

Rabbit Moon

by Jennifer Haigh



About the Book

A tense, propulsive drama set in Shanghai about a fractured American family, secret lives, and the unbreakable bond between two sisters, from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *MERCY STREET*.

Four years after their bitter divorce, Claire and Aaron Litvak get a phone call no parent is prepared for: their 22-year-old daughter Lindsey, teaching English in China during a college gap year, has been critically injured in a hit-and-run accident. At a Shanghai hospital they wait at her bedside, hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

The accident unearths a deeper fissure in the family: the shocking event that ended the Litvaks' marriage and turned Lindsey against them. Estranged from her parents, she has confided only in her younger sister, Grace, adopted as an infant from China. As Claire and Aaron struggle to get their bearings in bustling, cosmopolitan Shanghai, the newly prosperous "miracle city," they face troubling questions about Lindsey's life there, in which nothing is quite as it seems.

With Jennifer Haigh's trademark psychological acuity, *RABBIT MOON* is a taut, suspenseful story about the ties of marriage that no divorce can sever, and the fabled red thread that pulls two sisters together across time and space. Haigh proves yet again that she is "an expertly nuanced storyteller" her work is gripping, real and totally immersive" (*New York Times*).

Discussion Guide

1. Grace is the only family member who is not present in Shanghai when the novel opens. What is Grace's role in the story? How would it be a different story without her?

2. What is Johnny Du's function in the story? What role does he play in Lindsey's life?
3. At what point in the story did you suspect how Lindsey was earning her living in Shanghai? What gave it away?
4. As adoptive parents, Claire and Aaron encourage Grace to explore her Chinese heritage. Are their efforts successful? Is there anything they could have done differently?
5. Technology plays an important role in the novel. If the story had been set 30 years earlier --- before the digital era --- what would have been different?
6. Lindsey's relationship with Dean Farrell changes the course of her life. How do you think her life would have turned out if they'd never met?
7. In the final section, told from Grace's point of view, we see how the Litvaks' lives unfolded after they returned from Shanghai. Both Aaron and Claire make major life changes. Did these changes surprise you?
8. Do you think Claire and Aaron's marriage still would've ended if Lindsey hadn't met Dean Farrell? Why or why not?
9. What does traveling to China mean to Grace? What does she discover?
10. How does the world around the characters impact their behavior? If the story were set in the United States, how would it be different?

Author Bio

Jennifer Haigh's first novel, *MRS. KIMBLE*, won the PEN Hemingway Award for debut fiction. Her previous novel, *MERCY STREET*, was named a Best Book of 2022 by *The New Yorker* and won the Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award. Her short stories have been published widely in the *Atlantic*, *Granta*, *The Best American Short Stories* and many other places. Published in 18 languages, her work has been recognized by the Guggenheim Foundation, the Michener Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives in Boston.

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