

Sea Creatures

Harper Perennial

By Susanna Daniel

ISBN: 9780062219619

Introduction

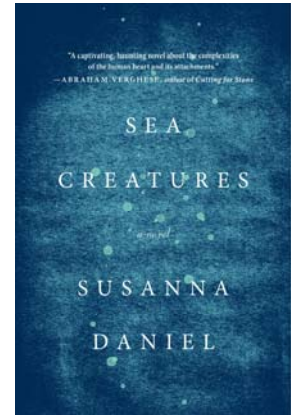
When Georgia Quillian returns to her hometown of Miami, her family in tow, she's hoping for a fresh start. They've left Illinois trailing scandal in their wake, fallout from her husband's severe sleep disorder. For months, their three-year-old son, Frankie, has refused to speak a word.

On a whim, Georgia takes a job as an errand runner for a reclusive artist, and suddenly the future offers new possibilities: time spent with her intense but kind employer might, it seems, help Frankie find the courage to speak—and help Georgia reconcile the woman she was with the woman she has become. But late that summer, as a hurricane bears down on South Florida, she must face the fact that her decisions may have put her only child in danger.

A gorgeous story that "satisfies on every level" (Amazon Best Book of the Month citation), *Sea Creatures* is a mesmerizing exploration of the high stakes of marriage and parenthood.

Questions for Discussion

1. At the book's opening, Georgia remarks, "It seems to me that what worries us most . . . is least likely to happen, while what is most likely is some unimagined event, and how do we prepare for that?" How would you answer this question?
2. Talk about Georgia and Graham's marriage. Are they happy? Could they ever be happy? Was it fair of her to have a child with him? While they are on vacation by themselves, Georgia calls Graham reckless. Is he?
3. Consider the men in Georgia's life: Graham, Charlie, Frankie. Each has a distinctive characteristic. How does this particular aspect of the character influence Georgia and their relationship?
4. What draws Georgia to Charlie? Might events have turned out differently if she'd never met him or would her marriage to Graham have changed anyway?
5. How would you cope with a child like Frankie? Is Georgia doing the right thing by using sign language? Compare Frankie's interaction with Charlie and with Graham. Why won't Graham sign with his son?



6. When Georgia meets Dr. Sonia, her new pediatrician, she tells her that she spends every waking minute with Frankie, and the doctor asks her why. Were you surprised at this question? Is a hovering parent necessarily a good parent?
7. What impact does receiving Charlie's mermaid sketch have on Georgia? Were they in love? Could anything have worked out between them?
8. In thinking back over the events that occur involving Graham and Frankie's accident, Georgia asks, "Did I betray my own son?" What do you think? Could Frankie's accident have been prevented? What about Graham—was his fate choice or an accident?
9. Were you satisfied by the ending? Did it all work out the way it should have? Could it have been any different?
10. What is the significance of the title?