The Twelve

by William Gladstone



About the Book

The Twelve is an extraordinary and unforgettable novel about a most unusual and unsuspecting hero. As a child, Max lives in a world of colors and numbers, not speaking until the age of six. As an adult, Max ventures on a journey of destiny to discover the secret behind the ancient Mayan prophecy about the ?end of time,? foretold to occur on December 21, 2012.

At fifteen years old, Max has a near-death experience during which he has a vision that reveals the names of twelve unique individuals. While Max cannot discern the significance of the twelve names, he is unable to shake the sense that they have deep meaning. After completing his schooling at Harvard and Yale, eight years pass before Max meets the first of The Twelve.

With this first meeting, Max?s voyage of discovery begins, as he strives to uncover the identities and roles of the twelve individuals he will meet during his journey toward truth. All of The Twelve seem connected, and all of them are important to what will happen at the exact moment the world as we know it will end.

The novel takes the reader on a series of spectacular adventures to Jerusalem, Athens, London, India, Istanbul, China, Japan, and Mexico, culminating in an understanding of why and how Max and The Twelve are destined to unite and discover the true meaning of December 21, 2012.

The outcome of their meeting could fulfill an ancient Mayan prophecy, controlling the future of life on our planet. Only The Twelve can provide the answers, as the fate of all humanity rests in the balance

Discussion Guide

1. Do you know anyone who has ever had a near death experience? Do you think the author made up this near death

experience, or is it possible the description is accurate? If accurate what does this imply for the nature of reality and the universe?

2. Do the events surrounding Max?s Bolivian adventure directly relate to the main storyline? If not why did the author provide this chapter of seemingly impossible coincidences resulting in a close call for Max?

3. Many readers have compared the spiritual message of **The Twelve** to messages in **The Celestine Prophecy** and **The Alchemist**. If this is true for you, how does the message of **The Twelve** compliment, contradict or extend what you learned from those books?

4. Unlike **The Celestine Prophecy**, **The Twelve** spends the first quarter of the book developing the main character and sharing Max Doff?s personality with readers. Do you think this approach enhanced or detracted from the spiritual journey and spiritual message? Why do you think the author felt the personality of Max Doff was essential to convey his spiritual message?

5. Max starts his life full of innocence and wonder. He has several experiences which might have changed his view of life --- the beatings at the hands of Louie, the threat of being incarcerated in a mental institution, losing most of his money and material possessions --- and yet Max remains optimistic and productive throughout his life. Do you know people who have been able to deal with negativity without losing their innocence and sense of wonder? If so, how and why do you think this is possible?

6. Have you read other books about 2012? If so how do the messages in those books compare with the positive message of **The Twelve**?

7. Do you think that 2012 has any actual importance in the possible evolution of humanity?

8. If in fact you are one of the twelve how would you know? What would change in your life?

9. Are you aware that Plato, Pythagoras and other scholars believed that the dodecahedron, the twelve-sided cube, was the structure and shape of the universe? Why do you think that twelve or a multiple of twelve is at the heart of almost every major religion and spiritual tradition in the world, including: the Zodiac, the twelve gods of Olympus, the twelve apostles, the twelve tribes of Israel, the twelve knights of the round table, the twelve princes of Xibalba, and the thirty-six just souls of the Kabbalah tradition?

10. Which member of **The Twelve** did you most identify with and why?

11. After reading **The Twelve** does the equation ?A is and is not equal to A? have any specific meaning for you?

12. Do you think the vision of a post-2012 world presented in the novel **The Twelve** is achievable in reality?

Author Bio

William Gladstone has worked with some of the most respected and influential authors of our time, including Eckhart Tolle, Deepak Chopra, and Barbara Marx Hubbard. As a pioneer in the publishing industry, William contributed to the

creation of the first print-on-demand book publishing company. Throughout his career, William has also worked with prominent visionaries, including Tom Anderson, founder of Myspace; Peter Norton, founder of Norton Computing; and Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux operating system.

William has served on the boards of public and private companies. He was the founding president of the Alumni Association for School Year Abroad, based in Andover, Massachusetts. William attended Yale College and earned a graduate degree in cultural anthropology from Harvard University. He resides in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California.

Critical Praise

"Entertaining and inspiring."

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