



The River's Edge

by Tina Sears

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Forced to spend the summer of 1976 with relatives, Chris Morgan faces many challenges. Her mom and dad are splitting up and she hates being away from them. Now she has to make some tough choices about what she knows is right or giving in to the expectations of her new friends. Surrounded by the danger of the river and the shadows of her family's past, Chris realizes her carefree childhood is ending.

From the author

I was inspired to write this book because when I was growing up, there weren't many books on this topic. I wanted to bring awareness to the subject of sexual abuse. This story, although fiction, is based on some of my own experiences. My therapist encouraged me to start journaling as a way to navigate through my emotional turmoil. The result became this novel. The process of writing this became a way of healing. I wrote it for anyone who has ever had to keep a secret. I wrote it for every child who needed a voice.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between Chris and her mother?
2. Do you think that if this story was set in current time that the outcome would have been different?
3. Did your opinion of Uncle Butch change during the story? When?
4. How does Chris' family affect her view of herself?
5. What is the importance of the river?
6. How does music play an important role throughout the story?
7. What is Chris' mood at the beginning of the story? How does it change throughout?
8. What do you think the right of passage is? Why were they really accepted into the group?
9. Why did Chris swim the river even though it was so dangerous? Why didn't she accept the next challenge from Julie?
10. Why does Chris feel like the penny her mother gave her?
11. How does Chris' feelings toward Julie change throughout the story?

**About the author**

After receiving her BA in English from Virginia Commonwealth University, life swept Tina Sears away from writing. She worked as an Evidence Photographer for the FBI, a Medical Photographer and a Dance Instructor. But it was during her time as contributing writer for The Fredericksburg Times that led her back to her passion for writing. So she enrolled in the Creative writing program at Southern New Hampshire University where she received her MFA in Fiction. She lives with her wife Katie in Virginia, who has always nurtured her dream to become an author.