

Reading Group Guide for *Wicked River*

1. On the day of her wedding, Natalie witnesses her soon-to-be husband, Doug, arguing with two strange men. If you were Nat, how would you handle the situation? Would you try to get to the truth, or let it go to enjoy the day?
2. Natalie and Mia are extremely close—what do you think draws them together? Do you have an older family member or friend that you have a special connection with?
3. Natalie agrees to a backcountry honeymoon in the isolated Adirondack region, even though Doug is the avid outdoorsman of the two. If you were Natalie, would you agree to Doug's honeymoon plans? If so, why? If not, what would you want to do instead?
4. Describe Nat and Doug's relationship at the beginning of their honeymoon. What do you make of their dynamics? How does their relationship change over the course of the novel?
5. Doug puts both himself and Natalie in danger out of loyalty to his friend, Craig, who is in financial trouble. Do you think this is a good enough excuse? Do you have any friends whom you would risk anything for?
6. Natalie and Doug must battle the elements, which ends up being almost as dangerous as the man stalking them in the woods. If you were in their situation, what would you do to survive? Do you have any basic outdoor survival skills?
7. Describe Kurt. What makes him so dangerous? Why do you think he is fixated on Natalie and Doug?
8. Compare and contrast Natalie and Kurt. Do you see any similarities between them?
9. If you had to choose, which would you prefer to face: Kurt and his booby-traps or the natural elements of the Adirondack region without any supplies or directions?
10. How does Natalie change over the course of the novel? What about Doug? Do you think their relationship will succeed once the story ends? Why?
11. Describe Mia. Why do you think she sets off on her own to find Natalie and Doug? If you were Mia and you knew a family member was in danger, what would you do?
12. Who do you think is the hero of the story: Natalie, Mia, the search and rescue team, or a combination of the three? How did you feel about Nat and Doug's rescue? Does any moment particularly stick out?
13. Why do you think, after the rescue, Natalie and Doug decide to change careers and move out to the Adirondack region? If you were in their situation, would you do the same?