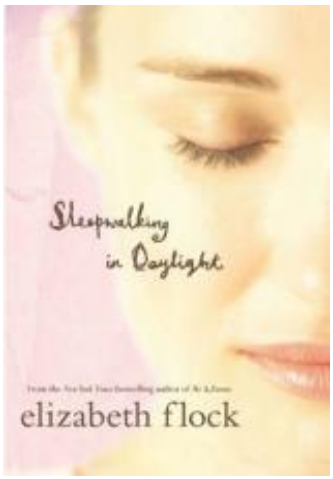
Sleepwalking in Daylight

by Elizabeth Flock



About the Book

Once defined by her career and independence, stay-at-home mom Samantha Friedman's days have been reduced to errands, carpools and suburban gossip. What was an easy decision for Sam years ago has become a nagging awareness that this life was *her choice*. Now she deals with a husband who shows up for dinner but is too preoccupied for conversation, and a daughter swathed in black clothing and Goth makeup who won?t talk at all.

Believing she?s an adopted mistake, seventeen-year-old Cammy has fallen into sex and drugs and pours herself into a journal filled with poetry and pain. On parallel paths, mother and daughter indulge in desperate, furtive escapism --- for Sam, a heady affair with her supposed soul mate, fueled by clandestine coffee dates and the desire to feel *something;* for Cammy, a secretive search for her birth mother punctuated by pills, pot and the need to feel absolutely nothing.

New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Flock?s novels have been hailed as ?haunting? (*Booklist*) and ?tremendously touching? (*Kirkus Reviews*). With **Sleepwalking in Daylight**, she perceptively reveals the inner workings of a modern marriage and the complicated mother-daughter relationship with unflinching honesty, delivering her most powerful, provocative story to date.

Discussion Guide

1. Sleepwalking in Daylight opens with a very provocative look at sex and the modern marriage. On a scale of one to ten, where do you think sex ranks in terms of importance in a marriage?

2. Do you believe there is a greater amount of dissatisfaction in today?s relationships? What role do you think people?s expectations play in the success or failure of their relationships?

3. Statistics show that more and more women are marrying later in life. Do you think couples who marry after age 30

have a better chance of having a successful marriage than those who marry young, as Samantha and Bob did?

4. When do you think Samantha started to lose her connection with Cammy? If her relationship with Bob had been on better footing, do you think Samantha would have let her daughter withdraw as much?

5. Do parents ever really know their kids? We like to think so, but when it comes to independent teenagers, can we be sure? How confident are you that you would know whether or not your child has tried alcohol and/or drugs, and what would you do if they had?

6. It can be very easy for us to blame the parents for a child?s mistakes. At what point does a teenager ?own? her actions and decisions? Discuss how much of the responsibility you feel falls on Cammy?s shoulders, not her parents?, for her choices and behavior.

7. Discuss the novel's structure. In what ways do the alternating narratives between mother and daughter enhance the story? How do the scenes in a teenager?s voice give you further insight into the characters and their actions?

8. When it comes to adultery, some people claim their partner?s lack of attention for ?forced? them into the arms of another. Was this the case for Samantha? Do you buy that argument? Given the circumstances, do you blame her for getting close to Craig?

9. How do you feel about Bob?s actions (or inaction) throughout the story? Did you find him to be a sympathetic character? What role, if any, do you feel his supposed depression played in the novel?

10. How do you think the story might have changed if Sam had talked candidly with Craig?s wife at the soccer game? If you were in Sam?s shoes, would meeting his wife and child have been enough to prompt you to end the relationship?

Author Bio

Former journalist Elizabeth Flock reported for *Time* and *People* magazines before becoming a television reporter and anchor in San Francisco, California. After moving to New York, Flock became an on-air correspondent for CBS News covering breaking news both in the United States and abroad. Notably, reporting from Havana, Cuba, for Pope John Paul II?s visit with Fidel Castro; reporting from London following the death of Princess Diana; and reporting from Hong Kong where she covered the handover from the British to the Chinese.

Flock's acclaimed first novel, BUT INSIDE I'M SCREAMING, a fictionalized account of a journalist's fight for sanity, was published by MIRA Books in 2003. Reviewers called the novel "riveting," "insightful," and, in the words of the *Oakland Tribune*, "hard to put down." But INSIDE I'M SCREAMING has since been translated into six languages and has sold nearly a quarter of a million copies.

In 2005, Flock's second novel, ME & EMMA (MIRA Books), spent six consecutive weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Called "a triumph" by bestselling author Kathleen DeMarco, ME & EMMA has been compared to TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, and was referred to as "haunting?not soon forgotten," by *Booklist*. *Kirkus Reviews* wrote, "Flock captures [the main character's] powerlessness and resourcefulness beautifully?tremendously touching." ME &

EMMA was chosen as one of the "Best Books of 2005" by *Booksense* and was a *Highlight* Pick of the Year. In addition to being a bestseller in the UK, ME & EMMA has been published in 10 countries, translated into seven languages and has sold over 500,000 copies worldwide.

EVERYTHING MUST GO (MIRA Books, 2007), Flock's third novel, is set in the Connecticut of her childhood. *The Dallas Morning News* wrote, "in Ms. Flock's talented hands, [Henry] becomes someone readers will keep rooting for long after it would seem the game is over," and *Booklist* wrote, "another strong characterization from Flock, who uncannily immerses herself in [the main character's] vulnerable, yet stalwart, psyche." On the show Sunday Papers, WGN-Radio's Rick Kogan called the main character "one of the most interesting characters in contemporary fiction."

Elizabeth Flock lives in New York City and Northeast Harbor, Maine.

Critical Praise

"Have you ever opened your eyes and realized that you've been sleepwalking through your life? If so, this is the novel for you. **Sleepwalking in Daylight** is heartfelt and poignant, unique and memorable. Elizabeth Flock's characters feel real, her dialogue is first-rate. The story is rich and resonates long after the last page has been turned. This novel isn't about the perfection of life, but rather, how life's imperfections make it all the more precious."

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