



READING GUIDE

January, 2026

The Thinning

Inga Simpson

In short

A powerful literary page-turner about two young people in a race against time to reach a monumental solar eclipse, from famed Australian novelist Inga Simpson.



Synopsis

Fin grew up by an observatory, learning about telescopes and planets, inspired by the passions of her mother and father, leaders in their fields of astrophotography and astronomy. Those days are long over. Now Fin, her mother Dianella, and a band of outliers live deep off the grid, always on amber alert and always ready to run. In the outside world, things are not good: extinctions and a loss of diversity threaten what's left of the environment. With a new disaster looming, Fin finds herself thrust into an unlikely partnership with a stranger who has appeared in their camp. Terry is one of a new breed of evolved humans, the Incompletes, who are widely distrusted. But the pair will need to work together during a dangerous journey if they are to play their part in a plan to help restore the natural world - and humankind.

Discussion points

1. What genre would you categorise *The Thinning* as? Do you think it could be considered to be a number of different genres?
2. How has Fin's life been shaped by her deep connection with astronomy and astro-photography?
3. How does Terry change as a character through the events of the novel and their connection with Fin?
4. How might their future have been different if they'd never seen Fin in the first place?
5. What do you think the future looks like for Fin and Terry and why?

Next you should listen to

The Granddaughter by Bernhard Schlink

The Descent by Paul E. Hardisty

The Stranding by Kate Sawyer