

## Discussion Questions: *Let The Northern Lights Erase Your Name*

1. What is the significance of the title? Would you have chosen something else? If yes, what is your title?
2. The author chose winter in Lapland for the time and setting of her book. How important was it to the story? How would it have played out differently with a different setting?
3. Two of themes in the book include Clarissa's search for identity and how we handle being alone. How were they explored? Discuss the statement: The book is about who we are when we realize that nothing is the way we thought it was.
4. The character of Clarissa can bring many feelings. How does this affect your feelings about the book?
5. The book has singular point of view. What about the lives of other characters she tramples on? If you could hear this story from person's point of view, who would you choose?
6. Discuss: The plot is really beside the point. It is the prose. Discuss the role of dark humor in the book.
7. The mother/daughter connection is a significant part of the story. Do you think the daughter is like the mother? Is "the art of vanishing" hereditary? What are the parallels between the behavior of the mother and the daughter?
8. What is the significance of the rapes of both mother and daughter? What long term effects have played a role in behavior of both mother and daughter?
9. This book is the 2<sup>nd</sup> book in a trilogy that explores themes of violence and forgiveness. The role of a "not good" mother is intentional. Would you read the first book of the trilogy which has a "good mother" as a central character? Why or why not?
10. How satisfactory is the ending? How did you expect it to end?
11. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?

Extra credit: Why is a mother leaving the family considered to be so much worse than a man leaving the family?

*Credits to: Goodreads.com, The Guardian (3 March 2007) NY Times 12-31-06, Kirkus Review, New Yorker, Pikes Press, Book Riot, Youtube interview with Vendela Vida*