We Own the Sky

by Luke Allnutt



About the Book

Rob Coates feels like he?s won the lottery of life. There is Anna, his incredible wife, their London town house and, most precious of all, Jack, their son, who makes every day an extraordinary adventure. But when a devastating illness befalls his family, Rob?s world begins to unravel. Suddenly finding himself alone, Rob seeks solace in photographing the skyscrapers and clifftops he and Jack used to visit. And just when it seems that all hope is lost, Rob embarks on the most unforgettable of journeys to find his way back to life, and forgiveness.

WE OWN THE SKY is a tender, heartrending, but ultimately life-affirming novel that will resonate deeply with anyone who has suffered loss or experienced great love. With stunning eloquence and acumen, Luke Allnutt has penned a soaring debut and a true testament to the power of love, showing how even the most thoroughly broken heart can learn to beat again.

Discussion Guide

1. At one point, Rob talks about the inevitability of couples breaking apart after losing a child. What could Rob and Anna have done to stay together? Do you think their relationship has a future?

2. Is Rob too self-centered? Did he consider Anna?s feelings enough? And does he deserve her forgiveness in the end?

3. Why do you think Rob placed so much faith in Nev and Dr. Sladkovsky?

4. Nev explained his actions to Rob by saying he got trapped and promoted the clinic due to financial reasons. Do you believe his explanation? Does Nev deserve our forgiveness?

5. Was Anna?s acceptance of the doctors? verdicts naive? Should she have tried to do more to save Jack?

6. The online forum, Hope?s Place, becomes an important part of Rob?s life. How can online communities help in such situations? And why do you think people reach out to strangers online?

7. Do you think Rob is a reliable narrator? Do you think Anna?s version of events would be radically different?

8. With a few exceptions, Rob and Anna felt their friends and acquaintances were being unsupportive. How best can friends support people who are going through something similar?

9. Young children often understand death differently to adults. Do you think Jack knew what was happening to him?

10. Heartbreak and tragedy are difficult but central themes of the book. Yet the story is, ultimately, full of hope. What was the hopeful message you took away?

Author Bio

Luke Allnutt grew up in Surrey and works as a journalist in the Czech Republic, writing for the British and American press, mainly about politics and technology. He is a keen long-distance runner and proud dad of two boys. WE OWN THE SKY is his first novel.

Photo Credit: Roy Baron

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