

# Tigers in Red Weather

by Liza Klausmann

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## About the Book

Nick and her cousin, Helena, have grown up sharing sultry summer heat, sunbleached boat docks, and midnight gin parties on Martha's Vineyard in a glorious old family estate known as Tiger House. In the days following the end of the Second World War, the world seems to offer itself up, and the two women are on the cusp of their 'real lives': Helena is off to Hollywood and a new marriage, while Nick is heading for a reunion with her own young husband, Hughes, about to return from the war.

Soon the gilt begins to crack. Helena's husband is not the man he seemed to be, and Hughes has returned from the war distant, his inner light curtained over. On the brink of the 1960s, back at Tiger House, Nick and Helena --- with their children, Daisy and Ed --- try to recapture that sense of possibility. But when Daisy and Ed discover the victim of a brutal murder, the intrusion of violence causes everything to unravel. The members of the family spin out of their prescribed orbits, secrets come to light, and nothing about their lives will ever be the same.

Brilliantly told from five points of view, with a magical elegance and suspenseful dark longing, **TIGERS IN RED WEATHER** is an unforgettable debut novel from a writer of extraordinary insight and accomplishment.

## Discussion Guide

1. Does **TIGERS IN RED WEATHER** have a main character? If so, who do you think it is?
2. What does the murder represent in the novel? Does it have equal impact on all of the characters?
3. Is Nick a heroine or villain? Do you believe her assertion that she didn't have an affair with Tyler? Does she really love Daisy, or does she resent her?

4. What brings about Hughes's newfound feelings for Nick later in the novel? Is there a specific catalyst?
5. Hughes finds Ed's behavior disturbing throughout the novel, but it's not just the boy's actions he's threatened by. How does Ed's way of thinking, and the knowledge he's accumulated, threaten Hughes's relationships and his world?
6. Why is the first-person used only in Ed's section?
7. *TIGERS IN RED WEATHER* is divided into five sections, each focused on a different character. Which sections did you enjoy most and least, and why? What do you think we're meant to feel about each of the characters? How does the author show us that something is off about Ed long before his first-person narration grants us a window into his psyche?
8. Why does Helena stay with Avery, despite her unhappiness?
9. Why is so much of Daisy's character told from a child's point of view? What does that say about her role in the novel?
10. On page 134, after witnessing Tyler and Peaches kiss, Daisy wishes she could be like Scarlett O'Hara, independent and free, and forget about Tyler, but she's also scared. When you were a child, who were your role models, literary or otherwise? What they did represent for you? Now that you're older, who do you look up to?
11. If you ranked the characters from most to least moral, where do they stand?
12. What does the title of the book mean? How is the poem related to the story?
13. On page 298, Ed tries to explain to Hughes his hunch that people are "going about it all the wrong way." What do you think Ed means? Which people, and what do you think Ed would approve of as the "right" way? Why does Ed's comment so unsettle Hughes?
14. On page 351, Nick says to Hughes, "It's the strangest thing, but I have this feeling . . . Like everything . . ." And Hughes replies, "Yes. Everything is." Complete Nick's sentence for her. What do you imagine she's trying to say? Given the circumstances, is there any other way to interpret it? Why do you think the author chose to leave this vague, and how did it affect your experience as a reader?
15. What did you make of the ending of *TIGERS IN RED WEATHER*? Do you think Ed is rehabilitated?

## Author Bio

Liza Klaussmann is the author of *TIGERS IN RED WEATHER*, an international bestseller for which she won a British National Book Award, the Elle Grand Prix for Fiction and was named Amazon UK's Rising Star of the Year in 2012. A former journalist, Klaussmann was born Brooklyn, New York and spent ten years living in Paris. She currently lives in North London. *VILLA AMERICA* is her second novel.

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# **Tigers in Red Weather**

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