



Reading Group Guide

A NOTE TO THE READER:

At times, this guide reveals certain aspects of the plot, so be sure you've read the novel in its entirety before reading any further here.

Part I

1. The author plays with the timeline in Part I. One thread goes in chronological order from September 2008 to December 2008. The second thread starts in March 1995 and moves forward to November 2007. Discuss how this timeline affected the storytelling.
2. The author often uses New England settings in her work. How did the setting of Granite Creek, a small (fictional) town in New Hampshire affect the characters? Could these events have taken place elsewhere? Why or why not?
3. Some of the chapters from the "past" involve Koty being pregnant (see chapters 10, 12, 14, 18) or right after she's given birth (to Rosie and then to Daisy; see Chapters 16 and 22). Wayne is featured prominently in these chapters as well. What do you learn about Wayne? What do you learn about Koty? What do you learn about their relationship? Are there any hints to future events in these chapters?
4. Discuss the scene where Jamie shows Koty how to shoot a gun. Did Jamie and Koty change, and did their relationship change? If yes, how?
5. At what point did you suspect Iris knew about Koty and Jamie? How did you think Wayne was going to respond when Iris revealed what she knew?

Part II

1. At the beginning of Part II, which begins in 2014, we learn two things right away: Iris is gay, and Koty's body has been found. How did you respond to these revelations? Did you see either of them coming?
2. Part II also has a different structure: while Part I is written from Koty's point of view, Part II is written in multiple first-person viewpoints. How did this structural change affect the storytelling? Did you feel Koty's absence, or did you find she still had a presence through the other characters?

3. Does your opinion of Wayne Fowler change from Part I to Part II? If yes, how? Does his character grow and redeem himself in your eyes? Why or why not?
4. Do you think Barbara Briggs is motivated more by fear or guilt when she returns to the culvert during the daytime? How does your opinion of her change over the course of the novel?
5. In Part I, the author includes a brief mention of a serial killer (see chapter 7). When you first read this, did you think the author was foreshadowing future events, providing a red herring, or simply including a detail about Daisy's precociousness? Did the inclusion of this information make Detective Panzieri's explanation in chapter 42 about what happened to Koty more believable? Why or why not?
6. In the end, Iris finds resolution and peace about her sexuality and her role in her mother's death. Do you think Iris will ever remember what really happened?

Thank you for reading and discussing *What Happened in Granite Creek*.

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