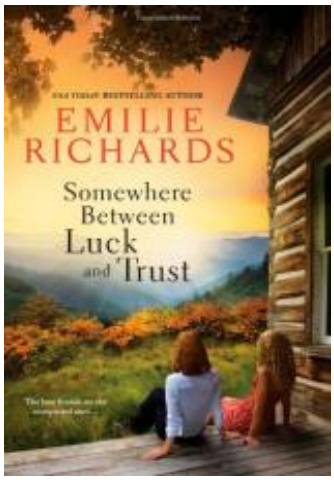
Somewhere Between Luck and Trust

by Emilie Richards



About the Book

Where Luck Meets Trust, Miracles Can Happen

Christy Haviland served eight months in prison, giving birth behind bars to the child of the man who put her there and might yet destroy her. Now she's free again, but what does that mean? As smart as she is, a learning disability has kept her from learning to read. And that's the least of her hurdles.

Georgia Ferguson, talented educator, receives a mysterious charm bracelet that may help her find the mother who abandoned her at birth. Does she want to follow the clues, and if she does, can reticent Georgia reach out for help along the way?

Both women are standing at a crossroads, a place where unlikely unions can be formed. A place where two very different women might bridge the gap between generations and education, and together make tough choices.

Somewhere between the townships called Luck and Trust, at a mountain cabin known as the Goddess House, two very different women may even, if they dare, find common ground and friendship.

Discussion Guide

1. Cristy Haviland swears she's innocent of the felony shoplifting charge for which she was imprisoned. At what point did you begin to believe she was telling the truth? Do you believe that people can be unfairly incarcerated?

2. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the average prison sentence of men who kill their women partners is two to six years. Women who kill their partners are, on average, sentenced to fifteen years. Could you sympathize with Cristy's friend Dara Lee, who was imprisoned for killing her chronically abusive boyfriend? If this statistic is true, does it seem fair to you?

3. Georgia Ferguson doesn't want to be known as the Sweatshirt Baby, even if the title brings a certain sad ?fame? with it. With no realistic way to find the woman who abandoned her, Georgia has left her past behind. But then her past emerges in the form of a mysterious charm bracelet that might lead her to answers. Imagine yourself in Georgia's position. Would you be tempted to walk through this newly opened door? Or would you leave it firmly shut?

4. Cristy, like many people in real life, was able to hide her inability to read by pretending she didn't care about school, and by developing ways to cope. Nearly 50 percent of U.S. adults read so poorly they are unable to perform basic tasks like reading prescription drug labels. In your imagination, can you relive your day and think of all the moments when you read or needed to read? Does the extent of the problem shock you?

5. Cristy's parents were ashamed of their daughter's poor performance in school, yet they refused to seek special tutoring to help her, believing she simply wasn't trying hard enough. Many school systems still aren't equipped to deal with learning disabilities. How can parents help their children overcome challenges like dyslexia?

6. For a variety of reasons, Dawson's father was unable to accept his son and tried repeatedly to force him to adhere to his standards and become a ?real man.? Without judging either Dawson or his father, can you talk about what the phrase a real man means to you?

7. Jackson Ford has everything, yet he always wants more, no matter who he hurts in the process. Do people like Jackson exist? Are they born or made? Did you think that Jackson's father taught him to take anything he wanted, no matter the consequences?

8. Georgia has been rejected and abandoned for much of her life and still managed to find a satisfying place for herself in the world, with her daughter, granddaughter and friends. Now a man has come into her life, bringing love and acceptance with him. Did you believe that Georgia, after everything, would be able to reach out to Lucas, too?

9. Twenty-two-year-old Cristy didn't plan to be a mother so young, particularly not to Jackson Ford's son, yet she is faced with giving birth to his baby. Could you empathize with Cristy's struggle to cope? Could you believe her feelings toward Michael might change as she spent time with him?

10. Were you able to understand and support Cristy's final decision about Michael's future? Or was it so different from what you believed she ?should? do that you couldn't forgive her?

11. The goddesses allowed Cristy to find her own way, while offering any support and help she needed as she struggled. Did you wish they had stepped in more directly? Or was their kindness and acceptance exactly what she needed? How do you support the women in your life who need your help?

Author Bio

Emilie Richards? many novels feature complex characterizations and in-depth explorations of social issues, a result of her training and experience as a family counselor, which contribute to her fascination with relationships of all kinds. Emilie, a mother of four, lives with her husband in Florida, where she is currently working on her next novel.

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