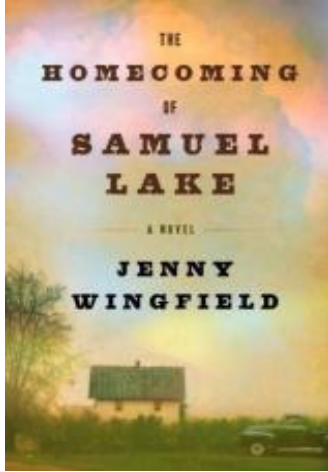


The Homecoming of Samuel Lake

by Jenny Wingfield



About the Book

Every first Sunday in June, members of the Moses clan gather for an annual reunion at a sprawling hundred-acre farm in Arkansas. And every year, Samuel Lake, a vibrant and committed young preacher, brings his beloved wife, Willadee Moses, and their three children back for the festivities. In the midst of it all, Samuel and Willadee's outspoken eleven-year-old daughter, Swan, is a bright light. Her high spirits and fearlessness have alternately seduced and bedeviled three generations of the family. But just as the reunion is getting under way, tragedy strikes, jolting the family to their core and setting the stage for a summer of crisis and profound change.

Discussion Guide

1. What would you sacrifice for your family? Did Toy do the right thing? Did Sam?
2. What purpose did Swan and Uncle Toy have to each other and to the other characters in the story?
3. In what ways does **The Homecoming of Samuel Lake** remind you of other Southern Gothic style literature? Give examples.
4. How does the character Swan Lake compare to Scout Finch in **To Kill a Mockingbird**? How does Atticus Finch compare to Samuel Lake?
5. Compare the characters of Willadee and Bernice. How were they different? How were they similar?

6. What role does the church play in the development of the story? Why does Swan wish that her father was anything but a preacher?

7. Explore the difference between the Moses' Truth and the Honest Truth. Both present their own challenges. Discuss how in the end the Honest Truth supports the Moses Truth.

Author Bio

Jenny Wingfield lives in Texas with her rescued dogs, cats and horses. Her screenplay credits include *The Man in the Moon* and *The Outsider*. *THE HOMECOMING OF SAMUEL LAKE* is her first novel.

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Publication Date: July 12, 2011

Genres: Fiction

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Random House

ISBN-10: 0385344082

ISBN-13: 9780385344081