



Book Club Set

Daughters of the Deer

By Danielle Daniel

About the Author



Danielle Daniel is a writer and artist, an award-winning author and illustrator—she writes books for children and adults. Her paintings have been collected in public and private collections across Canada, and throughout the US, the UK, France, and Australia. She has written two novels, *Forever Birchwood*, a middle grade novel set in her northern hometown and *Daughters of the Deer*, a historical fiction novel inspired by the lives of her ancestors— an Algonquin woman and a soldier/settler from France, and their first born daughter Jeanne.

Her picture books include *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, winner of the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and a Best 100 title at the New York Public Library, *Once in a Blue Moon*, and *You Hold Me Up* (illustrator) shortlisted for the 2018 Marilyn Baillie Award, among other honours.

She was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario, the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and the Wahnapiatae First Nations. This beautifully rugged and resilient landscape has greatly shaped and inspired her work.

Danielle was once an elementary school teacher, but now writes and paints stories in her studio. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia, a B.Ed. from Laurentian University and a B.Arts/Women Studies from Ottawa University.

She lives on Manitoulin Island with her family, where she also owns and operates a Shop & Gallery at [Effie & the Fox](#) with a mission to inspire creativity for wellness.

Retrieved from: <https://danielledaniel.com/about>

About the Book



In this haunting and groundbreaking historical novel, Danielle Daniel imagines the lives of women in the Algonquin territories of the 1600s, a story inspired by her family's ancestral link to a young girl who was murdered by French settlers.

1657. Marie, a gifted healer of the Deer Clan, does not want to marry the green-eyed soldier from France who has asked for her hand. But her people are threatened by disease and starvation and need help against the Iroquois and their English allies if they are to survive. When her chief begs her to accept the white man's proposal, she cannot refuse him, and sheds her deerskin tunic for a borrowed blue wedding dress to become Pierre's bride.

1675. Jeanne, Marie's oldest child, is seventeen, neither white nor Algonquin, caught between worlds. Caught by her own desires, too. Her heart belongs to a girl named Josephine, but soon her father will have to find her a husband or be forced to pay a hefty fine to the French crown. Among her mother's people, Jeanne would have been considered blessed, her two-spirited nature a sign of special wisdom. To the settlers of New France, and even to her own father, Jeanne is unnatural, sinful—a woman to be shunned, beaten, and much worse.

With the poignant, unforgettable story of Marie and Jeanne, Danielle Daniel reaches back through the centuries to touch on the very origin of the long history of violence against Indigenous women and the deliberate, equally violent disruption of First Nations cultures.

Retrieved from: <https://danielledaniel.com/adult>

Discussion Questions



1. What is the significance of the title? Did you find it meaningful, why or why not?
2. Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what would your title be?
3. What were the main themes of the book? How were those themes brought to life?
4. What did you think of the writing style and content structure of the book?
5. How important was the time period or the setting to the story? Did you think it was accurately portrayed?
6. How would the book have played out differently in a different time period or setting?
7. Which location in the book would you most like to visit and why?
8. Were there any quotes (or passages) that stood out to you? Why?
9. What did you like most about the book? What did you like the least?
10. How did the book make you feel? What emotions did it evoke?
11. Are there any books that you would compare this book to?
12. Have you read any other books by this author? How would you compare them to this selection?
13. What do you think the author's goal was in writing this book? What ideas were they trying to illustrate? What message were they trying to send?

Other Links and Resources



Interview - Heather Marshall on the true events that inspired her debut novel 'Looking For Jane': <https://globalnews.ca/video/8739498/heather-marshall-on-the-true-events-that-inspired-her-debut-novel-looking-for-jane>

Historical Fiction chats: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mg_IcVXkjec

Share your thoughts with other readers!

DATE: _____

BOOK CLUB: _____

BOOK TITLE: _____

As a group we rated this book:

1	2	3	4	5
Ugh!		It was OK...		Loved it!

Would we recommend this book to other book clubs?

Yes No Undecided

Why/why not?

Our discussion: