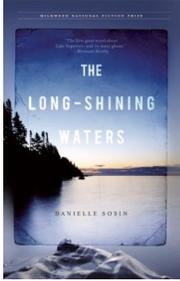


# Books by the Stack



## **The Long-Shining Waters by Danielle Sosin**

Lake Superior shapes the lives of three women from different eras: Grey Rabbit, an Ojibwe woman following seasonal routes with her family in 1622; Berit Kleiven, who lives in a cove with her husband in 1902; and Nora Truneau, a Duluth bar owner who explores the lake in 2000 after a crisis. As these narratives unfold and overlap, a fourth mysterious character comes into stark relief.

**Why you'll like it:** *Connection to nature. Sensuous. Lyrical.*

**About the Author:** Danielle Sosin is the celebrated author of *The Long-Shining Waters*, which was the 2011 Milkweed National Fiction Prize Winner, a Minnesota Book Award Nominee for Fiction, a Midwest Connections May 2011 pick, and an Indie Heartland Bestseller in June of 2011. Her fiction has been featured in the *Alaska Quarterly Review* and on National Public Radio, and she has received fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, The Ragdale Foundation, and Anderson Center. She lives in Duluth, Minnesota.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. *The Long-Shining Waters* features three storylines: Grey Rabbit in 1622, Berit Kleiven in 1902 and Nora Truneau in 2000. How did you relate to each of the storylines? Did you find them to be equally compelling? Did your opinion change over the course of the novel?
2. The three main characters, while separated by centuries, are connected in a number of different ways. How are they similar? What threads run through all the stories?
3. The setting – the shores of Lake Superior – is clearly important to the book. In what ways do the characters themselves view this large body of water? Do you think of Lake Superior as a constant throughout the novel, or is it different in each section? Could the lake itself be a character?
4. Each of the women in the novel is faced with great uncertainty in her life. How do they cope with change and the unknown? In your opinion, what might be learned from the ways these women react to the different challenges they face?
5. The voice of a fourth and mysterious character speaks from in the water. How did you interpret this voice, and how does its inclusion influence your understanding of the other three narratives and of the book as a whole?
6. The idea of time is important in this story. How would you describe the way that time moves over the course of the book? How does the structure of the book, with its overlapping stories, affect your reading of the novel?

7. In each era depicted, as well as in the fourth voice, the writing is different. How does it differ in each of the sections?
8. While *The Long-Shining Waters* focuses largely on the experiences of these three women, what role do the male characters play throughout the novel? How do the various time periods determine their roles?
9. How do you imagine the futures of Grey Rabbit, Berit and Nora? Why do you think the author chose each story's particular ending?
10. What have you taken away from this novel? What has left the strongest impression on you?
11. How does your own appreciation of Lake Superior compare with or differ from that of the people in the novel?

*(Questions issued by publisher)*



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