



BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

NARRATIVE FICTION



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING A LONG
WAY HOME FOR YOUR
NEXT BOOK CLUB READ

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RESOURCE GUIDE

A LONG WAY HOME

Meredith Haggerty had a successful career, an abusive husband, and a secret plan to escape. On the morning of September 11, 2001, she seized the opportunity to vanish from her old life and start over as Shannon Staples, a teacher in a small town near the Texas-Mexico border. But her past is not so easily left behind, and she soon finds herself entangled in a web of lies, love, and danger. Can she outrun her fate, or will she have to face the consequences of her choices? *A Long Way Home* is a thrilling novel of betrayal, redemption, and the power of reinvention.

WORD COUNT: 68,800

PAGE COUNT: 214

KEY WORDS: 9/11 survivor | Fiction | Historical fiction | Mexico

DEMOGRAPHICS: readers who enjoy romance, drama, suspense, and realism

COMP BOOKS: *The Girl with No Name* by Diney Costeloe | *The Wife's Tale* by Lori Lansens

| *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff | *The Last Train to London* by Meg Waite Clayton |

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

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Escape Margarita

A refreshing cocktail with a hint of spice and smoke, inspired by the protagonist's escape from the 9/11 attacks and her journey to Mexico.

Ingredients:

- 2 oz tequila (preferably mezcal for a smoky flavor)
- 1 oz orange liqueur (such as Cointreau or Grand Marnier)
- 1 oz lime juice
- 1/2 oz agave nectar
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- Ice
- Salt and lime wedge for garnish

Directions:

- Rim a rocks glass with salt and fill with ice.
- In a cocktail shaker, combine tequila, orange liqueur, lime juice, agave nectar, and chili powder. Shake well and strain into the prepared glass.
- Garnish with a lime wedge and enjoy.



SIGNATURE DRINK

- The Great Escape by Pink
- Escape by Enrique Iglesias
- The Great Escape by Boys Like Girls
- Escape Plan by Travis Scott
- Time to Pretend by MGMT
- Elastic Heart by Sia ft. Shia LaBeouf & Maddie Ziegler
- Drift Away by Dobie Gra
- Escape from LA by The Weeknd
- Born to Run by Bruce Springsteen
- I'm Like a Bird by Nelly Furtado
- Don't Stop Believin' by Journe
- I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor
- Wide Open Spaces by Dixie Chicks
- Breakaway by Kelly Clarkson
- The Climb by Miley Cyrus



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN THE
DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- How did you feel about Meredith's choice to fake her death and disappear? Do you think it was justified or selfish? How would you have reacted in her situation?
- What challenges and opportunities did Meredith face in her new life as Shannon? How did she cope with the changes and the risks involved?
- How did Rich's character and background influence his relationship with Meredith? What did they have in common and what did they learn from each other?
- How did the events of 9/11 affect the characters and the plot of the novel? How did the author portray the impact of the tragedy on different people and places?
- What did you think of the ending of the novel? Were you satisfied or surprised by the outcome?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Who is the author of the book?
- 2) What is the name of the protagonist?
- 3) What is the name of the priest who sits next to her on the bus?
- 4) What languages is she proficient in?
- 5) What is the name of her husband who is in a wheelchair?
- 6) What is the name of the critique group that the author belongs to?
- 7) What is the name of the artist who created the book cover?
- 8) What event prompted the author to begin this tale as a short story?

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

*ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF
THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE



Myra Hargrave McIlvain is a sixth generation Texan and a storyteller who began her career writing a family humor column while she raised her two children. After the nest emptied, her background in Texas history led to Austin where she wrote Texas historical markers that line the highways, designate historic homes, and chronicle the lives of cemetery residents.

McIlvain's love of a good story prompted her to write six nonfiction books about famous and infamous Texas sites and characters. Her most recent, *Texas Tales, Stories that Shaped a Landscape and a People*, is a collection of 113 of her favorite Texas history blog posts.

After several years offering Texas seminars, Myra and her husband began taking her classes on one-day historic trips that led to a worldwide tour business. When she retired, McIlvain lectured for the continuing education program at the University of Texas and other venues across the state. She published her first historical fiction in 2012 and her fifth historical fiction, *The Knotted Ring*, was released in December 2023.

Whether she is telling stories in her books, her blogs, or her lectures, Myra McIlvain views history as the story of a people, and the people she knows best have made Texas home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: www.myramcilver.com

OTHER BOOKS: *The Doctor's Wife* | *Waters Plantation*

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- ◆ Facebook: www.facebook.com/myra.mcilver
- ◆ Twitter: www.twitter.com/myrahmcilver
- ◆ GoodReads: www.goodreads.com/MyraMcilver
- ◆ LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/myra-mcilver

- 1) Myra Hargrave McIlvain
- 2) Meredith Hargrave (later Shannon Staples)
- 3) Jacques Richelieu (or Rich)
- 4) German, French, and Spanish
- 5) Harvey
- 6) Novelcrafters
- 7) Lori Lockhart
- 8) The horror of 9/11

TRIVIA ANSWERS