

THE BEST LIARS IN RIVERVIEW

LIN THOMPSON | BOOK CLUB GUIDE



PRAISE



“A stunning and potentially life-changing, life-saving debut.”

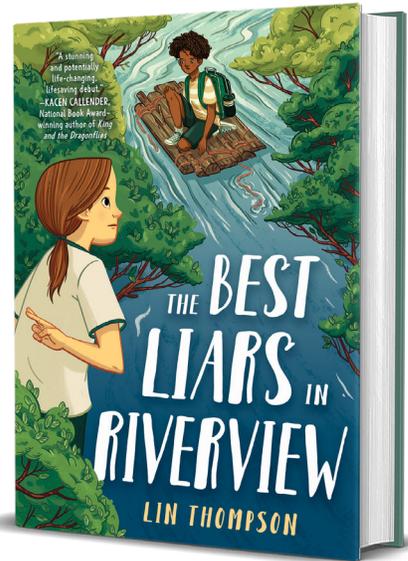
—KACEN CALLENDER

“A beautifully written, nuanced exploration of identity.”

—A. J. SASS

“Tender and bold all at once. A luminous read.”

—ASHLEY HERRING BLAKE



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After Joel goes missing, Aubrey describes the book as “a confession in the telling” (p. 4). What do you think they mean by that? Why are they compelled to confess?
2. Aubrey describes their life and Joel’s disappearance as a story with many versions (p. 7). What versions of the story are there? Which is true? Can multiple versions be true?
3. How do lies of omission play a role in the story and Aubrey’s relationships? Do you think lies of omission are real lies?
4. How would you describe Aubrey’s relationship to religion? Does it change over the course of the book?
5. After speaking to the police, Aubrey reflects, “Maybe I *am* a secret” (p. 32). What do you think they’re talking about? What does it mean to be a secret? Why might that be exhausting?
6. What role does nature play in the book?
7. Aubrey and Joel both struggle with questions of identity in this book. How do their journeys differ? In what ways are they similar?
8. When Aubrey is describing the imaginary games they used to play with Joel, they realize that “our games of pretend have always been real in some ways” (p. 301). How were their games real? How were they not?
9. Aubrey and Joel are best friends, but Aubrey feels completely disconnected from Joel when he disappears. How has their relationship changed since they were younger? How does it change over the course of the book?
10. When Aubrey finally tells Teagan the whole story, they decide, “If all of us are liars in different ways, maybe the penance...is this: We just keep working toward telling the truth” (p. 275). How does Aubrey work toward telling the truth? What about Joel and the other characters?

