



# BOOK SUMMARY

## In La Kesh

By Libby Outlaw

We have entered a time of great change. The ancient Mayans marked it by the end of their long count calendar, where one cycle spans 5,250 years. December 21, 2012 is the end date when the sun's elliptical path crosses the serpent's mouth (a black hole) in the Milky Way. This cosmology is the backdrop for the novel, *In La Kesh*, where climate change fueling hurricanes, earthquakes, global warming and oceans rising drives the spiritual journeys of two women, Mesa in the fall of 2012 AD, and Daughter in the spring of 165 BC, as they travel in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

Mesa, a young woman at the crossroads of her life and purpose, is pulled between the ways of her fundamentalist Christian mother, Grace, and her wise woman healer grandmother, Willow. With her grandmother's sudden death, Mesa is given the task of returning 4 articles of her grandmother's to their place of origin, before the multimillion dollar estate can be distributed to her financially strapped mother and uncle. Mesa finds direction and new purpose in her life when she travels to Mexico with her childhood friend, Silas. . Guided by synergistic connections, circles of stories, ritual initiations and traditional healing, Mesa returns 3 out of the 4 objects to the ancient ruins, caves and islands of the Mayans. When a series of hurricanes threaten to cut short Mesa's ability to complete the task, she and Silas catch a ride to higher ground where Mesa discovers a deep secret in her family's past. The surprise ending brings all the puzzle pieces of the story together and sets Mesa on a new course for her life.

Daughter, a young mother, is separated from her tribe because of her refusal to believe the shifting of the Big Dipper in the night sky, the tribe's symbol of stability and orientation, is a dark omen of betrayal. With her twins born and the visions of her dying grandmother to guide her, she travels across the saddle of the land joining with others to create a new tribe. Bringing two different cosmologies to the twin volcanoes, Daughter and Brother become the new stargazers for the Mayan tribe at Itzapa.

*In La Kesh* uses metaphor, storytelling, ceremony and myth to guide the reader into the "unseen world" witnessing the returning cycles of history, experience and life. There are threads that cohere the novel together including the repeated stories, the changing weather, and the intimate relationship of Mesa and Silas. Infused in their journey are the Nine Principles of Spirit which are: self-reflection, path of least resistance, the spiral, impermanence, the mystery, the source, giving and receiving, interconnectedness, and the present moment.