

Still Me

by Jojo Moyes · Language: EN

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Overview

Still Me is the third novel in Jojo Moyes's Me Before You series, following Louisa Clark as she moves to New York City to work for a wealthy socialite, Agnes Gopnik. The story picks up after Louisa's breakup with Ambulance Sam and her decision to start a new life in a new city. She takes a job as a personal assistant to Agnes, who is married to the much older Leonard Gopnik, and becomes entangled in the Gopniks' glamorous but complicated world. Louisa struggles with feelings of displacement and identity, missing her old life and the people she left behind, while trying to navigate the social codes of the Upper East Side.

The novel explores themes of self-discovery, the meaning of home, and the courage to be true to oneself. Louisa's journey is marked by her encounters with new friends, including the quirky dog-walker Ashok and the enigmatic Nathan, and by her growing friendship with Agnes, who is herself trapped in a loveless marriage. As Louisa becomes more involved in the Gopniks' lives, she must confront her own values and decide what she truly wants. The story culminates in a series of revelations that force Louisa to make difficult choices about love, loyalty, and her own future.

Still Me matters because it continues the beloved story of a character readers have come to care about, while also standing alone as a thoughtful exploration of modern relationships and the search for personal fulfillment. Moyes's warm, witty prose and her ability to create relatable, flawed characters make this a compelling read for fans of contemporary fiction. The novel also touches on issues of class, privilege, and the challenges of adapting to a new culture, offering a nuanced look at the complexities of life in a city like New York.

Key Takeaways

- It's okay to feel lost and uncertain when you start a new chapter in life; embracing the discomfort can lead to personal growth.
- True friendship often comes from unexpected places, and being open to new connections can enrich your life.
- You can't force someone to love you, but you can choose to love yourself and build a life that makes you happy.
- Sometimes the people who seem to have everything are the ones who need the most compassion.

- It's important to stand up for what you believe in, even when it's easier to go along with the crowd.
- Home isn't a place; it's the people who make you feel safe and accepted.
- Taking a risk on a new job or a new city can be scary, but it can also lead to wonderful opportunities.
- You are allowed to change your mind and redefine what success means to you.

Chapter Summaries

Part One: New York

Louisa Clark arrives in New York City, having taken a job as a personal assistant to Agnes Gopnik, the young wife of a wealthy businessman. She is overwhelmed by the city's scale and the opulence of the Gopniks' apartment, but also excited by the possibilities. She meets her new boss, Agnes, who is kind but distant, and the other staff, including the doorman and the housekeeper. Louisa struggles with feelings of inadequacy and homesickness, but is determined to make a success of her new life.

Part Two: The Gopniks

Louisa begins to learn the routines of the Gopnik household. She observes the strained relationship between Agnes and Leonard, and the constant presence of Leonard's adult daughter, who disapproves of Agnes. Louisa also meets Nathan, a former nurse who now works as a personal trainer, and they strike up a friendship. Louisa finds herself drawn into the family's dramas, including a dinner party where she feels out of place, and she starts to question whether she truly fits into this world.

Part Three: Friends and Foes

Louisa becomes closer to Agnes, who confides in her about her loneliness and her fear of losing her identity in her marriage. Louisa also befriends Ashok, a dog-walker who introduces her to the city's hidden corners. Meanwhile, she receives a letter from Sam, her ex-boyfriend, which stirs up old feelings. Louisa begins to feel more confident in her role, but she also becomes aware of the tensions simmering beneath the surface of the Gopniks' perfect life.

Part Four: The Affair

Louisa discovers that Agnes is having an affair with a man she met at a charity event. Torn between her loyalty to Agnes and her sense of right and wrong, Louisa confronts Agnes, who confesses that she is miserable in her marriage and that the affair is her only escape. Louisa is sympathetic but also troubled. Meanwhile, Leonard's daughter begins to suspect something and starts to investigate, putting Louisa in a difficult position.

Part Five: The Fallout

The affair is exposed, and the Gopnik household is thrown into chaos. Leonard is devastated, and Agnes is forced to leave the apartment. Louisa is caught in the middle, trying to support Agnes while also dealing with the fallout from Leonard's anger. She also has to confront her own feelings for Sam, who has come to New York to see her. Louisa realizes that she cannot fix everything, and she must decide where her loyalties truly lie.

Part Six: A New Beginning

Louisa helps Agnes start a new life, encouraging her to pursue her own interests and find her own path. She also reconciles with Sam, realizing that she still loves him and that they can build a future together. Louisa decides to leave the Gopniks' employment and return to England, but she does so with a sense of accomplishment and a clearer understanding of who she is. The novel ends with Louisa looking forward to a future that is truly her own.

Themes

- Self-discovery
- Identity and belonging
- Friendship
- Love and loyalty
- Class and privilege
- New beginnings

Notable Quotes

- "I had become used to being the one who made the decisions, who took charge, who sorted things out. But here, in this city, I was nobody." — Louisa reflects on her feelings of insignificance and loss of identity after moving to New York.
- "You can't live your life for other people. You have to do what's right for you." — Agnes tells Louisa this during a conversation about their respective struggles.
- "I was beginning to realize that home wasn't a place. It was a feeling." — Louisa muses on the concept of home as she navigates her new life.
- "Sometimes the bravest thing you can do is to admit that you're scared." — Nathan says this to Louisa when she confides her fears about the future.
- "I had to stop waiting for someone else to give me permission to be happy." — Louisa comes to a realization about her own agency and happiness.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Still Me about?

Still Me is about Louisa Clark, who moves to New York City to work as a personal assistant to a wealthy socialite. The novel follows her struggles with identity, homesickness, and her involvement in the Gopniks' troubled marriage. It's a story of self-discovery and finding where you belong.

Is Still Me worth reading?

If you enjoyed Me Before You and After You, Still Me is worth reading because it continues Louisa's journey with warmth and humor. It's a satisfying conclusion to her story, though it's less emotionally intense than the first book. Fans of contemporary women's fiction will find it engaging.

How does Still Me end?

Spoiler: Louisa helps Agnes leave her marriage and start a new life. She also reconciles with Sam, realizing she still loves him. She quits her job and returns to England, feeling more confident and clear about her future. The ending is hopeful and uplifting, with Louisa embracing her own path.

Who should read Still Me?

Readers who loved the previous books in the Me Before You series will want to read Still Me to see what happens to Louisa. It's also a good choice for anyone who enjoys contemporary fiction about personal growth, friendship, and navigating new environments. If you like Jojo Moyes's style, you'll enjoy this.

How long does it take to read Still Me?

Still Me has about 400 pages, so at an average reading speed of 250 words per minute, it would take roughly 8-10 hours. Most readers finish it in a week or two of casual reading.