

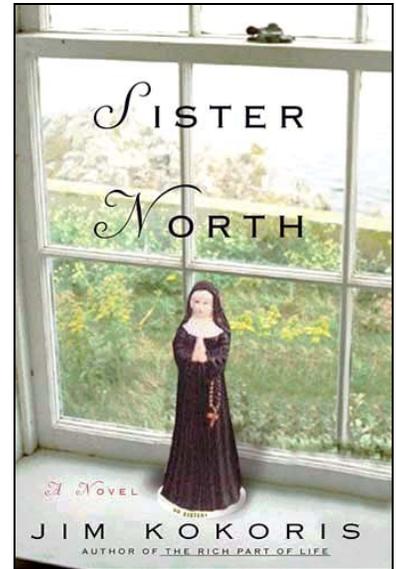
READING GROUP GUIDE

Sister North by Jim Kokoris

St. Martin's Press

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Introduction to *Sister North*

Sam was an indifferent Chicago lawyer content to drift through life on his good looks and his wife's money, until a violent incident shatters his world. Newly addicted to watching *Sister North*, a nun with a popular TV show, Sam embarks on a trip to Lake Eagleton, Wisconsin to see the wise nun personally, seeking forgiveness and spiritual guidance.

When he arrives, he discovers that he has been watching reruns—*Sister North* has vanished and all sorts of rumors abound. As he waits, wondering if the elusive nun will ever return, he unexpectedly, he falls in love with Meg, a reclusive waitress at the local restaurant. This was not the answer that he was searching for, yet, for the first time in his life, his feelings are genuine.

Jim Kokoris, the author of the beloved novel *The Rich Part of Life*, sensitively and compassionately portrays a remarkable story of forgiveness and hope. Undeniably powerful, *Sister North* is a novel that takes a poignant and humorous look at what passes for faith and love in the twenty-first century.

Praise for *Sister North*

"Follow that nun!...Jim Kokoris's characters, and scenes set in Midwestern bars and buses and restaurants, would do Tom Waits proud." - *The New York Times*

Reading Group Guide Questions

1. What do you think Sam was looking for when he went in search of Sister North?
2. Sam changed for the better over the course of the book. What changed him the most? His love for Meg? His friendships with the other characters? Or his own desire to change?
3. One of the messages of the book is that people should try to solve their own problems through love and friendship, rather than look for abstract answers. Do you think this message is in any way anti-religious?
4. Do you think Sam will stay in Lake Eagleton forever?
5. Do you think people can really change?
6. Do you think Sister North's answer to Sam's question is fair, or did he deserve more elaboration on why he wasn't killed?
7. What do you think Lila means when she says that not knowing what's in store for us is one of "God's gifts?"
8. Sam claims he does not believe in God. Do you think that by the end of the book, his views might have changed?
9. What do you think the overall message of this book is?

About the Author

Jim Kokoris is the author of the novel *The Rich Part of Life*, for which he won the Friends of American Writers Award for Best First Novel of 2001. An excerpt of his novel was also published in Volume VI of "*Reader's Digest Select Editions*." His humor writing has appeared in *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Weekend*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Reader's Digest*. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Kokoris lives in the Chicago area with his wife Anne and their three sons.