

Your Next Book Club Read

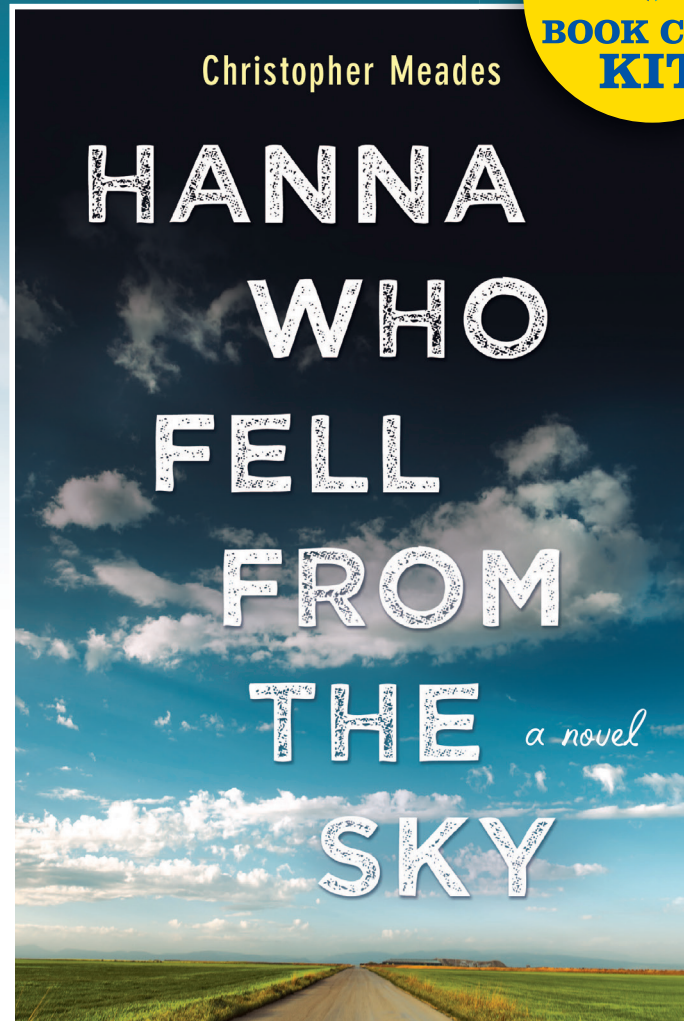


There's no one in Clearhaven
like her, and she's about
to find out why.

Meet Hanna...

Hanna has never questioned why her father has four wives. And in only one week, on her eighteenth birthday, Hanna will follow tradition and become the fifth wife of a man more than twice her age. But just days before the wedding, an enigmatic stranger challenges Hanna to question her fate and to follow her own will, causing her world to begin unraveling around her.

When her mother reveals a secret—one that could grant her the freedom she's known only in her dreams—Hanna is forced to decide whether she was really meant for something greater than the claustrophobic world of Clearhaven. But can she abandon her beloved younger sister and the only home she's ever known?



Discussion Questions

1. Did you (as a reader) believe that Hanna fell from the sky?
If so, at what point in the novel did this belief begin to resonate?
2. If Kara hadn't told Hanna where she came from, would Hanna have found the courage not to marry Edwin?
Or would she have gone through with the wedding?
3. What is the significance of the version of herself Hanna imagines on the other side of the world?
Does Hanna become that brave version of herself at the end of the book?
4. What will Clearhaven be like after Hanna leaves?
What role, if any, do you think Charliss will play in its future?
5. Consider both the family fable Kara tells Hanna and the tale Hanna begins to tell Ahmre at the end.
What importance does storytelling play in this novel?



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To find out more about Hanna visit
BookClubbish.com/Hanna
for additional discussion questions,
an extended excerpt and more!



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About the Author

Christopher Meades is the author of three previous novels, including *The Last Hiccup*, which won the 2013 Canadian Authors Association Award for Fiction. In addition, Meades's work has appeared in several literary journals including *The Potomac Review* and *The Fiddlehead*. He lives in British Columbia, Canada, with his family.

On Writing HANNA WHO FELL FROM THE SKY

"As much as I am Hanna's creator and the one who dreamed her up in the first place, she is the one who helped me get well again."



In summer 2005, during three intense, sleepless days, I wrote the very first draft of *Hanna Who Fell from the Sky*. As it stood, the story was far too short and much too rough for publication. Instead of revising my novella-size manuscript, I set it aside to work on getting my short stories published in literary magazines. In the following years, I wrote three quirky and (what I hope are) funny novels that were released by an awesome small press in Canada. As much as I put my heart and soul into those books, something inside me kept telling me to return to the story of Hanna in Clearhaven. To retell it. To rewrite it with the perspective additional years and fatherhood had given me.

Then fate intervened.

One evening I was playing hockey (like all good Canadians kids do) when I got hit in the head. It was bad. Really bad. I was chasing the puck, skating as fast as I could, when an opposition player rammed his shoulder into my head. The world went black. My feet left the ice and my body hung momentarily in midair. I couldn't see. I could barely think. My vision returned immediately. But an hour later, I could hardly talk. I couldn't walk a hundred feet without collapsing.

I suffered a traumatic brain injury that night, one that left me unable to read a single sentence or even watch television for weeks. One that left me stuttering for ten months and with a chronic feeling that there was a bell inside me that wouldn't stop ringing. My brain injury left me unable to hold a proper conversation, let alone write a book.

All was not lost. It took over a year, but with the help of some heavy-duty painkillers, I returned to the manuscript I'd left behind years ago: *Hanna Who Fell from the Sky*. An hour a day was all my head would allow. If I tried to do more, my concussion symptoms would return tenfold and I'd be forced to go into a dark room and lie there in agony until, hours later, the sensation would pass.

Still, I kept writing one hour at a time. Then eventually, two hours at a time. I forced myself to focus and tell Hanna's story as best I could.

After many months, I had a brand-new version of the book. Only six words remained from the original manuscript. And I was thrilled with the result. Rewriting Hanna was one of the hardest things I've ever done. But it was also one of the most rewarding. If anything kept me sane through three years of the worst concussion symptoms you can imagine, it was telling Hanna's story in the way I always wanted to tell it. As much as I am Hanna's creator and the one who dreamed her up in the first place, she is the one who helped me get well again.



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