

FALL FROM GRACE

by CHARLES BENOIT



About the Book

Grace always has a plan. There's her plan to get famous, her plan to get rich, and—above all—her plan to have fun.

Sawyer has plenty of plans too. Plans made for him by his mother, his father, his girlfriend. Maybe they aren't his plans, but they *are* plans.

When Sawyer meets Grace, he wonders if he should come up with a few plans himself. Plans about what he actually wants to be, plans to speak his own mind for a change, plans to maybe help Grace with a little art theft.

Wait a minute—plans to *what*?

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think the title *Fall from Grace* means? Besides the main character's name being Grace, what does the title mean to you?
2. What is Grace's definition of fame, and why is it such a big goal for her?
3. When Sawyer recalls his stealing mission with Grace at the Model UN event, he thinks, "It was stupid and immature and uncalled for and disrespectful and all that. But it was fun" (p. 13). What kind of "fun" does Grace introduce Sawyer to that he hasn't experienced before?
4. Sawyer's dad's advice is to "find a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life" (p. 22). Later he says, "It's a job, Sawyer. It's not supposed to be fun" (p. 26). How can these two statements make sense to Sawyer's parents? What does it say about them?
5. Why are people so quick to judge Grace as "a loser" (p. 68)? What factors contribute to this label?
6. Why does Sawyer stay with Zoë? And why doesn't he become romantically involved with Grace?
7. Grace takes risks, unlike Sawyer, but her risks are always governed by an extensive plan. Sawyer has a plan for his life . . . but it involves no risks. Why do these two characters take comfort in the idea of a "plan" (p. 59), however different they are?
8. Sawyer's coworker tells him: "If you don't know what you want, you can't complain about what you get" (p. 74). Why is Sawyer never sure about what he wants?
9. What role does sex play in the book? Zoë and her friends like to play "the naughty-girl role" in front of Sawyer, but they very rarely go as far as they say they will, while Grace and Sawyer have an upfront nonsexual relationship. What do these contrasting relationships say about Sawyer?
10. Does Grace manipulate Sawyer? If so, how does she succeed? Or does Sawyer decide his own fate?
11. Was Sawyer's father's decision about Sawyer's math test fair? Did Sawyer actually get that grade? Given the way Sawyer got the grade, should he have argued with his father?

