



***The Deeper the Water
the Uglier the Fish***
a novel by ***Katya Apekina***

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Reader Guide: Questions and Topics for Discussion
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1. What was the effect for you of hearing this story from multiple points of view? How was it different than if it was all told by one person? Or by a narrator?
2. Are there any voices you believe more than others? Any voices you distrust? Were there moments when suddenly your allegiance to certain characters shifted? Why?
3. Do you believe that in life there is an objective truth? Or multiple truths? Are some truths more valid than others?
4. Turn to the person on your right and whisper a lie about yourself in their ear, something that isn't true but maybe you wish was.
5. Is there something universal about the blurry boundaries in mother/daughter relationships? Do you have siblings? If so, are your relationships with your parents different? Do you ever feel like you grew up in different houses?
6. Turn to the person on your left and whisper a family secret in their ear. It should feel true, but it doesn't have to be factually true.
7. Roadtrip! Have you ever been on one? Did it feel like this one? Did it make you feel free?
8. Do you feel that artists, to make great art, are above the regular moral code? If an artist makes something that will last for centuries is it okay if in their personal life they were a monster? Would you read them anyway? Is art separate from the person who made it? Do the ends justify the means?
9. Do you think Rivka is right when she says: "Art is not a shield. It's a knife. You have to bleed!"?
10. Draw a picture of your favorite moment in the book. Feel free to email it to the author: katya (dot) apekina (at) gmail (dot) com