



Trade Paperback

ISBN: 9781988784878

Pages: 320

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Distributed to the trade by

Publishers Group Canada/Raincoast

customerservice@raincoast.com

Publishers Group West (USA)

www.pgw.com



READING GUIDE: *Anna Quon's Where the Silver River Ends*

Dear Readers,

Thank you for opening my book, *Where the Silver River Ends*. Inside, I hope you'll find a story that carries you, along with the characters I love, in its slipstream.

On that journey you'll meet Joan, who has always followed in someone else's wake, and is now struggling to find her own place in the world far away from her family and home in Halifax, NS. The novel is set mainly in Bratislava, where Joan and a Roma teenager named Milan, along with young Adriana (who, like Joan, is a half Chinese Canadian) become an unlikely family, at the intersection of other families bound by ties of blood and affection.

While reading *Where the Silver River Ends*, I hope you will consider themes of race and class, time and money, luck and love, family and friendship, hope and faith, autonomy and destiny, magic and coincidence. I hope you think about rivers: what might happen if you let the river of life carry you, or if you struggle against the current, or if you try to change the course of your own, or someone else's, life. And, if like Joan, you've found yourself pulled along or caught up in the wake of other peoples' lives, how does understanding this shape your life in the present, or going forward?

I hope you will ask yourself questions about what you bring to this book—about your lens, the one you look through. What in this story carries you, and what do you resist? If you were Joan or Adriana or Milan—or any of the other characters—how would you have acted differently, and what does this say about your own beliefs and values as they relate to the themes of this book?

Where the Silver River Ends is, as you may know, the third novel in a trilogy. I hope it is strong enough to stand on its own and also at the confluence of the rivers of the two previously unrelated stories in my earlier novels, *Migration Songs* and *Low*. My wish for readers is that this book opens up conversations about some of the forces that affect our lives from both within and without, that drive us apart and that bring us together—and that you find enjoyment, enrichment, maybe even astonishment on your reading journey.

Many thanks again!

Anna Quon