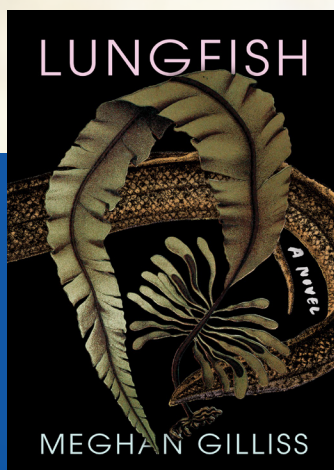




Lungfish - Meghan Gilliss



ONLINE AUTHOR TALK
WEDNESDAY | JULY 12, 2023 | 7PM

Register @ mainehumanities.org

MEGHAN GILLISS has worked as a journalist, a bookseller, a librarian, and a hospital worker. Her short fiction has appeared in Salamander, The Rattling Wall, Folio, Nat. Brut, fields magazine, and North by Northeast: New short fiction by writers from Maine and New England. A fellow of the Hewnoaks Artist Residency, she holds an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars and lives in Portland, Maine. *Lungfish* is her first novel.

HAVE A QUESTION for MEGHAN?
Submit it via our online form!



Read ME is a statewide summer reading program offered by the Maine Humanities Council, Maine State Library, and Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance that gets Maine's adults all reading the same books—by Maine authors and recommended by a Maine author.



LUNGFISH

Discussion Questions (provided by MEGHAN GILLISS!)

1. The circumstances of this story are very specific. Does this make the story more or less impactful?
2. Throughout the novel, Tuck looks for ways to fill in the gaps between what she knows. What are some of her methods, and in the end, what works best for her?
3. Are there any monsters in this story? Who did you find yourself in judgement of—and why? And when?
- 4) The writer Rachel Cusk wrote in her memoir, *A Life's Work*, that “In motherhood I have experienced myself as more virtuous and more terrible, and more implicated too in the world’s virtue and terror, than I would from the anonymity of childlessness have thought possible.” How do your judgments of Tuck relate to her condition as a mother?
- 5) What role does privilege play in this story?
- 6) How do various iterations of hope and faith work for and against Tuck and her family?
- 7) Why do you think Tuck didn’t do more to seek help from the outside?
- 8) If you have loved anyone with substance use disorder including addiction, could you relate to Tuck’s actions and inactions?
- 9) Tuck’s psychological footing is not always firm. What was your own footing like as a reader during these moments, and did that serve the story?
- 10) How does the natural world impress its own meaning upon this story?
- 11) Was there joy in this story?
- 12) What might have changed the trajectory for this family? Do those resources exist in your community?

“...there’s the beauty of place and nature and connectedness, the drama of families and marriage and parenting and living over the edge and out to sea.”

**Recommending author
COLIN WOODARD**