

LOBIZONA

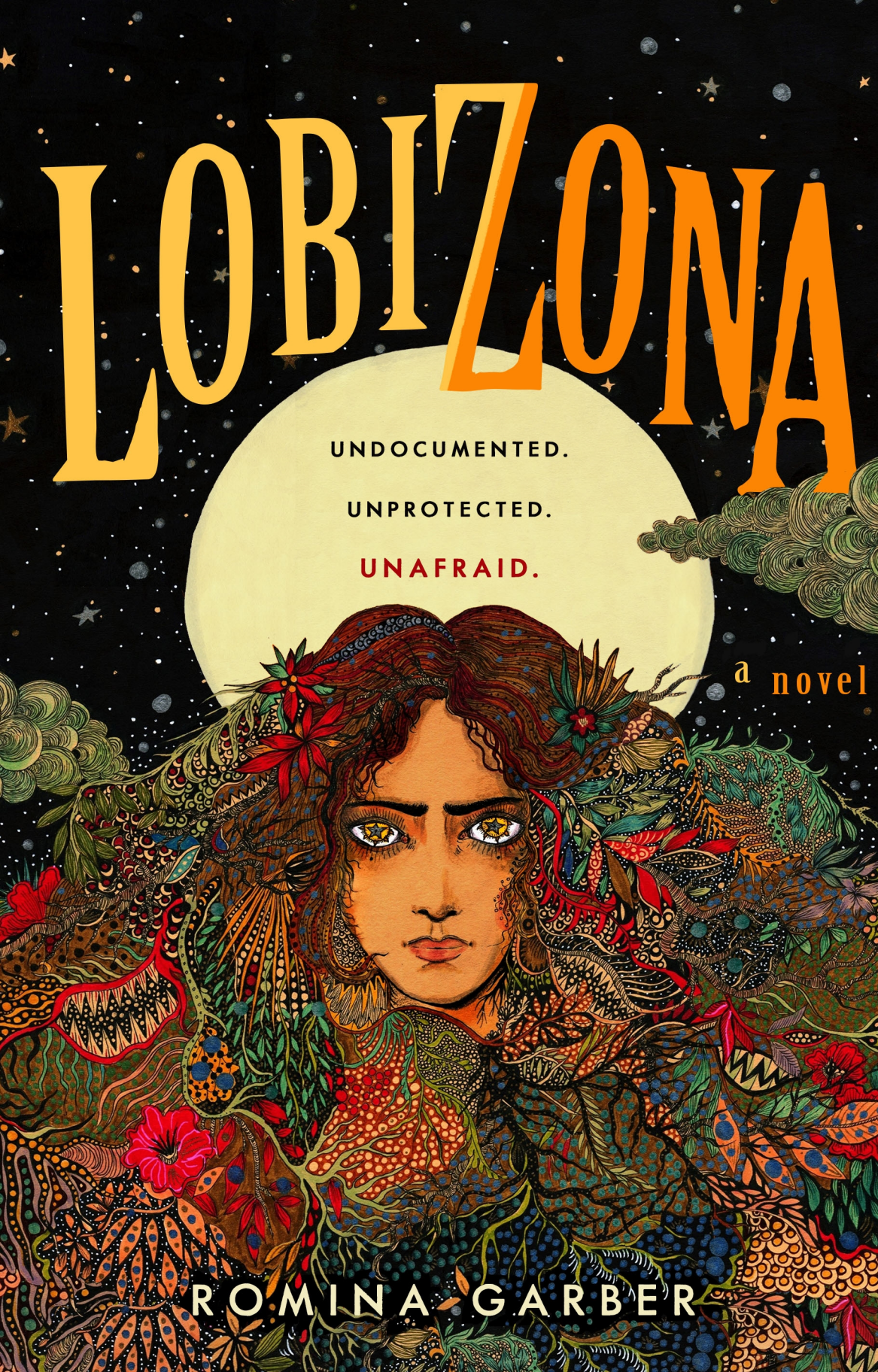
UNDOCUMENTED.

UNPROTECTED.

UNAFRAID.

a novel

ROMINA GARBER





1. Ma goes to extreme lengths to keep Manu safe, including lying, homeschooling, and forbidding her from having friends. Is she justified in taking such protective precautions, or do you think she's gone overboard?
2. Perla tells Manu that Latinx authors employ magical realism because sometimes reality strays so far from what's rational that it can only be explained with fantasy. *Lobizona* begins in a contemporary setting, with current laws and real-world threats, and transitions into a fantastical land straight out of South American lore. How does the book's genre shift impact the reader's connection to Manu and her struggles?
3. Manu's experience among the Septimus somewhat parallels her existence among humans. What are some of the most salient similarities?
4. Midway through the novel, on Manu's seventeenth birthday, Salsa takes her to visit Perla. At this point Manu hasn't manifested any powers and the full moon is just two weeks away, so why does Manu choose to risk everything by returning to El Laberinto instead of staying with Perla?
5. What role does language play in Manu's sense of identity? What effect do labels have on her life? Which of the following feels truer to your life experience: Do we define words, or do words define us?
6. What do you predict will be the impact on the Septimus population when they learn of the existence of a lobizona? Do you imagine it will have an effect on their laws and how they approach gender norms?
7. Manu considers the culture of the Septimus to be both liberating and limiting. She finds the community-centric lifestyle freeing, but she also recognizes that for some individuals, fitting in comes at the cost of personal choice. What's your take on Septimus society?

Discussion Questions



8. Like most larger-than-life figures, Fierro's personal life is complicated and controversial. Do you think his identity should be revealed to his followers so they can judge him knowing all the facts, or does his message matter more than his personal life? In other words, is the legend more important than the man—er, werewolf?
9. When Manu faces off with Yamila at the end of the book, she discovers she's more than a lobizona because she's able to anticipate and deflect the fire witch's magical attacks. If Manu's abilities and heritage are historically undocumented—making her an original—is it fair to punish her for not fitting in the system, or should the system be modified to fit her?
10. If you were to join Manu, Tiago, Cata, and Saysa's new and revolutionary manada, what would your next move be? How would you go about shaking up the Septimus system to bring on change?