

# **Book Group Discussion Questions**

## ***The Rising Shore – Roanoke, a novel of the Lost Colony***

**Author available for bookclub phone interviews  
contact [d.homsher@gmail.com](mailto:d.homsher@gmail.com)**



- 1) Margaret Lawrence closely watches Elenor Dare and recognizes certain aspects of her character that Elenor herself fails to see. Is Margaret a fair judge of Elenor?
- 2) Worried by threats to the company, Elenor often wants more power and is frustrated by her pregnancy, her husband, her servant, and even her father. Did you find Elenor appealing despite her impatience and ambition? Discuss her relationship with her father.
- 3) The story is told in the voices of two women from different backgrounds, one speaking in present tense, the other in past. How would you compare those voices?
- 4) Simon Fernandes and Roger Bailey both challenge the authority of Governor John White. Elenor spots these dangers, yet her reactions to the potential traitors are different. She hates Fernandes but finds Roger Bailey intriguing, alluring. Why?
- 5) When Margaret sets off alone in a canoe, she follows a path blazed by other American adventurers like Huck Finn. Is she becoming an *American*? Why? Or not?
- 6) The story moves from London, across the Atlantic, into the wilds of Virginia. How do the lives of the women change—or stay the same—as they settle into the New World? Does the status of each woman (as a gentlewoman, goodwife, servant, or conscript) strongly influence her fate?
- 7) Historical fiction invents actions and personalities for people who once actually lived and have died. Is this a valuable or questionable exercise? Is it more legitimate to invent stories about “little” people rather than well-known historical figures?



### **For Readers Exploring Further**

See [www.risingshoreroanoke.com](http://www.risingshoreroanoke.com), “Explore the History”  
for more information about the Lost Colony, with **links to original documents**.

#### **Places to Visit**

**Fort Raleigh National Historic Site**, Roanoke Island, NC:

[www.nps.gov/archive/fora/raleigh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archive/fora/raleigh.htm)

**Roanoke Island Festival Park**, Roanoke Island, NC: [www.roanokeisland.com/](http://www.roanokeisland.com/)

**The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama**, Roanoke Island, NC: [www.thelostcolony.org/](http://www.thelostcolony.org/)

**Historic Jamestowne**, Virginia:

[www.nps.gov/archive/colo/Jamestown/jamestown.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archive/colo/Jamestown/jamestown.htm)