



The Good Neighbor

By William Kowalski
ISBN: 9780060936259

Introduction

When Francie and Colt stumble upon an abandoned 150-year-old farmhouse in rural Pennsylvania, they both agree they have to have the home -- but for entirely different reasons. Francie never felt comfortable in New York City, despite living there for ten years. And although Colt is uncomfortable anywhere outside of the city, a country house would be just the thing to impress his boss and accelerate his promotion. Now the house and its tragic history threaten to shatter Francie and Colt's already fragile relationship. But everything happens for a reason, and soon Francie and Colt unearth things about themselves that they never would have discovered had it not been for mysterious Adencourt.

Questions for Discussion

1. Did Colt and Francie ever really love each other?
2. How are Francie's father and Colt alike, and why might that have influenced why Francie was drawn to Colt?
3. What is the irony of Colt's last name?
4. What drives Colt to sucker-punch Michael in the nose? What is it about Michael that most bothers Colt?
5. At what point does Colt start showing a change of heart towards Flebberman, and his life in general? Do you think it was because of his near-death experience, or because none of his colleagues went to Joe's funeral?
6. Colt has imaginary conversations with his father. Francie suffers from the "Gallopings Sobs." Hamish traveled to Vienna to hopefully meet Freud. Ellen never wanted to grow up. What does the book imply about each character's mental instability?
7. Colt ridicules her wife for her dependencies. What is Colt addicted to?
8. Ultimately it is Colt who asks Francie to reconsider the divorce. Do you feel there is hope for a relationship like theirs?
9. Colt believes that even the smallest events in the world somehow influence the stock market. What other "small" events have great implications in the story?
10. Do you eventually start to understand what makes Colt who he is? Does he ever become a sympathetic character?
11. Who is "The Good Neighbor" and why?

About the Author

William Kowalski is the author of *Eddie's Bastard*, *Somewhere South of Here*, and *The Adventures of Flash Jackson*. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1970 and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania. He lives in Nova Scotia with his wife and daughter.