

Discussion Guide ~ A River So Long by Vallie Lynn Watson

- 1. Why is Veronica so dissatisfied with life? Is it her marriage, her job, her age, the earlier death of her parents, some mental eccentricity?**
- 2. Does she cycle through men simply out of dissatisfaction with life, or is something else at play? Does each man represent a different part of Veronica, or something particular she's missing from life?**
- 3. Change is an important element to any story. Does Veronica change? How so? What do you think Veronica will do next?**
- 4. What role does location play in *A River So Long*? Why can't Veronica seem to stay in one place?**
- 5. Many of the chapters are titled with snippets of song lyrics: what role does music play in *A River So Long*? How do the song pieces serve to guide the narrative? What role does music play in memory and emotional attachments? What songs make up the soundtrack of your own life?**
- 6. Despite a large amount of character interaction there's little dialogue. Is this intentional? Did you notice? What effect did it have on your reading of the novel, and what do you think the author is aiming to achieve with this writing style?**