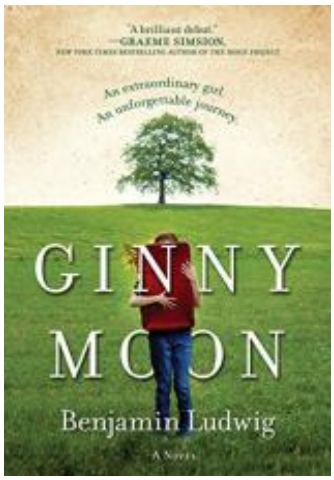
ReadingGroupGuides
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Ginny Moon

by Benjamin Ludwig



About the Book

Meet Ginny Moon.

She?s mostly your average teenager --- she plays flute in the school band, has weekly basketball practice, and reads Robert Frost poems for English class. But Ginny is autistic. So what?s important to her might seem a bit?different: starting every day with exactly nine grapes for breakfast, Michael Jackson, taking care of her baby doll?and crafting a secret plan of escape.

Ginny has been in foster care for years, and for the first time in her life she has found her ?forever home.? After being traumatically taken from her abusive birth mother and moved around to different homes, she is finally in a place where she?ll be safe and protected, with a family who will love and nurture her.

This is exactly what all foster kids are hoping for. But Ginny has other plans. She?ll steal and lie and exploit the good intentions of those who love her --- anything it takes to get back what?s missing in her life. She?ll even try to get herself kidnapped.

Told in an extraordinary and original voice, GINNY MOON is at once quirky, charming, bighearted and poignant. It?s a story of a journey, about being an outsider trying to find a place to belong and about making sense of a world that just doesn?t seem to add up.

Discussion Guide

1. Ginny?s lack of emotional attachment to the people in her life makes her seem cold and unfriendly. Do you consider her to be an unfriendly person? How do you think Ginny might define the word ?friend??

2. Ginny appears to be completely uninterested in romance. How do you envision her romantic life as an adult?

3. Do you think the Moons acted reasonably with regard to Ginny before and after Wendy was born? If you had to step into the shoes of Brian and Maura Moon, and perceived your adopted child as a possible threat to your biological child, what would you do?

4. Patrice makes some pointed observations about the Moons, especially Maura. Do you think her observations are accurate? Are her interactions with Ginny appropriate?

5. Do you as a reader become more or less sympathetic toward Maura when she is forced to increase her interaction with Ginny after Brian?s heart attack?

6. What do you think of Gloria?s character? How would you describe Ginny?s feelings toward her? How is Gloria perceived differently through Ginny?s eyes and the other adults? eyes?

7. Do you think Rick would make a good dad? Why or why not?

8. When the Moons and Patrice finally realized why Ginny was so concerned about her ?baby doll,? were you surprised? How did their original dismissal of Ginny?s obsession make you feel?

9. What is Ginny?s greatest personal strength? At what point(s) were you disappointed with her?

10. What stereotypes surround people on the autism spectrum? To what extent does Ginny fulfill or defy such stereotypes?

11. At the end of the book, did you feel that Ginny had evolved? What about Maura? In what ways do you think they both still have progress to make? Were you surprised by the way the story concluded?

Author Bio

A life-long teacher of English and writing, Benjamin Ludwig lives in New Hampshire with his family. He holds an MAT in English Education and an MFA in Writing. Shortly after he and his wife married they became foster parents and adopted a teenager with autism. GINNY MOON is his first novel, which was inspired in part by his conversations with other parents at Special Olympics basketball practices.

Photo Credit: Perry Smith

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