



Born Under a Lucky Moon

By Dana Precious
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Introduction

Born Under a Lucky Moon is the tale of two very important (but distant) years in the lives of Jeannie Thompson and her (embarrassing, crazy) colorful family members to whom "things" just seem to happen. From the Great Lakes of Michigan to Los Angeles and back again, it is a story of surprise marriages, a renegade granny, a sprinkler system cursed by the gods, and myriad other factors Jeannie blames for her full-tilt, out-of-control existence. But it's also about good surprises like an unexpected proposal that might just open Jeannie's eyes to her real place among the people she loves most in the world . . . the same ones she ran far away from to begin with.

Questions for Discussion

1. *Born Under a Lucky Moon* opens with the lines: All roads in my hometown lead to water. I used to think they were all dead ends." Why did the novel's narrator, Jeannie, think this? What eventually makes her change her mind?
2. Why do you think the author chose to interweave past and present rather than tell the story in a direct line from past to present? What insights do the juxtaposition of time frames offer you, the reader?
3. Compare and contrast the four sisters, Elizabeth, Sammie, Lucy, and Jeannie. What are their relationships like with men? How do they interact with each other? Do you think the sisters were honest with each other? Think about the sisters' mother and father. Do you think they were good role models?
4. Talk about Jeannie's family. Do you think they are nutty? Anna, the wife of Jeannie's brother, Evan, challenges them: Why can't your family lead nice quiet lives like the rest of us? Why does every little thing have to be a drama?" Is she right? How would you answer her?
5. Were Jeannie's concerns about her family justified, or just an excuse not to marry Aidan? Describe her relationship with Aidan. What made Jeannie fear committing to him?
6. Describe Jeannie's growth through the novel. How did her early experiences shape her adulthood? As an adult, she has a high stress career juggling the egos of movie stars and directors, studio budgets and office politics. How did her background help her succeed in her career? How did being in this family mold the person Jeannie is?
7. Towards the end of the novel, Jeannie tells her mother, Maybe we're not supposed to get so involved in each other's lives." Were the sisters too involved? How does their involvement sustain their bond and how does it strain it?
8. Jeannie describes love as a gray area." Define her meaning, and explain how she came to this conclusion. Do you agree with her?
9. When they were growing up, Jeannie's father advised his daughters, take a chance. If you ever have a chance to do something different in this life, do it." What do you think about this advice? What are some reasons that hold people back from making a leap?
10. Her brother, Evan, tells Jeannie, you have to be willing to take a new look at something to figure out if you're seeing it from the right angle." Use examples from the book and your own experience, to argue his point.
11. Jeannie's hometown was almost like a character itself. How does it play out in the story of her life and her family?
12. At the beginning of the story Jeannie has problems talking about who she is. I'm not sure how I can describe myself. It's like the way you never see yourself in a mirror the way other people see you." How would you describe Jeannie? Do you think she has a more clear-eyed view of herself by the story's end?

About the Author

Dana Precious lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son. She has two dogs: a small border terrier named Thompson (as in Hunter/long story) and Bella, a very large bulldog whose activity of choice is sleeping on the couch and watching *Oprah*. Prior to writing, Dana worked for several major film studios.