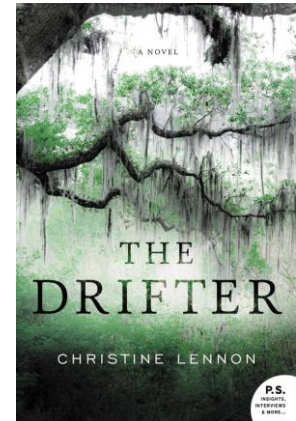


THE DRIFTER

William Morrow

By Christine Lennon

ISBN: 9780062457578



Introduction

Megan Abbott meets M.O. Walsh in Christine Lennon's compelling debut novel about a group of friends on the cusp of graduating from college when their lives are irrevocably changed by a brutal act of violence.

For two decades, Elizabeth has tried to escape the ghosts of her past...tried to erase the painful memories...tried to keep out the terrifying nightmares. But twenty years after graduating from the University of Florida, her carefully curated life begins to unravel, forcing her to confront the past she's tried so hard to forget.

Sweeping readers from the exclusive corners of sorority life in the South to the frontlines of the drug-fueled, slacker culture in Manhattan in the '90s and early '00s, when Elizabeth is forced to acknowledge her role in the death of a friend in order to mend a broken friendship and save her own life, *The Drifter* is an unforgettable story about the complexities of friendships and the secrets that can ultimately destroy us.

Questions for Discussion

1. Betsy sees herself differently than others see her. Do you think that you perceive yourself in the same way that others do? When and why are there discrepancies?
 2. *The Drifter* delves into sorority culture of the late 1980s and early 1990s. How does this inform all of the women's relationships throughout the novel?
 3. Betsy's friends become like family when she's at school. How do these friendships define her over the course of her life? Is Caroline a true friend? Is Gavin? Is Betsy?
 4. What are your impressions of Caroline? What are your impressions of Ginny? Do those change as the novel progresses?
 5. Music is a big part of *The Drifter*. How do you think the songs relate to the story? Do they foreshadow events? Do they set a tone for the story? Are there any themes hidden within them?
-

6. Betsy's adult life is defined by her time in Gainesville—the music, the art, the fashion, the friends. Is there a time or a place in your life that has helped to define you?
 7. Betsy often uses unconventional humor to lighten the mood or cast a shadow over a situation. Why do you think she does this? How does this influence her relationship with those around her? Does her humor reveal how she is feeling? Explain why or why not.
 8. Gavin and Betsy have a complicated relationship. Do you think it progressed too fast? Was Ginny's death a catalyst for their relationship? Do you think they are ultimately a good match?
 9. There are a number of parent– child relationships in the story. How would you describe the relationship between Betsy and Kathy? Does this affect how Betsy interacts with her daughter? Do you think Betsy is a good parent?
 10. To what extent do you think that each of the girls could have prevented Ginny's tragic death? Were they in any way guilty? How did their innocence play into the crime?
-