

the GLOSS

GREENWOOD

MICHAEL CHRISTIE

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. Greenwood is part of a new genre of novels known as CliFi (climate fiction). What makes it fall under that category? Do any of the novel's environmental themes resonate with you?
3. At its heart, Greenwood is a family saga. How did the boyhoods of brothers Everett and Harris make them into the men they became? How do you think Willow's nomadic life affected her son Liam? How did Jake's orphaning influence the person she became?
4. The Great Withering began with the trees—"the wave of fungal blights and insect infestations, to which old growth was particularly defenseless." What environmental stresses do you see in your life today? How do you personally address these issues?
5. "The best sacrifices, Willow knows, are always made in solitude, with not a camera in sight." Characters make many sacrifices in Greenwood—Everett for his brother during the war, Temple for the downtrodden, Feeney out of love for his principles. What other sacrifices did you notice in the novel? Which character's sacrifice moved you most and why?
6. How did you feel about Meena's reaction to Liam's painstakingly created gift, a homemade viola that replicated the Stradivarius Meena so loved? Were her actions necessary? Cruel? What did her reaction say about their relationship?
7. The word "roots" has many meanings in Greenwood—a tree's stability, a family's ancestry, a person's connection to place. Which meaning resonated most with you and why?
8. "Time, Liam has learned, is not an arrow." Greenwood travels back and forth through time—deepening characters and their backstories, connecting characters in unforeseen ways, twisting the plot like roots. In fact, the book's timeline, starting and ending with the most recent years, and with the earliest events tucked into the middle, is structured like the rings of a tree. How did this structure affect your reading experience? How would the reading experience have changed if the story was told linearly?
9. Christie writes that nature has taught Temple "things she'd never speak in polite conversation. Like the fact that Mother Nature's true aim is to convert us people back into the dust we came from, just as quick as possible." Like Temple, people tend to view Mother Nature as either the great destroyer (earthquakes, floods, the Dust Bowl), or the great nurturer (providing food, shelter, oxygen, and more). Which view do you lean toward? Do you think both can be true?
10. What do you think of Jake's final actions at the end of the book? Did she make the right decisions? How would you have handled the revelations?