**Where the Crawdads Sing**

**By Delia Owens**

**About the Book**

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

**About the Author**:

Delia Owens is the co-author of three internationally bestselling nonfiction books about her life as a wildlife scientist in Africa including Cry of the Kalahari.

She has won the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing and has been published in Nature, The African Journal of Ecology, and many others.

She currently lives in Idaho. Where the Crawdads Sing is her first novel.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
* The Dancing Girls by M. M. Chouinard
* The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt
* I Am Watching You by Teresa Driscoll
* The Ragged Edge of Night by Olivia Hawker

**Discussion Questions**

1. Before becoming a New York Times bestselling novelist, Delia Owens was a zoologist. She’s written three nonfiction books with her former husband Mark Owens about her experiences with animals. How do the themes of this novel and Owens’s style of writing reflect her interests and work with animals?
2. How realistic is Kya’s upbringing in the marsh? Do you believe she really could have made it out there on her own?
3. In interviews, Delia Owens has said she wrote this book about feeling alone. How is that expressed in the novel?
4. Throughout the novel, there are two men who play a major role in Kya’s life: Chase and Tate. How would you compare these two characters? And while we can talk about how they’re different, it might also be interested to discuss how they’re similar. What do these men, together and separately, represent in Kya’s life?
5. Speaking of characters who play important roles in Kya’s life, how did you feel about Jumpin’ and Mabel? Are they parental figures for Kya, or something else? How did they influence the person she becomes, if at all?
6. One more question about connection with other characters: there is a palpable lack of women in Kya’s life. At the beginning of the novel, Kya’s mother leaves. Kya doesn’t have any female friendships to speak of. Would Kya’s story be different has she women in her life? If so, how?
7. Kya learns about human nature and how to relate to other people mostly through observing animals. Most notably, Kya observes female fireflies changing their flashes to communicate different things. How does this observation affect Kya’s relationship with others? What about her other observations of nature? In what ways do they affect who she is and how she interacts with the world around her?
8. Poetry is a very important element of this novel. In fact, it’s a major point of connection for Tate and Kya. Why is poetry so significant to Tate? To Kya? What does the poetry throughout the novel add to the narrative?
9. As the poor, uneducated, and strange “marsh girl,” Kya is ostracized by the community. How does the public’s view of her affect how the justice system treats her? Considering her treatment and the way the town sees her, how did you feel about the results of the court case? Was it satisfying? Believable?
10. How did you feel about Tate’s discovery at the end of the novel? Did you expect it? Does it change the way you view the rest of the story?