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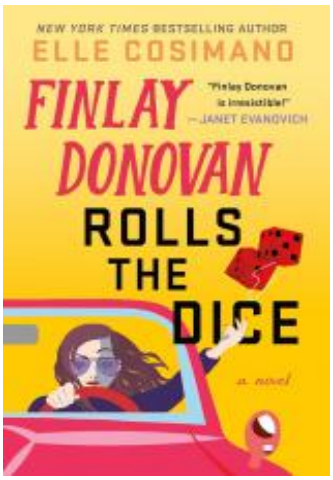
Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice

by Elle Cosimano



About the Book

From *New York Times* bestselling author Elle Cosimano comes FINLAY DONOVAN ROLLS THE DICE , the fiercely anticipated next installment in the beloved Finlay Donovan series.

Finlay Donovan and her nanny/partner-in-crime, Vero, are in sore need of a girls? weekend away. They plan a trip to Atlantic City, but odds are --- seeing as it?s actually a cover story to negotiate a deal with a dangerous loan shark, save Vero?s childhood crush, Javi, and hunt down a stolen car --- it won?t be all fun and games. When Finlay?s ex-husband, Steven, and her mother insist on tagging along too, Finlay and Vero suddenly have a few too many meddlesome passengers along for the ride.

Within hours of arriving in their seedy casino hotel, it becomes clear their rescue mission is going to be a bust. Javi?s kidnapper, Marco, refuses to negotiate, demanding payment in full in exchange for Javi?s life. But that?s not all --- he insists on knowing the whereabouts of his missing nephew, Ike, who mysteriously disappeared. Unable to confess what really happened to Ike, Finlay and Vero are forced to come up with a new plan: sleuth out the location of Javi and the Aston Martin, then steal them both back.

But when they sneak into the loan shark?s suite to search for clues, they find more than they bargained for --- Marco is already dead. They don?t have a clue who murdered him, only that they themselves have a very convincing motive. Then four members of the police department unexpectedly show up in town, also looking for Ike --- and after Finlay's night with hot cop Nick at the police academy, he?s a little too eager to keep her close to his side.

If Finlay can juggle a jealous ex-husband, two precocious kids, her mother?s marital issues, a decomposing loan shark and find Vero?s missing boyfriend, she might get out of Atlantic City in one piece. But will she fold under the pressure and come clean about the things she?s done, or be forced to double down?

Discussion Guide

1. In this book, Finlay is dealing with impostor syndrome. Her agent, Sylvia, suggests this is normal for writers and that her self-doubts will pass, but not all of Finlay?s insecurities are rooted in doubts over her identity as an author. In what other ways is Finlay feeling like an impostor, and why?

2. Throughout the story, we see instances of women helping women. Even in the strip club and in Romelda?s shop, women are lending each other a hand. How many examples can you find throughout the story? In what ways does each instance reinforce this theme in the book?

3. At the climax of the story, Finlay orchestrates a series of events that rely on the involvement of two powerful women, both of whom she fears and isn?t sure are trustworthy. Were you surprised by the women Finlay enlists to help her? Why do you think these women, including Finlay, make the choices they do? How much of a gamble is this on Finlay?s part? Do you think she expected them to agree to help her?

4. In the beginning of the story, Finlay rejects Vero?s suggestion that they resort to violence to rescue Javi. Instead, Finlay insists that she and Vero solve their problems using their words for negotiation. At what point do we see Finlay?s position shift? In what ways does Finlay both take action and use her words to solve her problems?

5. Romelda, the psychic, made several predictions before Finlay and Vero left her shop. Do you think Romelda could truly see the future, or do you believe Finlay and Vero interpreted their fortunes based on coincidences as they happened?

6. When Vero and Javi finally reunite, he confesses his reasons for walking away from their relationship years ago --- that he was ashamed of a mistake he?d made, and he feared he wasn?t worthy of her. Which other characters in the story have made similar choices to conceal mistakes from their loved ones? Do you agree with their choices? Why?

7. While in Atlantic City, Finlay learns that her mother and father are having marital issues. Do you think the trip was good for Susan? What fears, regrets or desires did you see Susan projecting onto her own children?s relationships?

8. Steven has an eye-opening experience caring for the children in Atlantic City. What do you think he learns during the trip? What do you think of his revelations about partnership and co-parenting?

9. Nick presents Finlay with a piece of evidence he found in Charlie?s suitcase, suggesting he knows she was somehow involved. Yet he doesn?t accuse her. Instead, he tells her about the realization he?s had about Charlie and Joey, two other partners who lied to him, both for very different reasons. What was Nick implying by sharing these thoughts with Finlay? If he suspects she might be hiding something, why does he choose to look the other way?

10. At the end of the novel, Finlay reflects on her affection for Vero and her fear that one day Vero will inevitably decide to move out and start a family of her own. How has their relationship grown and changed over the course of the series? How do you predict it will change in the future, as the children grow older and Finlay and Vero each develop romantic partnerships of their own?

Author Bio

Elle Cosimano is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, an International Thriller Writers Award winner, and an Edgar Award nominee. Elle?s debut novel for adults, FINLAY DONOVAN IS KILLING IT, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series, which was a *People* magazine pick and was named one of New York Public Library?s Best Books of 2021. The third book in the series, FINLAY DONOVAN JUMPS THE GUN, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller. A TV show based on the series is now in development by Tina Fey and Lang Fisher for Peacock**.** In addition to writing novels for teens and adults, her essays have appeared in *HuffPost* and *Time*. Cosimano lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

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