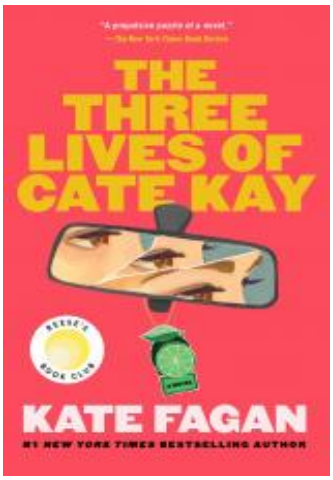
The Three Lives of Cate Kay

by Kate Fagan



About the Book

THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO meets FIRST LIE WINS in this electric, voice-driven debut novel about an elusive bestselling author who decides to finally confess her true identity after years of hiding from her past.

Cate Kay knows how to craft a story. As the creator of a bestselling book trilogy that struck box office gold as a film series, she?s one of the most successful authors of her generation. The thing is, Cate Kay doesn?t really exist. She?s never attended author events or granted any interviews. Her real identity had been a closely guarded secret, until now.

As a young adult, she and her best friend, Amanda, dreamed of escaping their difficult homes and moving to California to become movie stars. But the day before their grand adventure, a tragedy shattered their dreams, and Cate has been on the run ever since, taking on different names and charting a new future. But after a shocking revelation, Cate understands that returning home is the only way she?ll be a whole person again.

Discussion Guide

1. THE THREE LIVES OF CATE KAY is ultimately about one woman?s biggest regret. What do you think about the role of regret and redemption in this novel?

2. Have you ever felt what Amanda and Annie describe in the novel as ?cosmic bigness?? What does that phrase mean to you?

3. Jake Fischer, Janie Johnson and Sidney Collins are all characters adjacent to celebrity. How does proximity to fame motivate their choices?

4. Cate Kay?s memoir is a collection of chapters written in part by her supporting cast. Do you think any of these narrators are particularly unreliable? What do you think of the differing perspectives?

5. Given how Cate and Sidney?s relationship ended, why do you think Sidney agreed to contribute to Cate?s memoir?

6. Was Amanda?s choice to zip-line across the pool a theatrical or adventurous impulse? Or was she looking for attention from Annie?

7. Why did Janie call the paparazzi on Cate and Ryan?

8. How does ambition affect the relationships between characters in THE THREE LIVES OF CATE KAY?

9. THE THREE LIVES OF CATE KAY is a novel full of messy and imperfect characters. Who is your favorite character, and when were they at their messiest?

10. Which author, living or dead, do you wish would write a tell-all memoir about their success?

Author Bio

Kate Fagan is an Emmy Award?winning journalist and the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of WHAT MADE MADDY RUN, which was a semifinalist for the PEN/ESPN Award for literary sports writing. She is also the author of three additional nonfiction titles, a former professional basketball player, and spent seven years as a journalist at ESPN. Kate currently lives in Charleston with her wife, Kathryn Budig, and their dog, Ragnar.

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