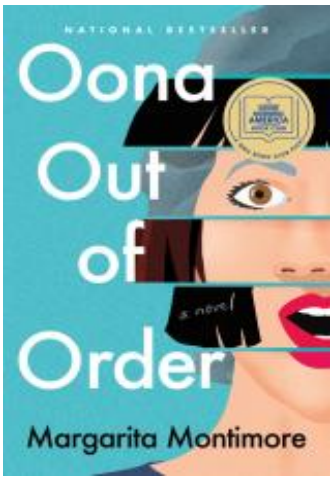
Oona Out of Order

by Margarita Montimore



About the Book

A remarkably inventive novel that explores what it means to live a life fully in the moment, even if those moments are out of order.

It?s New Year?s Eve 1982, and Oona Lockhart has her whole life before her. At the stroke of midnight she will turn 19, and the year ahead promises to be one of consequence. Should she go to London to study economics, or remain at home in Brooklyn to pursue her passion for music and be with her boyfriend? As the countdown to the New Year begins, Oona faints and awakens 32 years in the future in her 51-year-old body. Greeted by a friendly stranger in a beautiful house she?s told is her own, Oona learns that with each passing year she will leap to another age at random. And so begins OONA OUT OF ORDER.

Hopping through decades, pop culture fads and much-needed stock tips, Oona is still a young woman on the inside but ever changing on the outside. Who will she be next year? Philanthropist? Club Kid? World traveler? Wife to a man she?s never met?

Surprising, magical and heart-wrenching, Margarita Montimore has crafted an unforgettable story about the burdens of time, the endurance of love and the power of family.

Discussion Guide

1. Discuss the novel?s epigraph: ?Time heals all. But what if time itself is the disease?? How do you interpret that question? How does the novel seek to answer it?

2. In the prologue, Oona reflects that her condition is the closest thing she could imagine to immortality. What do you think she means? Do you agree?

3. Oona has a ?no spoiler? approach to time travel and takes precautions to reveal certain things about her future but keep others secret via her annual letters. Do you agree with her approach? If you were to switch places with Oona, how much of your future would you reveal. and what would you add/remove from the letters?

4. Family is a major theme in OONA OUT OF ORDER. How does Oona and Madeleine?s relationship change over the course of the novel? What about Oona?s ideas about her own family?

5. To counteract living her life out of sequence, Oona spends much of the novel searching for constancy. Who/what are some of the constants she manages to establish throughout her leaps?

6. Oona experiences a variety of romantic connections throughout the course of the novel. How does her perception of her relationship with Dale change over the years? How does her unique marriage affect her views on romantic relationships? What about other men she?s involved with? Do you think it will be possible for Oona to have a sustained romance despite her leaping? Why or why not?

7. The time travel in OONA OUT OF ORDER serves as a way to explore imposter syndrome --- her leaps often leave her in situations where she feels unprepared for the role she?s in and what?s expected of her. Which situations do you think she handles effectively, and which could she have handled better?

8. There are moments when Oona laments mistakes she's made in her life and considers trying to fix them. What mistakes do you think she has made? Do you think she was better off trying to prevent them or learn from them?

9. As each leap brings new challengers into her life, Oona often struggles with a desire to return to her younger self. How does she try to combat nostalgia to live more fully in the present?

10. Oona and the people closest to her often describe her life as ?bittersweet.? Do you agree that her time travel makes her life feel more bittersweet than it would if she were living ?in order?? Why or why not?

11. Discuss the evolving role of music in Oona?s life. How does her relationship to it change from the first chapter to the last, and why?

12. Near the end of the novel, Kenzie tells Oona that he is sometimes jealous of her time traveling. Do you understand his feelings? Are there aspects of Oona?s condition that appeal to you?

13. How much of Oona?s destiny do you think is predetermined? Do you think she?s capable of changing her future? What do you think this book ultimately says about fate vs. free will? Do you agree or disagree?

14. Did you have a favorite section in the novel? Why?

15. Assuming her ?time sickness? will persist, what do you imagine the next few years might look like for Oona?

Author Bio

Margarita Montimore is the author of THE DOLLHOUSE ACADEMY, ACTS OF VIOLET, ASLEEP FROM DAY and OONA OUT OF ORDER, a *USA Today* bestseller and "Good Morning America" Book Club pick. After receiving a BFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College, she worked for over a decade in publishing and social media before deciding to focus on the writing dream full-time. Born in Soviet Ukraine and raised in Brooklyn, she currently lives in New Jersey with her husband and dog.

Oona Out of Order

by Margarita Montimore

Publication Date: February 9, 2021
Genres: Fiction
Paperback: 352 pages
Publisher: Flatiron Books
ISBN-10: 1250236614
ISBN-13: 9781250236616