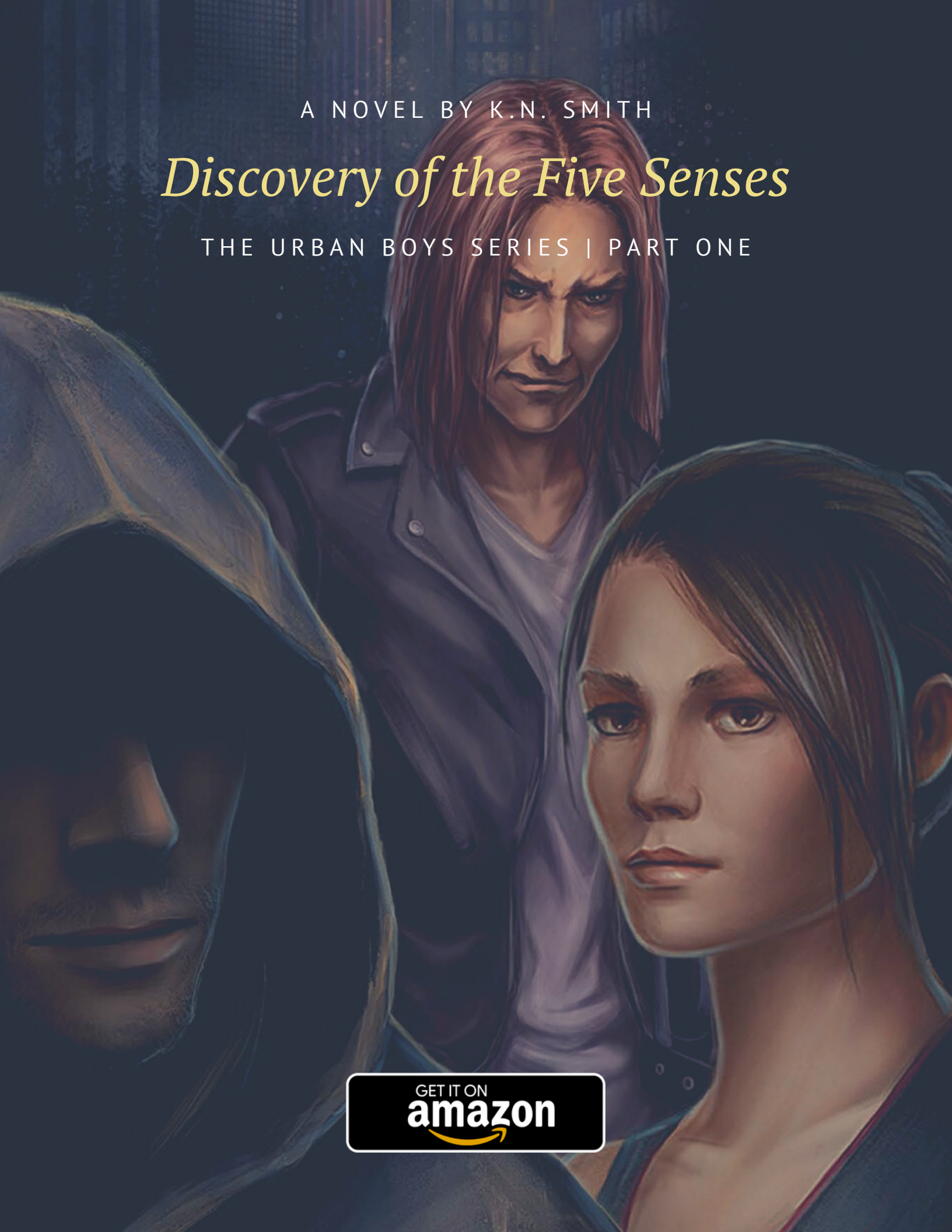
K.N. Smith is an award-winning author. She is a passionate advocate of arts and enrichment programs throughout the world. Her lyrical flair sweeps across pages that twist and grind through action-adventure and urban fantasy in edge-of-your-seat narratives. K.N. has over twenty-five years' experience in communications and creative design as an award-winning consultant. *Discovery of the Five Senses* was awarded "Best of" in the category "Outstanding Young Adult Novel" at the Jessie Redmon Fauset Book Awards at the 10th Annual Leimert Park Village Book Fair. The event, voted one of LA's best annual book festivals, attracts over 200 authors, poets, spoken word artists, storytellers, performers, and literary/ educational exhibitor participants, and boasts an audience of over 5,000. Visit the author at knsmith.com.



A NOVEL BY K.N. SMITH

Discovery of the Five Senses

THE URBAN BOYS SERIES | PART ONE



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