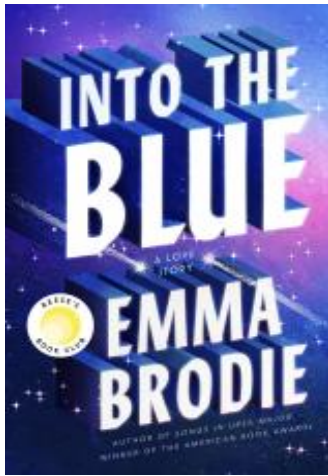


Into the Blue: A Love Story

by Emma Brodie



About the Book

An epic, decades-spanning love story that blazes through the worlds of acting and comedy and charts a connection unlike any other.

“The truth is there’s no such thing as a normal life. There’s just the time you get and how you spend it.”

In the summer of 2000, AJ Graves dreams of writing for *Saturday Night Live*. Instead, she’s stuck working in a video rental store, with slim odds of escaping her small Massachusetts town. Then in walks Noah Drew, the enigmatic and intense scion of the Drew acting dynasty, and her life changes forever. Despite wildly different upbringings, the two forge a deep, cosmic bond --- first as friends, then as acting partners --- until one day, Noah disappears without a word.

Seven years later, in New York City, AJ is shocked to find herself cast in the same intergalactic TV production as Noah, by then a well-known Hollywood heartthrob. As their on-screen characters grow closer every day, the lines between reality and acting begin to blur. Unable to stay away from each other, AJ and Noah are forced to confront the truth of what happened years ago --- and the devastating secret that will send their lives careening apart, even as fate continues to draw them together.

Blending unforgettable characters, explosive chemistry, and yearning and profound emotion, INTO THE BLUE is a journey unlike any other --- one that asks: What does it mean to diverge from the script to forge your own story?

Discussion Guide

1. At its heart, INTO THE BLUE is about AJ and Noah's life-changing, star-crossed connection --- one that continues to draw them back to each other again and again. What initially draws AJ and Noah to one another? What obstacles stand in their path? How do the obstacles evolve as their relationship does?
2. What do AJ and Noah learn about themselves --- and each other --- during their time in The Black Room? Have you ever experienced an unexplainable connection with another person? If you're comfortable, discuss it with the group.
3. What role does Eudora play in AJ and Noah's relationship and in the story at large?
4. Noah and AJ's work spans genres, from sci-fi to comedy to theater. How do the different genres influence both the novel's plot and the characters' development? What genres are you most drawn to in your own media consumption? Why?
5. How does the connection between Noah and AJ shift when they're acting from a script versus when they're improvising? In your own life, are you more drawn to following scripts or making things up as you go?
6. Discuss how Noah and AJ's family dynamics shape them. What role does each character play in their respective family? How do they fulfill and/or chafe against these roles? What role have you found yourself playing in your own family?
7. *"All people play games. They're given to us parents, teachers, and society writ large, the scripts written long in advance. Here's what they'll never tell you: you don't have to play."* What do you make of this passage? When do you think we need to play the game, and when is it okay to opt out?
8. How do you think he should have handled the situation? How do you think AJ would have responded if she'd been told sooner?
9. What other themes stand out to you from the novel? What messages do you think author Emma Brodie was trying to convey about art, creation and love?
10. Who would you cast as Noah and AJ in an adaptation of INTO THE BLUE?

Author Bio

Emma Brodie has worked in book publishing for 15 years, currently as an Executive Editor at Clarkson Potter. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University's Writing Seminars program, and her debut novel, SONGS IN URSA MAJOR, received the American Book Award. She lives on Martha's Vineyard with her husband and their very good dog, Freddie Mercury.

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