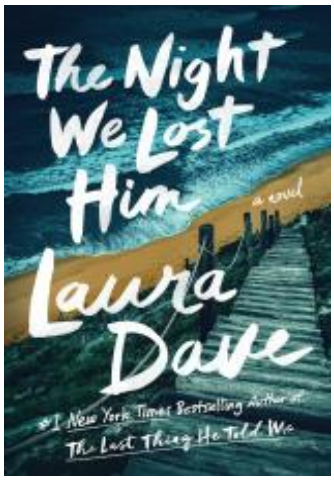
ReadingGroupGuides
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The Night We Lost Him

by Laura Dave



About the Book

In this riveting novel from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME, estranged siblings discover their father has been keeping a secret for over 50 years, one that may have been fatal.

Liam Noone was many things to many people. To the public, he was an exacting, self-made hotel magnate fleeing his past. To his three ex-wives, he was a loving albeit distant family man who kept his finances flush and his families carefully separated. To Nora, he was a father who often loved her from afar --- notably a cliffside cottage perched on the California coast from which he fell to his death.

The authorities rule the death accidental, but Nora and her estranged brother, Sam, have other ideas. As Nora and Sam form an uneasy alliance to unravel the mystery, they start putting together the pieces of their father's past --- and uncover a family secret that changes everything.

With Laura Dave's trademark combination of soulful suspense and evocative family drama, THE NIGHT WE LOST HIM is a riveting page-turner with a heartbreaking final twist that you will never see coming.

Discussion Guide

1. Consider the quotes about architecture that open each section of the book. How are they connected to one another? How do they inform each part of the novel?

2. In the Prologue, Liam Noone keeps ?playing the moments back on an unforgiving loop: the moments he is trying to return to, to relive. The first moment at eighteen, then at twenty and twenty-six and thirty-seven and forty-five. Fifty-eight. Sixty-one. Sixty-eight.? (page 3) The years of each of the novel?s flashbacks coincide with these moments Liam recalls. How does that enhance the importance of these flashbacks?

3. How would you describe the relationship dynamic between Nora and Sam? Consider how Nora and Sam?s past and present interactions shape their investigation into their father?s death.

4. What role does the setting of Carpinteria, California, play in the narrative? How do the locations like Windbreak, Ditmas Park and other key settings influence the story?

5. The character of Liam Samuel Noone is full of complexity. What are your thoughts on his life choices and their impact on his family? Unpack Liam?s motivations and how his actions reverberate through the lives of two of his children, Nora and Sam.

6. The novel frequently shifts between past and present. How does this narrative structure affect your understanding of the story? How do the flashbacks to Liam?s past contribute to the unfolding mystery?

7. Themes of grief and love often intersect throughout THE NIGHT WE LOST HIM. How do different characters cope with these emotions? Can you identify with any of the characters? different means of coping? Discuss the varying ways in which characters like Nora, Sam and others process their grief.

8. Cece Salinger is a pivotal character in the story. What do you think about her relationship with Liam and her influence on the plot? Discuss Cece?s motivations and her impact on the events surrounding Liam?s death.

9. In the novel, Liam recalls Cory saying: ?Fidelity is who you tell your stories to.? (page 130) What do you think she means by this? How does this idea speak to the different relationships in the novel?

10. The reverberations of Cory?s true identity can be felt by every character in the novel. How did this long-kept secret shape the characters and their actions? Have you ever experienced the effects of family secrets? Consider the roles of inherited secrets and their long-term effects on family members.

11. Were you familiar with neuroarchitecture before reading about Nora?s profession? How does this career influence her approach to solving the mystery? Discuss how Nora?s skills and perspectives as an architect play into her investigation.

12. In a flashback, Cory recalls a writer once saying that his stories are ?a love letter to one person.? (page 229) Do you think this is true? Do you think *The Night We Lost Him* is a love letter from Nora to her father? Share your thoughts surrounding the fates of the characters. What do you think is next for Nora?

Author Bio

Laura Dave is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels, including THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME and EIGHT HUNDRED GRAPES. Her novels have sold more than six million copies and have been translated into 40 languages. THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME was the Goodreads Mystery & Thriller of the Year for 2021 and is now a series on Apple TV+, cocreated by Laura. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their son.

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