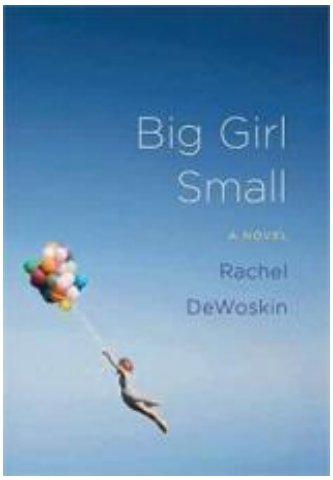
ReadingGroupGuides
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Big Girl Small

by Rachel DeWoskin



About the Book

Judy Lohden is your above-average sixteen-year-old, with a voice that can shake an auditorium. She should be the star of Darcy Arts Academy, so why is she hiding in a seedy motel room? Perhaps it has something to do with a devastating scandal---and the fact that Judy is three feet nine inches tall. Big Girl Small is a scathingly funny book about dreams and reality, at once light on its feet and profound.

Discussion Guide

1. Discuss Judy?s attitude about life as an LP? Did her attitude surprise you? Have you ever personally known an LP?

2. Judy comes to the conclusion that ?suffering isn?t relative.? What does this mean to you, and do you agree?

3. Is Judy a reliable narrator? In what ways might her perception of reality be slightly distorted? What do you make of her assessment of Kyle, before and after his actions are revealed?

4. Judy faces many adolescent hardships throughout the novel, but also the thrill of many ?firsts?. Is Judy perhaps afraid to grow up? What do you make of Sarah?s assertion that the brain becomes less ?exuberant? in adulthood?

5. When Judy hears that Ginger may have spread a nasty rumor, she muses: ?Can you really define a whole person by one cruel thing she does?? What do you think?

6. Ginger is an enigmatic character, she defies categorization. Why do you think Sarah and Judy?s mother dislike her? How do you feel about her, did she ultimately surprising you?

7. Does Judy?s musical talent draw attention away from her physical stature? Along those lines, why is there such a

difference between feeling different and feeling special?

8. Sarah is incredibly loyal to Judy, even though Judy does not always appreciate it. Have you ever had a friend like that, or ever been a friend like that to someone?

9. Judy never discovers who initiated the scandalous videotaping, nor who was responsible for leaking it. Would you want to know if you were in the same situation? Would you have prosecuted?

10. How do you think Judy?s family handled the scandal and its fall-out? Which part of it do you think was the most difficult for them?

11. How do lessons from Ms. Doman?s English class help Judy to cope with her experience?

12. What makes Bill such an ideal friend for Judy at the motel?

Author Bio

Rachel DeWoskin is the author of *Foreign Babes in Beijing*, a memoir about her inadvertent notoriety as the star of a Chinese soap opera, and a novel, *Repeat After Me*. She lives in New York City and Beijing and is at work on her fourth book, *Statutory*.

Critical Praise

"Wonderfully engaging?captures the way adolescence renders one?s own identity somehow unknowable, perhaps because ?we contain various versions of ourselves,? and high school is the time of maximum pressure to choose just one."---*The Boston Globe*

"Amusing, hypnotic...Like a contemporary version of The Wizard of Oz or its coming-of-age antecedent, Alice in Wonderland, Judy?s experiences of adolescence are exhilarating, terrifying, and almost uniformly surreal."---*Time Out* (New York)

"Compelling...Big Girl Small brings back high school in raw, oozing detail, like a psychic skinned knee."---Maureen Corrigan, NPR?s Fresh Air

"A fine novel?The desire to find out precisely what [happened to Judy] will keep you reading as fast as you can."---*The Dallas Morning News*

"The most engaging novel I?ve read in many years?It?s sad, funny, quirkily suspenseful, and---most of all---beautiful. I can?t imagine a more satisfying read?.A book for everyone."---Darin Strauss, author of *Chang and Eng* and *More Than It Hurts You*

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