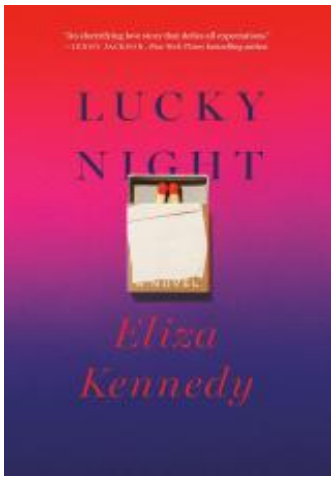
Lucky Night

by Eliza Kennedy



About the Book

Two people, one hotel room, and all the choices and complications that make up a life.

After six years of a stolen hour here, another there, tonight is going to be different for Nick Holloway and Jenny Parrish. They?ve booked a room in a new luxury hotel in Manhattan, where they?ll spend the entire night together for the first time. Expectations are running high for this brief reprieve from ordinary life: they both need a good bout of ravishing sex and witty conversation.

But that?s not what they get.

Because they?ve barely gotten started when a smoke alarm goes off. Nick is annoyed but not worried about what must be only a minor glitch. Jenny is anxious and guilty. Is karma coming for them at last?

This existential page-turner seamlessly shifts between Nick and Jenny?s perspectives as the reality of their situation becomes apparent, and all their secrets, evasions and regrets come spilling out. Stripped of their defenses, disagreeing about everything, these two flawed, funny, very different people are forced to be honest --- with each other and themselves --- about what they want, where they?ve screwed up, and whether their affair is really as casual as it seems.

Discussion Guide

In order to provide reading groups with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal certain aspects of the storyline of this book. If you have not finished reading LUCKY NIGHT, we respectfully suggest that you do so before reviewing this guide.

1. Why is Jenny faking it an issue? Why does Nick obsess over it? And do you believe her when she tells him the

?truth??

2. What is the state of their relationship at the start of the novel? How do they each present themselves to the other in a way that?s different from who they ?really? are?

3. Why doesn?t Jenny listen to her gut about leaving? Why does she feel so conflicted?

4. What does the fire alarm actually trigger between the couple?

5. How well do Nick and Jenny really know each other at the beginning of the novel? What about at the end? Do you agree with Nick that there?s a sense in which none of us really knows anyone else?

6. What did you think of the style of writing? How does the lack of quotation marks and the use of present tense shape the story?

7. Early into their six-year relationship, Jenny realized she was in love with Nick. Then she managed to talk herself out of it. Or so she believes. Do you think she?s right? What did ?her great love? give her? What do you think would have happened if she?d told Nick earlier?

8. What does the book say about two people being stuck together in the same place --- instead of choosing to be in the same place?

9. How is each of them able to justify the affair? Were you sympathetic to any of the reasons that brought them together?

10. How does their encounter with the Finnish hotel guest shift the tone of the book --- and Nick and Jenny?s attitude toward each other?

11. Jenny feels guilty about the affair in part because it?s time she takes away from being with her children. ?You chose this fire over them.? Is that a fair statement?

12. What does the novel say about honesty? Do you agree with Nick that the real problem of infidelity is deception, or is it something more?

13. How does a dramatic and scary situation, like a fire, shape our actions or distort our reality? Are Nick and Jenny being themselves --- essentially honest, as the fire approaches --- or are they acting out differently because of the extreme circumstances in which they find themselves?

14. What do you think happens next in Nick and Jenny?s story?

Author Bio

Eliza Kennedy is a screenwriter and the author of three novels: I TAKE YOU, DO THIS FOR ME and LUCKY NIGHT.

Her nonfiction and essays have appeared in *The New York Times, Glamour, Real Simple* and *Cosmopolitan.* A graduate of the University of Iowa and Harvard Law School, she lives in Hudson, New York.

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