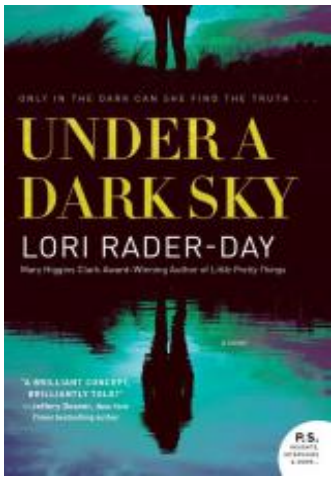
Under a Dark Sky

by Lori Rader-Day



About the Book

Only in the dark can she find the truth...

Since her husband died, Eden Wallace?s life has diminished down to a tiny pinprick, like a far-off star in the night sky. She doesn?t work, has given up on her love of photography, and is so plagued by night terrors that she can?t sleep without the lights on. Everyone, including her family, has grown weary of her grief. So when she finds paperwork in her husband?s effects indicating that he reserved a week at a dark sky park, she goes. She?s ready to shed her fear and return to the living, even if it means facing her paralyzing phobia of the dark.

But when she arrives at the park, the guest suite she thought was a private retreat is teeming with a group of 20-somethings, all stuck in the orbit of their old college friendships. Horrified that her get-away has been taken over, Eden decides to head home the next day. But then a scream wakes the house in the middle of the night. One of the friends has been murdered. Now everyone --- including Eden --- is a suspect.

Everyone is keeping secrets, but only one is a murderer. As mishaps continue to befall the group, Eden must make sense of the chaos and lies to evade a ruthless killer --- and she?ll have to do it before dark falls.

Discussion Guide

1. Eden finds solace in photography. She sees her life as if through the lens of a camera, coming in and out of focus, and in snapshots. Why do you think this helps her make sense of her world?

2. When Eden first arrives at the park, she?s hoping the trip will help her reconcile with the death of her husband. How do you think her anguish affects her initial judgments of the characters she meets?

3. The residents of the guest house are burdened by the histories of their college relationships, and the kinds of people they used to be. Have you ever felt the pressure of continuing a friendship with someone you?ve grown apart from?

4. Eden says that the murder victim ?died perfect.? How does a person?s death change our perspectives of their lives and legacies? Do you think recognizing a loved one?s flaws makes it easier or harder to move on?

5. Throughout the story, Eden sees the group react in different ways to the loss of their companion. How does experiencing the grief of the group change Eden?s understanding of her own grief for Bix? How does this change Eden?

6. What do you think of the question Eden?s sister asks her: ?There?s a slim line between believing in fate and letting your life be decided for you??

7. Before speaking to Cooley, Eden had never told anyone the full truth about what really happened the night Bix died. Do you think Eden was trying to protect Bix?s reputation, or herself? How might things have been different for Eden if she?d revealed the truth earlier?

8. We see many different versions of Bix through Eden?s memories of their relationship. How does your impression of him change throughout the story? Do you feel any sympathy for him?

9. Did the identity of the culprit surprise you? Whom did you most suspect throughout the novel, and why? Who do you think is the most at fault?

10. Do you have any irrational fears? Do you have any suspicions about where they might stem from?

Author Bio

Lori Rader-Day is the Edgar® Award-nominated and Agatha, Anthony and Mary Higgins Clark award-winning author of WRECK YOUR HEART, THE DEATH OF US, DEATH AT GREENWAY, THE LUCKY ONE, UNDER A DARK SKY, THE DAY I DIED, LITTLE PRETTY THINGS and THE BLACK HOUR. She lives in Chicago, where she is leads the mystery readers? festival Midwest Mystery Conference and teaches creative writing for Northwestern University?s School of Professional Studies.

Critical Praise

?Fans of Agatha Christie?s AND THEN THERE WERE NONE will be riveted by Rader-Day?s latest psychological thriller, which makes you question who you really know and trust and whether you should be afraid of the dark.?

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