

# KIRKUS REVIEWS

## TITLE INFORMATION

### WHAT HAPPENED AT LAKE TALLULAH?

Nina Lisicar

Book Vine Press (296 pp.)

\$17.99 hardcover, \$8.01 paperback, \$1.99 e-book

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## BOOK REVIEW

Lisicar's debut novel stars a Russian American woman whose life and loves are secretly directed by aliens monitoring her from their mothership.

Margaux Ishara Martin's overprotective Russian-immigrant mother kept an incredible lifelong secret from her: Margaux had a twin, taken away at birth by authorities back in the former USSR. Now Margaux, as an American teenager, has periodic visions of her "doppelganger," an angelic-looking being called Anastasia, whom Margaux intuitively is a sisterly figure not quite of Earth. Finally, 18-year-old Margaux escapes from home to meet her suitor, Byron O'Neill, at an ancient, sacred site of a long-vanished Indigenous people. Post tryst, both are abducted aboard a UFO. Their memories of each other are selectively erased, and the aliens deposit them separately back on Earth. Byron becomes a soldier fighting in a Middle Eastern trouble spot, while Margaux evolves into a TV celebrity on a globe-trotting cooking show with her fiery chef husband, Michel. But visions of large, dark "alien eyes" haunt Margaux. The reader already knows that ETs are watching, manipulating events, and trying to bring Margaux back into Byron's orbit (even if they have to harden Michel's heart and ruin the marriage to do so). An explanation, courtesy of Anastasia, is forthcoming against a backdrop of increasingly apocalyptic seismic activity on Earth. Though Lisicar changes key names and populates her world with mythical cities, the author says the work was strongly influenced by the "ancient astronaut" scholarship of Erich von Däniken, Zecharia Sitchin, and Giorgio Tsoukalos, though it would seem Danielle Steele and Whitley Strieber beamed into the dimensional plane, too, since rugged Byron and glamorous Margaux keep crossing paths, renewing their attraction. The result is an unashamedly romantic SF/New Age saga that would fit comfortably amid the mystic-healing crystals in any Sedona, Arizona, souvenir shop.

Out-of-this-world romantic bliss paired with abduction-prone ETs spawn an entertaining hybrid of genres.

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