

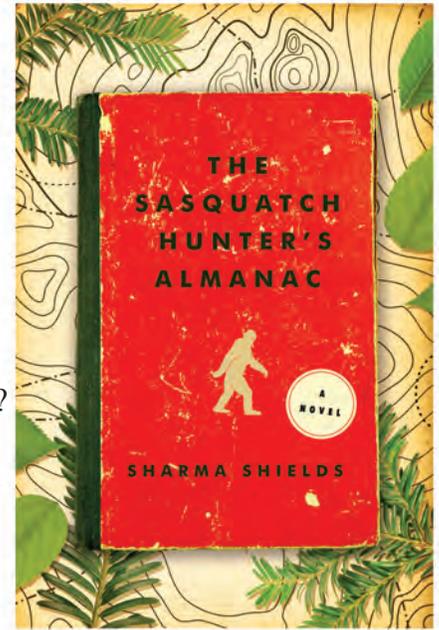
The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac:

A Novel

By Sharma Shields

Discussion Questions

1. Who are your favorite and least favorite characters in the novel, and why? Did your sympathy for any particular character surprise you?
2. Do you believe Mr. Krantz is more man than Sasquatch or vice versa?
3. Several items/happenings in the book serve as metaphors, standing in as a symbol for something else. What do you think is the metaphorical significance of the bottomless pit? The enchanted cap? The unicorn? What other metaphors did you find in the novel?
4. Do you believe Eli made the right decision at the end of the book? What do you think will happen between Eli and Amelia now? What do you think will happen to Mr. Krantz?
5. Many of the settings and events in the book, such as the Mount St. Helen's explosion in 1980, are historically and geographically accurate for the Inland Northwest. How do these "real" events/places co-mingle with the fantastic? Why do you think the author did this? What is the fantastic's effect on "the real," and vice versa? What other regional books can you think of that you've enjoyed? Are there other examples of magic realism that you've read and would recommend to others?
6. This novel is not told in a traditional format, but rather in chapters that function almost as individual short stories. What did you think of this format? Was it effective for you and for the story as a whole? Why do you think the author chose to write the novel this way?



About the Author

Sharma Shields holds an MFA from the University of Montana. She is the author of the short story collection *Favorite Monster*, winner of the 2011 Autumn House Fiction Prize, and her work has appeared in such literary journals as *Kenyon Review* and *Iowa Review* and has garnered numerous awards, including the Tim McGinnis Award for Humor. Shields has worked in independent bookstores and public libraries throughout Washington State and now lives in Spokane with her husband and children.

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