Star Child Interview

The premise

1. What is *Star Child* about?

Star Child follows Cass Hollis, a twenty-eight-year-old graphic designer whose routine bloodwork comes back with a result no lab can classify. Her search for an explanation leads to a secret her mother has kept for decades, to a community of people called Experiencers, and to a member, David Morrow, who shares more with her than either of them suspects. At its heart, the book is a slow-burn romance wrapped around a scientific mystery. Across three parts, it follows Cass and then her daughter, Eleanor, as each learns what that inheritance means.

2. Where did the idea come from?

I never accepted the usual explanations for alien abductions. Experimentation and surveillance always struck me as too small, too human in their assumptions. What caught my attention was the lore around recovered biological entities, and the question that followed from it. If beings like that had interacted with people as participants instead of subjects, what would their children inherit? *Star Child* grew out of trying to answer that.

3. Mitochondrial DNA comes only from the mother. How does that work if Cass's father wasn't human?

Spoiler: reveals Paula's test result.

That's the question the whole book turns on. Mitochondrial DNA passes only from mother to child, so when Cass's test matches no human lineage, she assumes the answer lies on her mother's side. Then Paula's own results come back completely ordinary. Cass is left holding a result that breaks the rule, and she says so: either the science is wrong, or what happened falls outside anything science can account for. I chose to leave that impossibility standing, because it's the evidence. My Author's Note is upfront that the premise is speculative fiction, and the genetics around it are accurate.

The research

4. Who are the Experiencers, and how did you portray them?

Experiencers are real people who report contact with non-human intelligence. What surprised me in my research was how ordinary they were. They were teachers, engineers, and retirees sitting in folding chairs on Tuesday evenings, comparing notes on something the world had no adequate container for. That image became the heart of the novel. In the book, the community is a support group led by Vera Osgood, who has held it together for years. I wrote its members as people first, with doubts, families, and day jobs.

5. How much of the science is real?

More than readers might expect. The genetics are accurate: how mitochondrial DNA is inherited, how haplogroups map human ancestry, and how labs compare a sample against reference databases. A real artifact, the Starchild skull, was found in Mexico around 1930. Its mother's DNA tested as ordinary and human, and a researcher later claimed a fragment from the father's side matched nothing on record. That claim is contested, and the book says so. The one invention is Cass's result itself.

The characters

6. Tell us about Cass Hollis.

Cass is a graphic designer who trusts what she can see and likes to understand the machinery before she accepts a result. Raised by a single mother, with a father she never knew, she built a calm, capable life around that gap. Her habit of answering every hard question with "I'm fine" gets tested. That analytical streak is what makes the story work. When a lab result breaks the rules, the person holding it is someone who can't shrug it off.

7. Why do readers never get inside David's head?

That was deliberate. Every scene with David is written from the outside: what he says, what he does, and how he reacts. Readers learn who he is as Cass does, by watching him. Keeping his thoughts closed preserves part of the mystery the book is built on, and it lets his

actions carry the weight. He was raised inside the Experiencer community, so he has lived with these questions far longer than Cass has.

8. Eleanor has unusual abilities. What are the rules?

Eleanor's abilities are entirely receptive. She can sense what people feel, pick up history from objects, tell when someone is lying, and perceive things at a distance. What she can't do is project, compel, or harm. That limit is the moral center of the trilogy. Her gifts give her knowledge without power over anyone, so every choice about what to do with that knowledge is hers to make.

The trilogy and its readers

9. How does Eleanor use her gifts in *A Sense of Justice*? (Section 3 of the trilogy)

At twenty-two, Eleanor works as a legal transcriptionist and partners with a journalist, Petra Vance, to expose a network that exploits workers. Her problem is evidence. Nothing she senses will ever be admissible in court (Probable Cause), because no one can explain or verify how she knows it. So, every case becomes an engineering problem. She has to reach what she already knows through public records and protected channels, the slow and legitimate way.

10. Who will enjoy *Star Child*?

Readers who like a slow-burn romance with real stakes, and readers who grew up on *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, and *The X-Files*. I'm of that generation, the one that learned to accept the question while the culture was still laughing at it. If you've ever wondered what contact would mean for an ordinary family, across more than one generation, this book is for you.

Star Child (Release November 27, 2026) is available in paperback and ebook versions at Amazon and other sources, including Barnes & Noble.