



BOOK CLUB KIT

The Theory of (Not Quite) Everything

KARA GNODDE

“If this novel about mathematicians were a math problem, and Kara Gnodde set out to prove that love is varied, unpredictable, and infinite in its capacity to expand, then she’s done it. I adored this quirky, big-hearted book.”

—MARY BETH KEANE, *New York Times*
bestselling author of *Ask Again, Yes*

Meet Art and Mimi Brotherton. Devoted siblings and housemates, they’re bound together by the tragic death of their parents. Mathematical genius Art relies on logic, while Mimi prefers to follow her heart.

When Mimi decides she needs more from life than dutifully tending to her brilliant brother, she asks for his help to find love. Art agrees, but on one condition: that she find her soulmate using a strict mathematical principle. Things seem promising until Mimi meets Frank: a romantic, spontaneous stargazer who’s also a mathematician. Despite Mimi’s obvious affection for the quirky Frank, Art is wary of him from their very first encounter.

As Art’s mistrust of Frank grows, so do Mimi’s feelings, and the siblings’ relationship is brought to a breaking point. Something about Frank doesn’t quite add up, and only Art can see it . . .

The Theory of (Not Quite) Everything is a tender, intelligent and uplifting novel about brothers and sisters, true love in all its forms, and how the answers to life’s biggest questions follow a logic of their own.

KARA GNODDE was born in Johannesburg and raised on a diet of Dr. Seuss and no TV. After graduating from the University of Cape Town, she joined Saatchi & Saatchi in London as a strategic planner—work that required head and heart, her favorite kind. She lived in Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore before settling back in the UK with her husband and three children. A discussion on the radio about a math problem that could change the world, or perhaps just help keep her desk tidy, gave her a place to start *The Theory of (Not Quite) Everything*, her debut novel.

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HARPER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Mimi and Art's bond is central to the story. How does their relationship compare to yours with your own siblings? Do you think it's true that our siblings know our "truest self"?
2. In your mind, how and why did Mimi allow her life to become so subjugated to Art's? Was it in her nature, or the nature of their relationship, or did events conspire to limit her?
3. Mimi believes that Art occupies a disproportionate share of his parents' attention, especially their mother's. Do you think this is accurate? How does her perspective affect her adult life?
4. How do you think Mimi and Frank's story might have unfolded if Mimi hadn't given him a fake name to start? Is Mimi right when she says their relationship is founded on a lie?
5. Which of the characters in the book do you relate to most closely, and why?
6. Do you think Art's initial concerns about Frank were well-founded? Or was he reaching for reasons to reject Frank?
7. Are you a "37%er" or a "rule-of-thumb"? Do you agree with Art that "math is everywhere," and that mathematics makes life better, or is its influence insidious?
8. What qualities make Mimi so well-suited to being a Foley artist? What does her success in that field reveal about her as a character?
9. Rey's surprising admission towards the end of the novel brings a certain kind of peace to Art and Mimi. Do you think she should have told them earlier, or would they not have been ready to hear it?
10. What do you think is next for Art, Mimi, Frank, and Rey?

