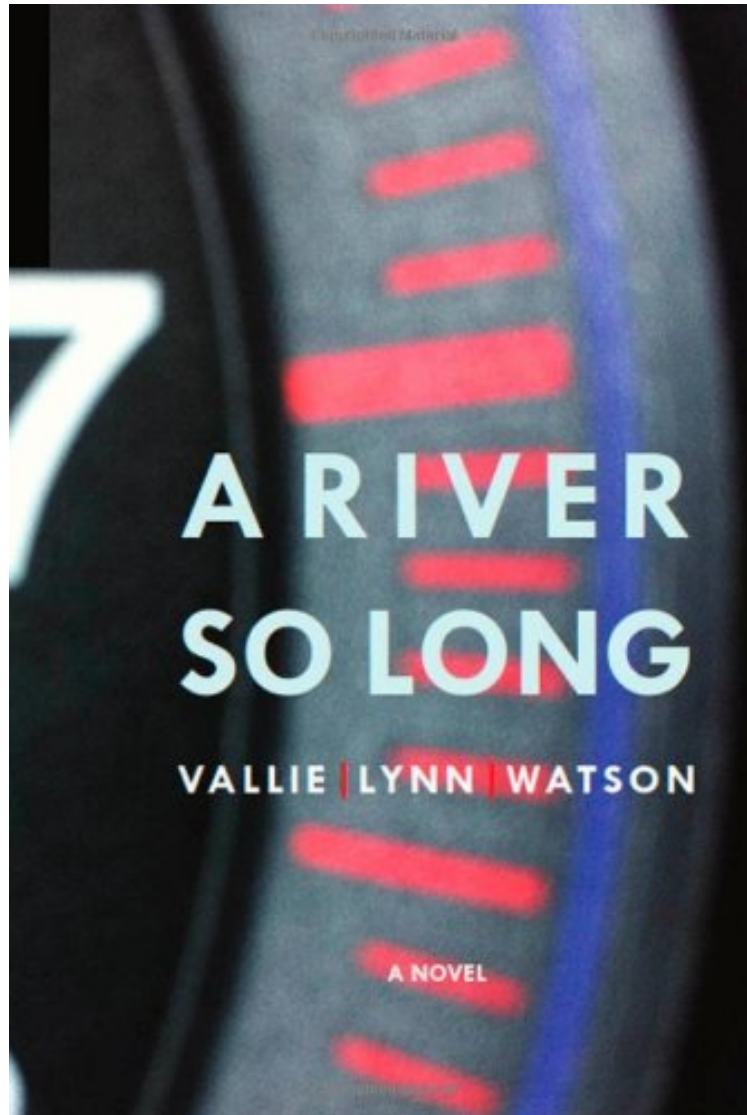


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A River So Long

Vallie Lynn Watson

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Vallie Lynn Watson : A River So Long before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A River So Long:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Modern literatureBy Steve FicklinI have not read a novel like A River So Long in quite some time. It is unique.This is a haunting story which creates the constant feeling the next page will hit you with a disturbing description of a gruesome crime. When you reach the conclusion you realize that the haunting is actually coming from the repressed pain of the main character...her numbness...her lack of life. It is scary to think of being so alone.I highly recommend this novel for those looking for a true modern piece of literature that is

not laced with all the typical modern themes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not able to keep my attention. By K. W. COOK Technically well-written, but reads more like a polished diary of a young woman barely out of college. Not much interesting context here, while the titles of the short chapters are clichés and stolen song titles. It seems the author is restricting prose, attempting to pull off "less is more," but the lead ups fail, and the series of shorts barely mesh together as a novel. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the non-linear plotting of this story demanded my attention and engagement early, and never quite let go. By Gael After reading several far more traditionally styled novels of late, the non-linear plotting of this story demanded my attention and engagement early, and never quite let go. Vallie Lynn Watson has a style that speaks clearly as we are presented with Veronica: a woman, who seems to want change, yet is utterly incapable of seeing the world through any eyes but her own. What emerges is a complex character study in a jigsaw puzzle format, leaving great gaps in the timeline, but those gaps seem to mirror Veronica's psyche. Her lack of direction, focus and even strict moral sense all are lacking: her repeated changes of venue for work, the repeated changes of partners and the lack of feeling for and about her husband all give hints to the unsatisfied woman who is the only constant in the story. Yet, she never does seem to find a path that will provide her with the change that she seeks. While I appreciated the wonderful descriptions, and the ability to use personal references to fill out some of the characters (for we all know a Veronica and her encounters in our own lives) the lack of substantive character development in the author's words requires the reader to see the secondary characters as little more than backdrops to the scene in which Veronica exists. This book left me uncomfortable in many places: as with all good fiction, I want to think, to find the characters' motivations and look for a resolution. But, while I didn't find the traditional answers and needs that I wanted, what I got was the author's determination of the revelations that were needed. Veronica is deeply flawed, rife with contradictions and entirely plausible. And, like life, there are no easy answers with her story. I received an eBook copy from the publisher for purpose of honest review for Novel Publicity. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Luminis Books presents this exciting tale of travel, change, and finding one's self amidst it all. Vallie Lynn Watson's debut novel follows thirty-something Veronica as she jolts between five-star hotels in New Orleans, New York, and the North Carolina coast. Veronica's business keeps her on the move, and further strains her relationships with the already unsuitable men she's met along the way, not to mention her blink-and-you-miss-him husband. *A River So Long*, like Veronica's life, is a fragmented conflation of time, place, and people--she's a gypsy, and the world she inhabits is, if not blurry, at least kaleidoscopic. This remarkable novel is a rushing, threatening, constantly changing scene with a tumultuous, multiplying cast. STRONG WOMEN / BUSINESS WOMEN / WOMEN'S FICTION / LITERARY FICTION / TRAVEL / GYPSIES / EAST COAST

"*A River So Long* is a lean and dirty dance through the unhooked lives of its characters [who] keep trying to find each other in the mess of contemporary American life. A splendid almost documentary rendering of the way things go these days." -Frederick Barthelme, author of *Waveland*, *Elroy Nights*, and *Bob the Gambler*. "Veronica is a true transient--someone who lives in midair, in tall hotels, whose windows show us the rooftops and barge-spliced rivers that are Veronica's only homeland. We follow her passage with fear, and abiding fascination." -Angela Ball, author of *Night Clerk at the Hotel of Both Worlds*, *Quartet*, and others. ". . . an impressive, disturbing novel. The disjointed narrative mirrors the emptiness that characterizes contemporary life. Everyone knows a Veronica, but few writers have presented her with such vivid realism and pathos as Watson." -Robert Hamblin: Director of Center for Faulkner Studies, author of *Mind the Gap*, *Crossroads*, and more. "Watson's peripatetic modular fiction packs a helluva punch. Life = an endless river of time. If Mary Gaitskill played Poohsticks with this detritus-impotent husbands, wastrel lovers, and damaged goods--maybe you'd get an improvisation as weighty as this staccato fantasia." -Richard Peabody, editor, *Gargoyle Magazine* About the Author Vallie Lynn Watson's work has appeared widely in magazines such as *PANK*, *Corium*, *Moon Milk*, *FRiGG*, and *Atticus*. She is an editor at *Blip Magazine*, formerly *Mississippi*. Watson received her doctorate at the Center for Writers, the University of Southern Mississippi, and teaches creative writing at Southeast Missouri State University.