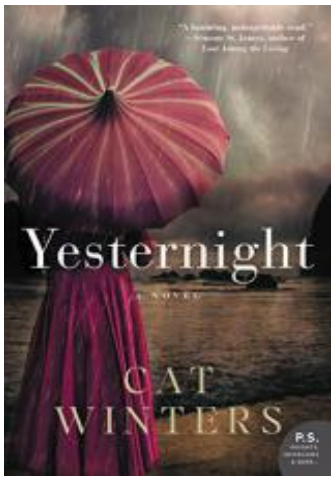
Yesternight

by Cat Winters



About the Book

In 1925, Alice Lind steps off a train in the rain-soaked coastal hamlet of Gordon Bay, Oregon. There, she expects to do nothing more difficult than administer IQ tests to a group of rural schoolchildren. A trained psychologist, Alice believes mysteries of the mind can be unlocked scientifically, but now her views are about to be challenged by one curious child.

Seven-year-old Janie O?Daire is a mathematical genius, which is surprising. But what is disturbing are the stories she tells: that her name was once Violet, she grew up in Kansas decades earlier, and she drowned at age 19. Alice delves into these stories, at first believing they?re no more than the product of the girl?s vast imagination. But, slowly, Alice comes to the realization that Janie might indeed be telling a strange truth.

Alice knows the investigation may endanger her already shaky professional reputation, and as a woman in a field dominated by men she has no room for mistakes. But she is unprepared for the ways it will illuminate terrifying mysteries within her own past, and in the process, irrevocably change her life.

Discussion Guide

1. YESTERNIGHT is a novel where the known and unknown collide and paranormal events are definitely a possibility. Have you ever experienced something in your life that can?t be explained away rationally?

2. At one point in the novel Alice maintains that ?psychology explains everything.? Is it possible that psychology can explain Alice?s increasing conviction that Janie is indeed Violet reincarnated?

3. Alice?s life at first seems like an open book. However, as the novel progresses we discover that her family represses not only their acknowledgment of her sister Bea?s sexuality, but also any acknowledgment of Alice?s sexuality. And Alice herself has repressed her memories of her unwanted pregnancy. Did the Linds? tendency to avoid such subjects

strike you as normal behavior for the time period? Or did you find the family?s repression to be extreme?

4. Is it possible Janie is a child prodigy with high mathematical ability? Is it possible Alice was just a child with behavioral difficulties? Or do you feel that the only way they could know what they do is to truly be the products of reincarnation?

5. Bea insists to Alice, ?Don?t insert yourself into other people?s lives.? How do you think that Alice?s tendency to do this has affected her life so far?

6. Hotels play a large role in YESTERNIGHT. Alice stays in Michael?s hotel at the opening of the book, as well as in the Hotel Yesternight and others. What do you think hotels symbolize with regard to the story?

7. Is Rebecca right to be suspicious of Michael?s motives with regard to their daughter? Is he a man who only wants to discover the truth, or does he want to exploit his child for profit?

8. What do you think the police think happened to Michael that would make him run off into the blizzard?

9. What do you think of the ending? What do you believe is really going on with John?

10. What do you think will happen to Alice in the future?

Author Bio

Cat Winters's debut novel, IN THE SHADOW OF BLACKBIRDS, was released to widespread critical acclaim. The novel has been named a finalist for the 2014 Morris Award, a School Library Journal Best Book of 2013 and a Booklist 2013 Top 10 Horror Fiction for Youth. Winters lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband and two children.

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