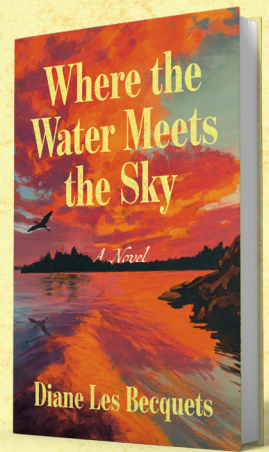


Where the Water Meets the Sky



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This book shares vivid nature imagery that parallels human storylines throughout the book. What imagery stood out to you and how did it relate back to what the characters were going through?
2. The Garden Peninsula of Michigan, with its abundant natural world, becomes Abby's refuge and place of healing. Do you have a special place in the natural world you go to for refuge and comfort, for strength and healing?
3. In what ways do you identify your life with nature? How has nature helped you in your life?
4. In many ways, Abby's life is stuck in the past. Have you ever experienced something similar, where you felt like your life could not move forward. If so, how can you relate to Abby? Are there any takeaways from Abby's journey that might help you in your own personal pilgrimage?
5. How does the theme of ecosystem apply to this story in both the natural world and in human relationships?
6. How do you think Abby understands friendship at the beginning of the novel? How does that understanding change by the end of the novel?
7. Abby is wary of Seda in the beginning. How does Seda gain Abby's trust?
8. How does Abby challenge Seda? How does Seda challenge Abby? And in what ways do they complement one another?
9. Aside from the events surrounding the fire, what do you think is the greatest lesson Seda teaches Abby about living life? In what ways does Abby bring healing to Seda?
10. Abby's life is not only rooted in place, but also in family and in her relationship with Brew. In what ways do you think her family and Brew recognize the effects of the fire on Abby's life? How are they able to help? Do you think they should have done more?
11. How are themes of redemption and healing applied to Abby and Brew's relationship?
12. How does Brew deal with his guilt over the night of the fire? Do you think he should have come forward sooner with Abby?
13. In what ways do secrets keep us isolated and apart from those we love? How did the chasm of secrets between Abby and Brew hurt their relationship?
14. How does Abby's relationship with her family change by the end of the book?
15. Which scene in the book had the greatest emotional impact on you and why?
16. How is God portrayed in this book? How would you describe Abby's relationship to God and her experience of God?