

All That Life Can Afford

by Emily Everett



About the Book

A taut and lyrical coming-of-age debut about a young American woman navigating class, lies and love amid London's jet-set elite.

I would arrive, blank like a sheet of notebook paper, and write myself new.

Anna first fell in love with London at her hometown library. Its Jane Austen balls were a far cry from her life of food stamps and hand-me-downs. But when she finally arrives after college, the real London is a moldy flat and the same paycheck-to-paycheck grind --- that fairy-tale life still out of reach.

Then Anna meets the Wilders, who fly her to Saint-Tropez to tutor their teenage daughter. Swept up by the sphinxlike elder sister, Anna soon finds herself plunged into a heady whirlpool of parties and excess, a place where confidence is a birthright. There she meets two handsome young men --- one who wants to whisk her into his world in a chauffeured car, the other who sees through Anna's struggle to outrun her past. It's like she's stepped into the pages of a glittering new novel. But what will it cost her to play the part?

Sparkling with intelligence and insight, ALL THAT LIFE CAN AFFORD peels back the glossy layers of class and privilege, exploring what it means to create a new life for yourself that still honors the one you've left behind.

Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever dreamed of living somewhere else, as Anna dreamed of London? If so, where do you see yourself?
2. What was your favorite scene, and why?

3. Once Anna arrives in Saint-Tropez, she feels pressure to leave her past behind to fit in with her new surroundings. Have you ever tried to rewrite your past in this way? How did it make you feel?
4. Who was your favorite character, and why?
5. If you were in Anna's shoes, would you have been more drawn to Callum or Theo? Why do you think that is?
6. Have you ever been caught in a lie? How did you respond?
7. As Anna gets to know the Wilders, Faye is quick to bond with her. How did you feel about their relationship?
8. Have you experienced loss, as Anna has? If so, how do you think it affected your life choices in the aftermath?
9. Throughout the novel, we see Anna embark on a journey of self-discovery. What is the most important lesson she learns along the way, in your opinion?
10. What did you think of the ending?

Author Bio

Emily Everett is an editor and writer from western Massachusetts. Her short fiction appears in *The Kenyon Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Tin House* and *Mississippi Review*. She is a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in Fiction.

Everett grew up on a small family dairy farm, studied English and music at Smith College, and studied abroad for a year at University College London. After graduating, she returned to London to do an M.A. in literature at Queen Mary University of London. She lived and worked in the UK from 2009 to 2013.

Everett has been managing editor of *The Common*, a literary magazine based at Amherst College, since 2016. At *The Common*, she edits fiction, manages print and online production, and hosts the magazine's podcast. *ALL THAT LIFE CAN AFFORD* is her debut novel.

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