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The Girl Before

by JP Delaney



About the Book

In the tradition of THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN, THE WOMAN IN CABIN 10 and GONE GIRL comes an enthralling psychological thriller that spins one woman?s seemingly good fortune, and another woman?s mysterious fate, through a kaleidoscope of duplicity, death and deception.

Please make a list of every possession you consider essential to your life.

The request seems odd, even intrusive --- and for the two women who answer, the consequences are devastating.

EMMA

Reeling from a traumatic break-in, Emma wants a new place to live. But none of the apartments she sees are affordable or feel safe. Until One Folgate Street. The house is an architectural masterpiece: a minimalist design of pale stone, plate glass and soaring ceilings. But there are rules. The enigmatic architect who designed the house retains full control: no books, no throw pillows, no photos or clutter or personal effects of any kind. The space is intended to transform its occupant --- and it does.

JANE

After a personal tragedy, Jane needs a fresh start. When she finds One Folgate Street, she is instantly drawn to the space --- and to its aloof but seductive creator. Moving in, Jane soon learns about the untimely death of the home?s previous tenant, a woman similar to Jane in age and appearance. As Jane tries to untangle truth from lies, she unwittingly follows the same patterns, makes the same choices, crosses paths with the same people, and experiences the same terror as the girl before.

Discussion Guide

1. As you were reading, did you engage with the survey questions alongside Jane and Emma? How would your answers differ from theirs? Were there any questions in particular that stood out to you? Did you surprise yourself with any of your responses?

2. Emma and Jane have a lot in common, but there are also striking differences between the two women. Compare and contrast these two characters, and discuss some of the ways in which their differences and similarities influenced their relationships.

3. How does living at One Folgate Street impact each of the women? In what ways do our environments shape our experiences? If you could make one change to your current living environment that would have an impact on your behavior, what would it be?

4. Describe your personal style when it comes to home décor and architecture. How does that style shape or reflect your personality? Would you want to live in a minimalist space like One Folgate Street?

5. On page XX, Jane finds Edward?s discarded sketch --- the pentimento image with two overlaid versions of her face. What did you make of that moment? What do you think the image meant to Edward?

6. Discuss Emma?s relationship with Saul. What do you think really happened there?

7. Could you forgive Jane?s deceptiveness, as revealed at the end of the novel? Were you surprised by her confession?

8. What do you think of Edward?s dream to create a community of homes like One Folgate Street? Could such a project ever really work successfully? Why or why not?

9. Which character did you relate to the most in this novel? Why?

10. Describe Simon?s relationship with each of the women.

11. Emma inspires passion and obsession in many of the men who fall into her orbit. What quality or qualities make her so compelling? Have you ever known someone like Emma?

12. Make a list of every possession you consider essential to your life.

Author Bio

JP Delaney is a pseudonym for a writer who has previously written bestselling fiction under other names. Delaney is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller THE GIRL BEFORE, which is being brought to the screen by Academy Award winners Ron Howard and Brian Grazer?s Imagine Entertainment.

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Publication Date: January 2, 2018

Genres: Fiction, Psychological Suspense, Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Thriller

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books

ISBN-10: 0425285065

ISBN-13: 9780425285060