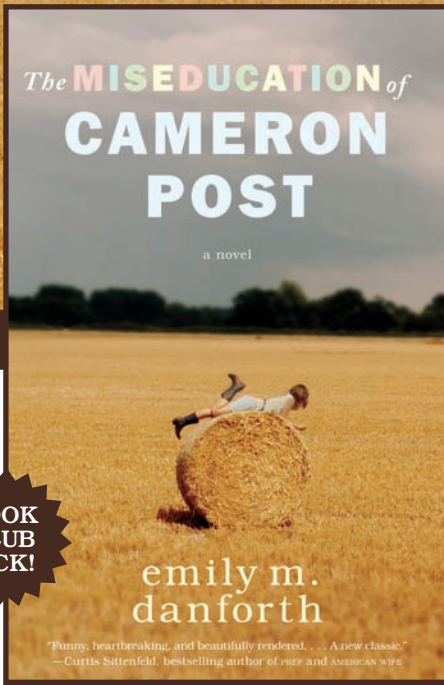


CAMERON POST

by emily m. danforth

About the Book

When Cameron Post's parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they'll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl. But that relief doesn't last, and Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth. She knows that from this point on, her life will forever be different. Survival in Miles City, Montana, means blending in and leaving well enough alone, and Cam becomes an expert at both...until her secret is exposed. Ultrareligious Aunt Ruth takes drastic action to "fix" her niece, bringing Cam face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self—even if she's not exactly sure who that is.



BOOK CLUB PICK!

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Cameron's initial reaction when she learns of her parents' deaths make her feel guilty? As Cameron processes her grief, how does she feel a different kind of guilt?
2. How do you feel about Cameron's early thought that "that's how it worked: guys and girls. Anything else was something weird" (p. 11)?
3. What do you think Cameron's dollhouse symbolizes to her? What might it symbolize in terms of the novel?
4. Why does Cameron turn to movies as a hobby? Why does she shoplift and steal small tokens? How are these two activities related, and how does Lydia analyze each at her one-on-one with Cameron? Do you agree or disagree with these analyses?
5. How does Cameron feel about religion, and why do you think she struggles with faith? Does Cameron find what she's looking for in the Bible? How can the Bible be open to interpretation?
6. Use just a single word to describe Cameron's romantic relationship with each of the following: Irene, Lindsey, Jamie, Coley, Adam, and Erin. How does each relationship—even the brief experience with Erin—reflect where Cameron is in terms of sorting out her sexual identity?
7. What do you think about the principles behind God's Promise? Do you think a young person should be forced to attend an institution like it without his or her consent? Why or why not?
8. What does "a teachable heart" refer to (p. 256)? What else could it signify for the novel as a whole?
9. How do you know that Ruth loves Cameron? In what ways does Ruth misdirect her love? Does Cameron love Ruth and her grandmother? How can you tell?
10. Why does Cameron have a tough time rationalizing Lydia's statement that "sin is sin" (p. 290)? How does Lydia refute the existence of homosexuality, and what do you think of this line of reasoning?
11. How did you feel reading Coley's letter to Cameron? Were you surprised by Coley's response to what had happened between them, or was it what you expected of her?
12. Review the passage where Mark recites Second Corinthians 12:7–10 (p. 367). Why does this passage precede Mark's breakdown and self-mutilation? What do you think it might mean to Cameron and the other students in the wake of Mark's tragedy?
13. Why does Cameron tell the state investigator that she doesn't trust the staff at Promise? Why doesn't her declaration cause any changes?
14. How does the Montana setting enhance the themes of the novel?
15. Why is Cameron so adamant when she tells Lydia, "My choices are my own, not my parents'" (p. 451)? How does Cameron find closure about the loss of her parents?
16. How are Cameron's friendships with Adam and Jane unlike any she has experienced previously? How do they help Cameron survive—and escape—Promise? How does Cameron manage the difficult task of holding on to herself at Promise?