



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

IF YOU'RE LUCKY

by YVONNE PRINZ

After Georgia's brother, Lucky, drowns in a surfing accident, a charming stranger comes to town for his funeral. As Georgia seeks the truth about what really happened to Lucky and her suspicions about the stranger grow, the line between Georgia's increasingly fragile mental state and reality begin to blur.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

YVONNE PRINZ is the award-winning author of *The Vinyl Princess* and *All You Get Is Me*. A Canadian living in the San Francisco Bay Area, she is the cofounder of Amoeba Music, the world's largest independent music store.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The town in the book is called False Bay. How does the name of the town incorporate and reflect the themes of the story?
2. On page 46, Georgia thinks that maybe if she leaves town and goes to culinary school, she could start over as someone other than "Lucky's crazy sister." Given what you know about Georgia after reading the book, will she have a shot at starting over? Besides a change of location, what other changes would help her succeed? And what things might cause her to fail?
3. On page 58, Georgia notes that her mom wrote Lucky's height on a wall from when he was two until he was fifteen but only wrote hers from when she was four until she was ten. On page 61, she notes that one Christmas, her parents gave Lucky a puppy and she got a bookshelf. How do family exchanges like this affect Georgia? Do you think these are perceived slights or actual signs that her parents favored Lucky over her? Discuss how this contributes to Georgia's view of the world and her place in it—and how her view of the world contributes to what she perceives and describes to the reader.
4. On pages 88-89, Georgia looks at a photo of Lucky and his friends after a day of surfing. Lucky is on one side of the group and Fin is on the opposite side. Georgia notices that "everyone was grinning at the camera except Fin. Fin was grinning at Lucky." If a picture is worth a thousand words, how would you sum up what this picture is saying? Can one picture tell a whole story? Why or why not?
5. When he arrives, Fin captivates many of the residents of False Bay. He endears himself to Georgia and her parents, and to Sonia, Jeff, and Miles. It's true that most of us want to be liked, and we feel special when someone shows us attention. Is everyone who can turn on the charm also a skilled manipulator like Fin? Where is the line between accepting this kind of attention and becoming skeptical about a person's motives? What kinds of behavior might trigger suspicion?
6. When Georgia thinks she is seeing Fin for who he really is, she doubts herself because of previous mistakes. On page 94, she wonders if she's "being paranoid." She can't trust her gut instinct. What is gut instinct? Is it an intellectual response or an emotional one or a little bit of both? How are Georgia's instincts about Fin affected by her mental illness and medications?
7. When Georgia stops taking her medications, there is a noticeable change in her behavior. What would you do if you noticed changes in a friend's behavior or mood that were troublesome? What is a friend's responsibility in that kind of situation?
8. As Georgia becomes increasingly convinced that Fin has come to her town to take over her dead brother's life, what evidence does she uncover to prove her theory? Why don't people take her seriously? As you learned about Georgia's mental illness, how did it affect how you thought about her evidence?
9. Fin shows up for Lucky's memorial party wearing Lucky's silver charm, which says "fearlessness" in Sanskrit (page 24). When Georgia sees it, she's crushed. Lucky had always promised it to her. Lucky had always been fearless. What are some of the ways that Georgia displays her own fearlessness? What about Sonia, Sharon, Jeff, and Miles—do they demonstrate fearlessness? If so, how?
10. What were some of the twists and turns in the novel that took you by surprise? Discuss some of the visual moments that have stayed with you. Why do you think they are so vivid?

Reader's Guide by Diane Cain



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