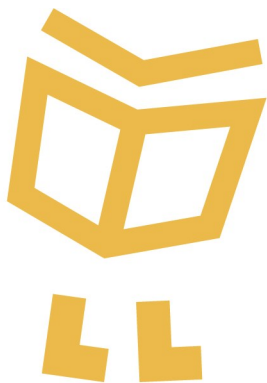


BOOK CLUB in a bag

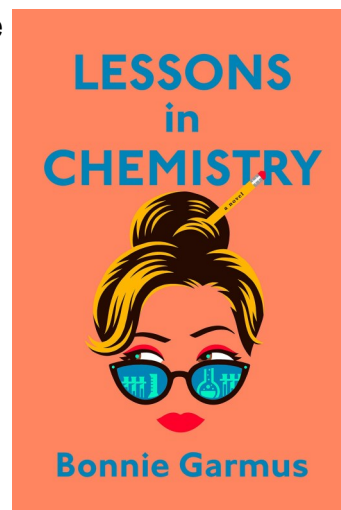


Lessons in Chemistry

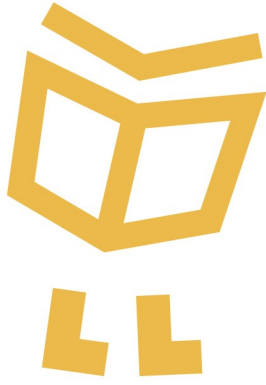
Bonnie Garmus

Discussion Questions

1. What were you expecting from the book to start with? Did the book meet your expectations? If not, what was different?
2. The book features a flood of sexism, unfair pay, sexual assault, and a profoundly dismissive attitude toward Elizabeth's, Frask's (frankly all women's) intellect. That all sounds very 1950's. But is it? How is some of this sexism and sexual harassment still present in today's culture?
3. What did you think about the eventual romance between Elizabeth and Calvin? Why were they a good fit, aka, full of 'true chemistry'?
4. Were you shocked with Calvin's storyline? Did it come as a total surprise? What did you think of the way the author related this part of the novel, and the immediate aftermath of how Elizabeth is treated?
5. Why do you suspect the author decided to include the viewpoint of their dog, Six-Thirty?
6. When Elizabeth finds out she's pregnant, she's less than thrilled. In what ways did motherhood surprise Elizabeth?
7. In the book, rowing is a metaphor on how Elizabeth sees a better society: that no one person in the boat is more important than the other. Have you ever participated in anything—work, sports, community efforts—where everyone must “row as one” in order to succeed? What are the hurdles people must overcome in order to reach the point where “it all feels easy”?
8. How do you feel about the reaction of women to Supper At Six? Does Elizabeth make the greatest difference as a Chemist or as an inspiration?
9. The story features a great supporting cast from the neighbor Harriet (who eventually becomes like an extended family member) to Elizabeth's producer Walter (who becomes her best friend). Who was your favorite supporting character and why?
10. Were you expecting the twist with Parker Avery at the end? Did it work for you?



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About the Author

Bonnie Garmus is a copywriter and creative director who has worked widely in the fields of technology, medicine, and education. She's an open-water swimmer, a rower, and mother to two pretty amazing daughters. Born in California and most recently from Seattle, she currently lives in London with her husband and her dog, 99.

Via Penguin Random House Canada (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2249085/bonnie-garmus/>)

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