

Revontuli

by Andrew Eddy

About the Book



In a land marked by the rhythm of migrating reindeer and the rituals of an ancient religion, a way of life is drawing to a close. War is coming to the Finnmark, and brings with it unsuspected inhumanity. *Revontuli* tells the coming of age of a Sami girl during World War II, a time of trial that leaves Marit and the village of Karasjok forever changed. Already torn between the heritage of her Norwegian father and her mother's indigenous Sami culture, Marit discovers a bigger world through Hans, the German officer billeted in their home. Their forbidden love will challenge Marit's beliefs and allegiances. Set in the forests above the Arctic Circle, where Norway meets Finland, *Revontuli* is inspired by true stories.

Invite the Author

Andrew loves to meet readers and is happy to visit with your book group via phone call, Skype call, or even in person when possible. To agree to a meeting time, please write to andrew@andreweddyauthor.com at least one month before your meeting.

Special items such as maps or other supplementary materials are available upon request to book clubs ordering more than 10 copies.

Discussion Questions

SPOILER ALERT! Only read these questions after reading the book!

1. The book opens with Marit "finding" Hans. Why does she shed tears of joy on his grave? If she has found him in the graveyard, what else does she seek to find by staying in Traundorf?
2. The third chapter of the book introduces the river to the reader. How is the Karasjokka important? Are there other passages in the book where the river is important? What role does the landscape and setting in general play in the book?
3. Early in the book, Marit becomes friends with some of the prisoners. How does their death change Marit?

4. Marit's best friend is Milly, yet she cannot tell her about the horse she received from the prisoners. Why not? How is Marit's relationship to Arnfrid different from her friendship with Milly? Is Marit still friends with Milly at the end of the book?
5. Hans is portrayed as a pleasant, friendly, caring character, yet he carries a secret throughout the entire story. How does Marit react to the discovery of the secret, initially and then after some time? If Hans had kept the secret from you, could you forgive him?
6. Tomas doesn't like Hans very much. What reasons does Tomas have to dislike Hans? Margret and Tomas hide the letters Hans sends from Marit. Are they right to do so? Why or why not?
7. At the end of the book, Jan offers to marry Marit, even though she is pregnant with Hans' child. Should she have accepted? How would her life have been different? Knowing she cannot be with Hans, why does she say no?
8. Marit is the heir to her grandmother's gift of vision and prophecy. What is Marit's relation to the ancient religion and how does she accept her role as noiaide?
9. *Revontuli* is told from Marit's point of view. How would the book be different if it was told from both Marit's and Hans' points of view? When Marit reads one of Hans' letters, we have a hint of his view, and how it would be different from hers. Would the book work told from several points of view?
10. Marit lives most of her life in love with a man she only knew for a few years. Can you truly be in love without seeing someone for so many years, or is this only the memory of love?
11. The book is set to the war in Norway, and offers a vivid portrayal of the burning of the Finnmark. Why is this chapter of WWII relatively unknown? What is the impact of the burning of the Finnmark on the Sami people? How is their future different today than it would otherwise have been? The Nazi destruction of Sami culture was strategic rather than ideological. Does that make it any less reprehensible? Can the destruction of the Sami homeland be justified as an act of war, or is it a crime against humanity?
12. What other books would you compare this book to and why? How is it similar to or different from other novels you've read in this genre?

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