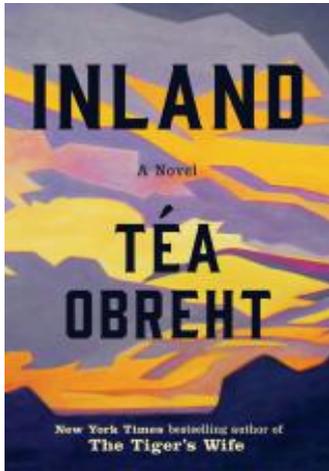


# Inland

by Téa Obreht

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## About the Book

**The *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE TIGER'S WIFE* returns with a stunning tale of perseverance --- an epic journey across an unforgettable landscape of magic and myth.**

In the lawless, drought-ridden lands of the Arizona Territory in 1893, two extraordinary lives collide. Nora is an unflinching frontierswoman awaiting the return of the men in her life --- her husband, who has gone in search of water for the parched household, and her elder sons, who have vanished after an explosive argument. Nora is biding her time with her youngest son, who is convinced that a mysterious beast is stalking the land around their home.

Lurie is a former outlaw and a man haunted by ghosts. He sees lost souls who want something from him, and he finds reprieve from their longing in an unexpected relationship that inspires a momentous expedition across the West. The way in which Nora's and Lurie's stories intertwine is the surprise and suspense of this brilliant novel.

Mythical, lyrical and sweeping in scope, *INLAND* is grounded in true but little-known history. It showcases all of Téa Obreht's talents as a writer, as she subverts and reimagines the myths of the American West, making them entirely --- and unforgettably --- her own.

## Discussion Guide

1. The novel is structured as dual storylines --- one from Nora's perspective, and one from Lurie's. How do these two stories differ, and in what ways are they similar? Did you connect more strongly to one story than the other, and if so, why?
2. How and when did you realize that Lurie was telling his part of the story to a camel named Burke? How would you characterize the relationship between Lurie and Burke? Why do you feel there was such a strong bond between the two

of them?

3. What do you understand “the want” to be, that gets inside of Lurie? How is it driving him?
4. How would you characterize Nora and Emmett’s marriage? What makes their union a strong one, and what has challenged it?
5. Why is Nora unable to let go of Evelyn? How do you feel her relationship with Evelyn changed, from the novel’s beginning to its end?
6. Nora and Desma’s friendship is a bond between two independent, strong-willed women. Why does it go awry?
7. What is motivating Jolly on his journey? What is the basis of his and Lurie’s friendship and service?
8. How does the newspaper that Emmett and Nora own play a role in this story?
9. This novel is partly set during a time of tremendous drought. How does the author make you feel the weight of that as a reader? What elements of the story does it set in motion?
10. The novel’s epigraph says that “Only things inside time change,” not time itself. How do you interpret this, in relation to the novel?

## Author Bio

Téa Obreht is the author of *THE TIGER'S WIFE*, a finalist for the National Book Award. She was born in Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia, in 1985 and has lived in the United States since the age of 12. She currently lives in New York City and teaches at Hunter College.

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### **Inland**

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