



Between Two Rivers

By Nicholas Rinaldi
ISBN: 9780060578770

About the book

Rumanian refugee Farro Fescu is the proud concierge of Echo Terrace, a New York City condominium. Passing through his lobby at all hours of day and night is an exotic cross-section of the world's population, including: Theo Tattafruge, an Egyptian-born plastic surgeon specializing in gender re-assignment; Karl Vogel, a World War II fighter-pilot from Germany; Muhta Saad, an Iraqi spice merchant and his son Abdul, studying to become an undertaker; Maggie Sowle, a world-famous quilter; Harry Falcon, a brilliant captain of industry now dying of cancer, and his lover, the alluring María Gracia Mono.

As the novel shifts from one floor to another, revealing the characters' private histories and tracing the numerous intersections of their daily lives, a lush tapestry of experience emerges that demonstrates, even in the face of great tragedy, the profound resilience of the human spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Several of the characters -- Nora, Farro Fescu, Theo, Yesenia -- are involved in actions that result in someone's death. Compare the motivations of these characters. Are their actions justified? How do the characters feel about what they've done?
2. In many ways, *Between Two Rivers* is a turn-of-the-century novel that alludes to many of the major events of the twentieth century. What are some of those events, and how have they affected the lives of the characters?

About the author

Nicholas Rinaldi's stories and poems have appeared widely in literary journals here and abroad. He is the author of two previous novels, *Bridge Fall Down* and *The Jukebox Queen of Malta*, and three collections of poetry. He teaches literature and creative writing at Fairfield University.