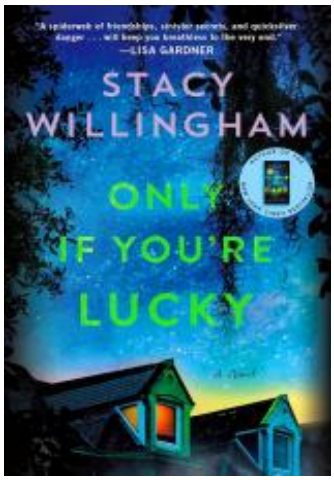
ReadingGroupGuides
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Only If You're Lucky

by Stacy Willingham



About the Book

A sharp and twisty exploration of female friendship from the *New York Times* bestselling author of A FLICKER IN THE DARK and ALL THE DANGEROUS THINGS.

Lucy Sharpe is larger than life. Magnetic, addictive. Bold and dangerous. Especially for Margot, who meets Lucy at the end of their freshman year at a liberal arts college in South Carolina. Margot is the shy one, the careful one, always the sidekick and never the center of attention. But when Lucy singles her out at the end of the year, a year Margot spent studying and playing it safe, and asks her to room together, something in Margot can't say no --- something daring, or starved, or maybe even envious.

And so Margot finds herself living in an off-campus house with three other girls: Lucy, the ringleader; Sloane, the sarcastic one; and Nicole, the nice one, the three of them opposites but also deeply intertwined. It's a year that finds Margot finally coming out of the shell she's been in since the end of high school, when her best friend Eliza died three weeks after graduation. Margot and Lucy have become the closest of friends, but by the middle of their sophomore year, one of the fraternity boys from the house next door has been brutally murdered...and Lucy Sharpe is missing without a trace.

From the author of A FLICKER IN THE DARK and ALL THE DANGEROUS THINGS comes a tantalizing thriller about the nature of friendship and belonging, about loyalty, envy and betrayal --- another gripping novel from an author quickly becoming the gold standard in psychological suspense.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel begins with the epigraph, ?If I ever read Satan?s signature upon a face, it is on that of your new friend ?Robert Louis Stevenson.? How does this set the tone for the rest of the novel? How does it relate to the friend group?

2. The novel is told in ?before? and ?after? timelines. How does this change your perception of the characters? How does it build suspense?

3. Margot says, ?I guess that?s the thing about grief, loss: it changes everything, not just you.? What role does grief play in the novel? How does grief seem to change Margot? Are there other examples of loss and grief?

4. How do Margot?s memories with Eliza shape her identity at Rutledge?

5. Margot is described as ?malleable.? Do you agree? How does her identity shift throughout the novel? Do you think she loses herself in others?

6. What is the dynamic of the friend group like? How do the girls differ from each other? How are they similar?

7. Lucy is described as mysterious and an enigmatic character. How would you describe her? Do you like or dislike her?

8. What purpose does trust serve? Do the characters trust each other?

9. In what ways does the relationship between Lucy and Margot mirror that of Eliza and Margot? How are Lucy and Eliza similar? What are their effects on Margot?

10. How does this novel discuss the idea of a true identity and a perceived one?

11. Lucy often betrays her friends, and Margot is aware of this. Why do you think Margot continues to be friends with her? Do you think friendships require trust and loyalty?

12. Lucy discusses how the pledges are ?desperate to belong.? Do you think Margot is this way? Is Lucy?

13. The characters read and reference STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE often. How does this relate to the characters?

14. How does the college and dark academic atmosphere at Rutledge amplify the suspense?

15. Lucy has a fascination with stars, from the ones on her necklace, ceiling, phone and the song ?Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.? What do the stars represent for Lucy? How is Lucy similar to a star? Is Eliza?

16. What did you think about the ending? Do you think it was deserved? Was there justice in the end? Who do you think turned out to be the true ?villain? in the end?

Author Bio

Stacy Willingham is the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and internationally bestselling author of psychological suspense. Her books include A FLICKER IN THE DARK, ALL THE DANGEROUS THINGS, ONLY IF YOU'RE LUCKY and FORGET ME NOT.

Her debut, A FLICKER IN THE DARK, has sold over one million copies in North America alone. It was the winner of *Strand Magazine*'s Best Debut Award and a finalist for the Book of the Month's Book of the Year award, Goodreads Choice Best Debut award, Goodreads Choice Best Mystery & Thriller award, and ITW's Best First Novel award. Her work has been translated in more than 30 languages.

Before turning to fiction, Stacy was a copywriter and brand strategist for various marketing agencies. She earned her B.A. in magazine journalism from the University of Georgia and M.F.A. in writing from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She lives in Charleston, South Carolina, with her husband, daughter and dog.

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