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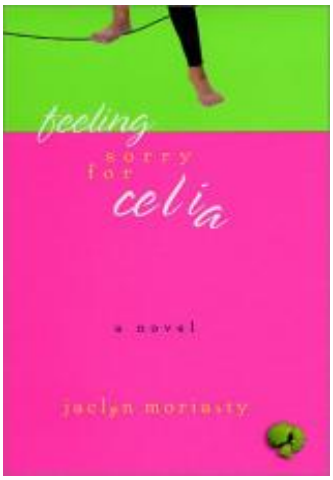
Feeling Sorry for Celia

by Jaclyn Moriarty



About the Book

Life is pretty complicated for Elizabeth Clarry. Her best friend Celia keeps disappearing, her absent father has reappeared, and her dialogue with her mother consists entirely of wacky notes left on the fridge. On top of everything else, her English teacher wants to rekindle the "Joy of the Envelope," and now a Complete and Utter Stranger knows more about Elizabeth than anyone else. A #1 bestseller in Australia, this fabulous debut is a funny, touching, revealing story written entirely in the form of letters, postcards, and missives from imaginary organizations like "The Cold Hard Truth Association."

Discussion Guide

1. Who grows and changes more over the course of the novel, Celia or Elizabeth? How and why?

2. How does the structure of Feeling Sorry for Celia with letters, postcards, and messages from societies such as "The Cold Hard Truth Association" affect the reading experience? How does this structure reflect the experience of being a teenager?

3. What is the significance of Elizabeth's letters from "The Association of Teenagers" throughout the story?

4. Compare the development of Elizabeth's friendship with Celia to that of her friendship with Christina. Do you think that Elizabeth would have become friends with Christina if they had met in person?

5. Some readers feel sorry for Elizabeth. Does she feel that way about herself? What about the characters around her?

6. After Celia begins dating Saxon, she writes Elizabeth a letter: "I feel as if I have lost you. You are a different person. It's like you've disappeared.... You weren't happy for me. You never asked me a single question about Saxon or about

how I felt. Maybe you thought you had to be cruel to me so I'd learn how to survive on my own. But maybe you were being too cruel, Lizzy? Maybe you just weren't being fair?" Is this true?

7. Describe why most teenagers and adults, who remember what it was like to be a teenager, would identify with some of the experiences that Elizabeth and Christina share with each other?

8. Why do you think Celia is always running away from home?

9. What does the outcome of Elizabeth's relationships with Celia and Christina tell us about the nature of friendship?

Author Bio

Jaclyn Moriarty is the award-winning author of books for readers of all ages. She has been the recipient of the NSW Premier?s Literary Award, the Queensland Literary Award, and the Aurealis Award for Fantasy. Her books have been named *Boston Globe* Honor Books, White Raven selections and recognized by the American Library Association. A former media lawyer and one of the talented and popular Moriarty sisters (including Liane and Nicola), Jaclyn lives in Sydney, Australia, along with her teenage son.

Critical Praise

"Edgy and irreverent?a sharp, witty take on friendship, family, and the roller-coaster ride of adolescence. [Elizabeth is] to-fall-in-love-with. "

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