

Dear Reader,

Thank you for choosing *Long Bright River* for your book club. This is a novel that's fairly personal to me. Between the research and the writing, it took me nearly a decade to complete.

There are a few different sources of inspiration for *Long Bright River*. The first is somewhat autobiographical. Like many families in the United States, mine has been affected by a multi-generational struggle with addiction that continues to this day. My second source of inspiration for *Long Bright River* is more recent. In 2009, I worked on a photo-essay about the neighborhood of Kensington with a photographer friend who was making portraits of its residents. Following that experience, I found myself returning to the neighborhood again and again to talk to its residents and learn more. I began doing community work, running free writing workshops for women at a day shelter in the neighborhood.

I've met some truly wonderful people in and around Kensington over the years—some of whom are struggling with addiction, others of whom have been affected by the addiction of a friend or family member, and still others of whom are simply residents of the neighborhood living a life that is unavoidably adjacent to addiction but otherwise unconnected to it.

I hope that *Long Bright River* will draw in readers with or without a personal connection to addiction. At its heart, I think of it as a novel about family and community, and the role that class and place and family history play in one's fate.

I hope you and your book club enjoy reading and discussing *Long Bright River*. Thank you, again, for selecting it!

Sincerely,
Liz Moore