

Fire Is Your Water

A Novel



Jim Minick

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. What does the title mean to you?
2. How do the two elements of fire and water weave through the whole novel? What could the two elements represent?
3. What does the Rumi poem in the epigraph and the acknowledgements add to your understanding of the title?
4. How did you react at first to a talking raven? And then as the novel progressed, what did you think of Cicero?
5. What are some of the roles Cicero plays in the novel?
6. What was your opinion of faith healing before reading this? What is it now?
7. Which character did you relate to most: Ada, Will, or Cicero?
8. How does each character change over the course of the novel?
11. What does God or religion mean to each character? Why?
12. How do you see each character continuing to change after the novel ends? What's next for their relationship?
13. What about Ada and Will's story surprised you?
14. What role does the natural world play in the book, and how does it relate to questions of faith and modernity?

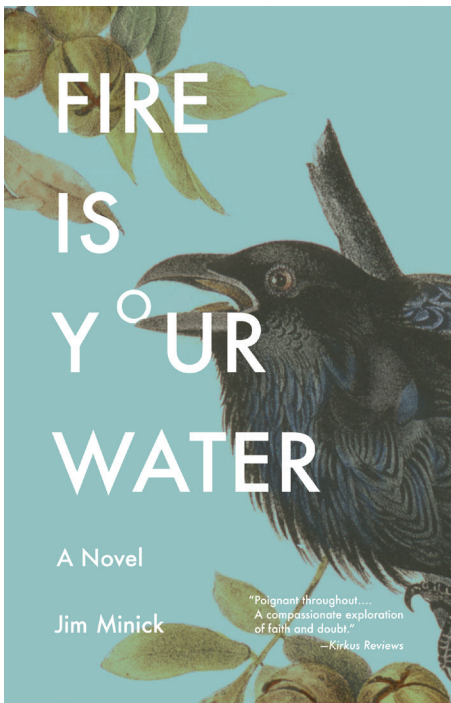
15. *Fire Is Your Water* is set in Appalachian Pennsylvania. What was interesting or surprising to you about this setting? What about it meshed with or challenged your existing ideas about Appalachia?

16. What passages particularly engaged or moved you?

17. Was the ending satisfying to you? What questions do you still have?

18. Did Ada or Will do anything that infuriated or frustrated you over the course of the book? If so, what and why?

For more insights into what the author says about some of these questions as well as his use of family stories in this novel, please visit the Q & A on Ohio University Press's website: http://www.ohioswallow.com/extras/Minick_QA_2.pdf



"Minick's coming-of-age novel is poignant throughout. The supporting players are as caringly drawn as the protagonists... A compassionate exploration of faith and doubt."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"Minick uses an extraordinary mix of realism and enchantment to tell a love story wrapped in horror, fire, and faith. An utterly original novel."

— Lee Smith

Fire Is Your Water

A Novel

By Jim Minick

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