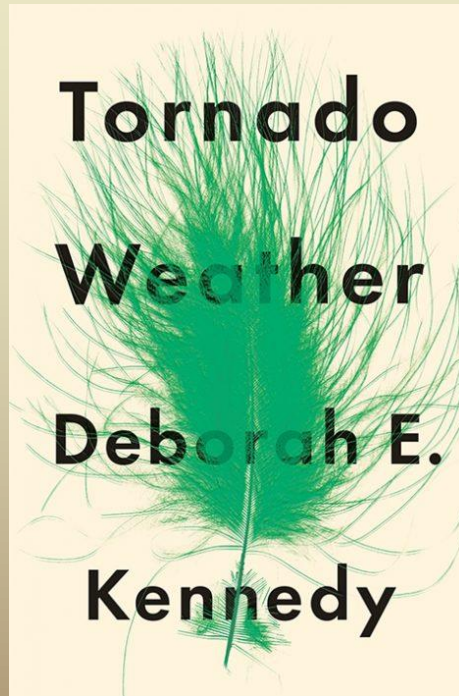


Tornado Weather

Five-year-old Daisy Gonzalez's father is always waiting for her at the bus stop. But today, he isn't, and Daisy disappears. Everyone in the small town of Colliersville, Indiana, has their thoughts or suspicions about what happened to the girl. They also have thoughts and suspicions about each other – from the immigrants working at the dairy farm and their employers; the hairdresser who hears all the rumors; the roadkill collector, the students, the rich kids and the poor ones. The search for Daisy will tear open secrets that many would rather stay hidden.



Deborah E. Kennedy is a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana and a recent graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her writing has appeared in *Salon*, *Sou'wester*, *Third Coast Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Hairpin*, *The Establishment*, and *The North American Review*. Deborah has worked as a reporter, teacher, and editor, as well as a cookie packer, ice cream scooper, and children's baseball coach. She also holds a Bachelor's in English literature from Hanover College and a Master's in fiction writing and English from Miami University. She currently lives in Forest Grove, Oregon. *Tornado Weather* is her debut.

Deborah E.
Kennedy



Useful Links:

Additional *Tornado Weather* reading guide questions:

<http://readinggroupchoices.com/books/tornado-weather/>

The New York Times, "A Mystery Wrapped in Race, Class and Silence"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/books/review/tornado-weather-deborah-e-kennedy.html>

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:

www.indianaauthorsaward.org

The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **the Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into three categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

Discussion Questions

1. Of the many characters in "Tornado Weather," who was your favorite and least favorite? Why? Who would you like to meet in real life?
2. Much of the plot of "Tornado Weather" happens off-stage, for example, the raid on the dairy. Why do you think Kennedy took that approach? What scene or scenes would you like to have seen first-hand?
3. What was your reaction to the chapter, "Reincarnation?" Does this chapter's magical realism influence how you see any other parts of the book?
4. Many of the characters attribute their situations to being a victim of circumstance and/or the choices that others made. Do you agree that success in life is determined by birth? Is the town living with victim mentality as a whole?
5. Stereotypes and prejudices are central to the story. Do you think Kennedy treats those ideas fairly or did any of her portrayals make you uncomfortable?
6. Do you believe that Chuck Breeder and Maria Pinto really have come to a truce at the end or is it just for charity? Do you think Colliersville will be more unified in the future?



Some questions adapted from the Reading Group Choices reading guide.