

Indian Summer by Tracy Richardson

Why I wrote Indian Summer

Indian Summer developed in my imagination over a period of many years. Marcie's story at Lake Pappakeechee explores different themes that interest me: the similarities and contrasts between different social and economic groups, the magic in the world that children are very much aware of, and the journey through adolescence to young adulthood.

I wanted to explore the idea that we make assumptions about people based on stereotypes or our own experiences only to find out that the reality can be something completely different. Also, I wanted to expose readers to the idea that the way we experience the world may be only part of what is true. I am really intrigued by that idea—that there is more to life than meets the eye, if we take the time to look.

Marcie's development from feeling ordinary, unconfident, and slightly in awe of the Swyndalls, to discovering her own strength and resulting self-assuredness is a passage I know we would all hope to make, a kind of universal journey if we are lucky enough to take it.

Writing *Indian Summer* was a selfish pleasure for me in some ways. I think young adulthood is so filled with possibilities and discoveries, and writing about it allows me to experience that in some measure.

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