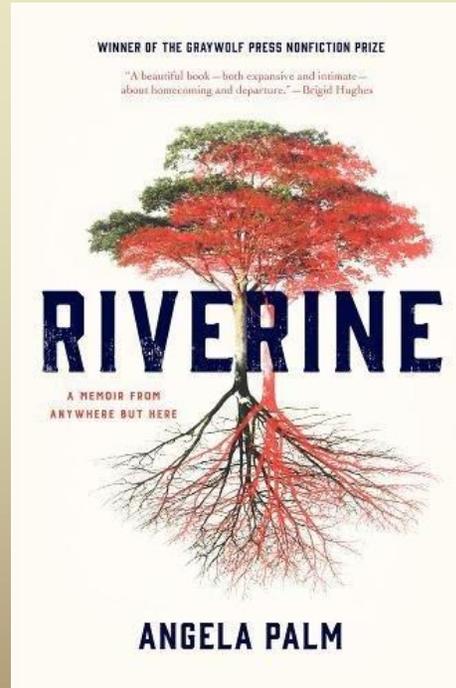


# Riverine

As a girl in rural Indiana, Angela Palm finds a kindred spirit in the boy next door. But in this landscape of flood and drought, where she's forever an outsider, their relationship could never blossom. Though the current of Palm's life carries her toward a new future in art, she's still drawn home. But going back means confronting the boy she loved, who is serving a life sentence for murder, and discovering that the place she left behind will never release its hold on her.

Book summary from [angipalm.com](http://angipalm.com).



**Angela Palm** was raised in the rural Midwest and earned a BA in English Literature and a BS in Criminal Justice at Saint Joseph's College. Palm is the author of *Riverine: A Memoir from Anywhere but Here*, recipient of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize. She is the editor of a book featuring work by Vermont writers, called *Please Do Not Remove*. She has taught creative writing at Champlain College, New England Young Writers' Conference, The Writers' Barn, and The Renegade Writers' Collective and is the recipient of a Bread Loaf Fellowship in nonfiction.

Angela  
Palm



The Eugene  
& Marilyn Glick  
★ INDIANA  
*Authors*  
a program of The Indianapolis  
Public Library Foundation AWARD ★

## Useful Links

Vermont Public Radio: Author Angela Palm on Poverty, Self-Doubt and Her Rural Upbringing  
<http://digital.vpr.net/post/author-angela-palm-poverty-self-doubt-and-her-rural-upbringing#stream/0>

Marion Roach Smith: "What is 'Essayistic Memoir' and Who Gets to Write it?"  
<http://marionroach.com/2016/08/essayistic-memoir-gets-write/>

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:  
[www.indianaauthorsaward.org](http://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 four categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Genre Excellence, for writers who excel in a specific literary genre; 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. Herman Melville wrote, "It's not down on any map; true places never are." How does Palm's childhood – not on the map – make it a true place for her?
2. Palm critiques her small towns – both in Indiana and in Vermont. Is she pro or con about small towns? What about Indiana as a whole?
3. In the chapter, "Dispatches from Anywhere But Here," Palm lays out six theories for deviant behavior and illustrates them with examples from her own life. Which of the six stood out to you most and why? Which theory or theories best fits your perception of why crime happens?
4. Compare and contrast Palm's two visits to prison – the childhood one to see Uncle Pat and her visit as an adult to see Corey. How do you feel about the prison system in America from her encounters with it?
5. How is the incident at U.S. Customs when she says she is a writer a turning point for Palm?
6. Overall, how would you describe the tone of the book? How did you feel about her story or Corey's story after finishing the book?