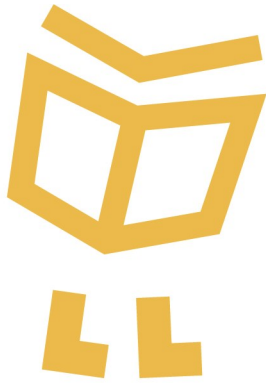


BOOK CLUB in a bag



Tainna = the unseen ones

Norma Dunning

Discussion Questions

Story 1: *Amak*

1. Sila and Amak have had a strained relationship ever since Amak “close[ed] the door” eleven years ago. What do you think about their reunion?
2. Why do you think Amak “hates them all?” What do you make of how she treats Sila and her sons?
3. Were you satisfied with the ending of this story? Did you find yourself wanting to know more?

Story 2: *Kunak*

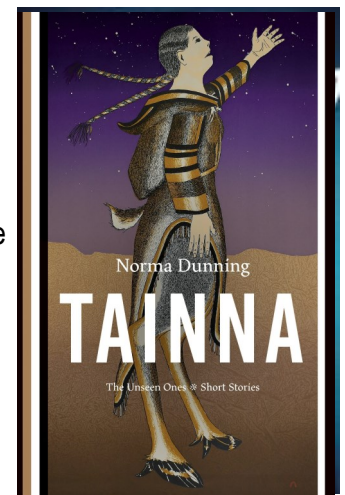
1. Did you like the inclusion of the spirits?
2. What did you think of Aviak? Did you agree with her ending?
3. Grandpa Chevy continues to care for and protect Kunak, even as a spirit. Do you agree that his actions were “the only way to get [Kunak] home?”

Story 3: *Eskimo Heaven*

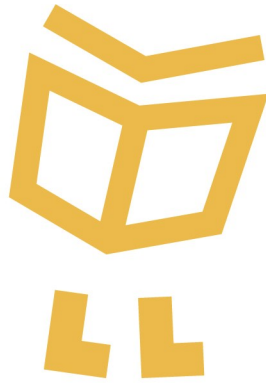
1. What did you think of the “setting” of Eskimo Heaven?
2. What lessons did Ittura teach Peter?
3. Discuss this line: “You can do one thing. You can start to think about other ways and don’t think of them as wrong or less than. Just love us.”

Story 4: *Panem et Circenses*

1. What was your impression of the Rich Widows’ Club?
2. Discuss the phrase “panem et circenses.” How is the meaning of this demonstrated in the story?
3. Did you expect JJ to choose the travel companion that he did?



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Story 5: *These Old Bones*

1. “She made him think of the good parts of home. The good people. The good food. The way their own laughed easy and hard over almost nothing.” How does re-connecting in a new place promotes healing for both Annie and Johnny?
2. Discuss the treatment of Annie following her assault.
3. What did you think of the ending? Were you satisfied with Annie’s “happy ending”?

Story 6: *Tainna (The Unseen Ones)*

1. Consider this quote: “She was a casualty of Canada. An Indigenous casualty of Canada, but no one cared. Why would they?”
2. Discuss Riita and Kivgalo. What is their role in the story?

This book may be available for download as an eBook.

For more information, please visit lpl.overdrive.com or call 519-661-4600.

About the Author

Norma Dunning is an Inuk writer, professor, and grandmother. Her book, *Tainna (the unseen ones)*, received a Governor General's Literary Award in 2021. Her other publications include *Annie Muktuk and Other Stories* and *Eskimo Pie: A Poetics of Inuit Identity*. Dunning is currently working on her first nonfiction book. Her second collection of poetry, *Akia (the other side)*, will be published in spring of 2023. Dunning lives in Edmonton.

Via The Writers' Trust of Canada (<https://www.writerstrust.com/authors/norma-dunning/>)

