

## Reading Group Guide

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

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Fiction/Literature • Pub Date: May 3, 2011  
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1. *The Long-Shining Waters* follows multiple characters, who are separated by centuries (sections of the book are set in the years 1622, 1902, and 2000) but who are connected in a number of different ways. What are some of the ways these characters are similar to one another? And in which ways are they different?
2. One of the connections between these characters is their proximity to Lake Superior. Do you think of Lake Superior as a constant throughout the novel, or is it different in each section?
3. This novel dips into and explores the lives of three outwardly different characters: Grey Rabbit, Berit Kleiven, and Nora Truneau. Whose story did you find most compelling? And did your opinion change over the course of the novel?
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? How do you respond to uncertainty in your own life? In your opinion, what might be learned from the ways these women react to the different challenges they face?
5. There is a fourth and mysterious character, whose voice appears to speak at various times throughout the novel. How did you interpret this voice, and how does its inclusion help you understand the other three narratives?
6. The setting of this novel—the shores of Lake Superior—is clearly important to the book. In what ways do the characters themselves view this large body of water?
7. How does your own appreciation of Lake Superior compare with or differ from that of the novel's heroines?
8. All three women—Grey Rabbit, Berit Kleiven, and Nora Truneau—seem to be searching for something. What is it? And in your opinion, do they find it?
9. While *The Long-Shining Waters* focuses largely on the experiences of these three women, what role do the male characters play throughout the novel?
10. It seems fair to say that the idea of time is very important in this novel. How would you describe the way that time moved over the course of the book? How does the structure of the book—with its overlapping stories—inform your understanding of how time, in the novel, is functioning?