



The Perfect Fit

By Louise Kean
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Introduction

Sunny Weston is a delightful person who happens to feel that she lives on the sidelines of life. She had always been overweight, but now that she has slimmed down, she doesn't know where she fits in the world. If men find her suddenly attractive, is she still the same person? Does her new body throw off the familiar dynamic among her women friends? Why?

As the novel opens, Sunny has just rescued a child from an attempted kidnapping. With a sense of surprise, danger, and immediacy, Louise Kean's narrative leaps right into the attitudes in our society toward gender, attraction, and how looks affect power—while also telling a quirky and believable love story. Sunny is caught between two men, one who she thinks she "should" love, and the other who she thinks she "should" detest. As she sorts through this dilemma, and learns just how much appearance can affect who you are in this world, she becomes a strong, fearless, truly admirable

woman.

Questions for Discussion

1. The novel opens with an epigraph from Eleanor Roosevelt, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Do you agree?
2. On the first page, Sunny tells us that her self-view is entirely based on how much she weighs. Do you understand her feelings? Does this seem extreme to you?
3. Sunny describes many of the "side-effects" of losing weight, things that those who haven't been through it might not expect. She points out that an addiction to food can be shifted to an addiction to losing weight. (Page 5) Discuss some of the ways in which addiction or obsession play important roles in this story.
4. Sunny talks about how she felt "invisible" before she lost the weight, and the way "it is frightening to go unnoticed for so long, and then suddenly pop into everybody's sight with a magician's puff of smoke and screaming 'Ta-da!'" (Page 12) What other things might make someone feel invisible in our society. Is this different for men and women?
5. At least part of the reason that Sunny is able to rescue the stolen child is that she has a new body. Do you think the author is showing ways in which losing this much weight is not simply about vanity?
6. It is through this sudden adventure that Sunny meets Cagney James. What is your first impression of him, and why?
7. What do you think of Sunny's circle of friends? It often seems as if what they really want is to undermine each other. Why might this be?
8. On pages 48 and 49, Sunny describes her imaginary husband. Is her fantasy realistic? What purpose might it serve?
9. What does Sunny continue to see in Adrian, even though she says she doesn't love him, and he says he's engaged to someone else?
10. Discuss the importance of personal appearance, of living up to both real and imaginary standards of beauty, and the ways in which this issue is different for men and for women. Do you see this as changing at all?

About the Author

Louise Kean is the author of two prior novels, *Toasting Eros*, and *Boyfriend in a Dress*. She is 32, and works in Film Advertising in Soho, London. A graduate of UEA, she lives in Richmond, England. Her fourth novel, *Material Girl*, was released in 2006 in the UK. She is currently working on her fifth novel, a thriller cum love story, while trying not to think about having her first hit of Botox. She is single, but plans on marrying the new James Bond at some point in the near future: she just has to meet him first . . .