

LOVE, Lucy

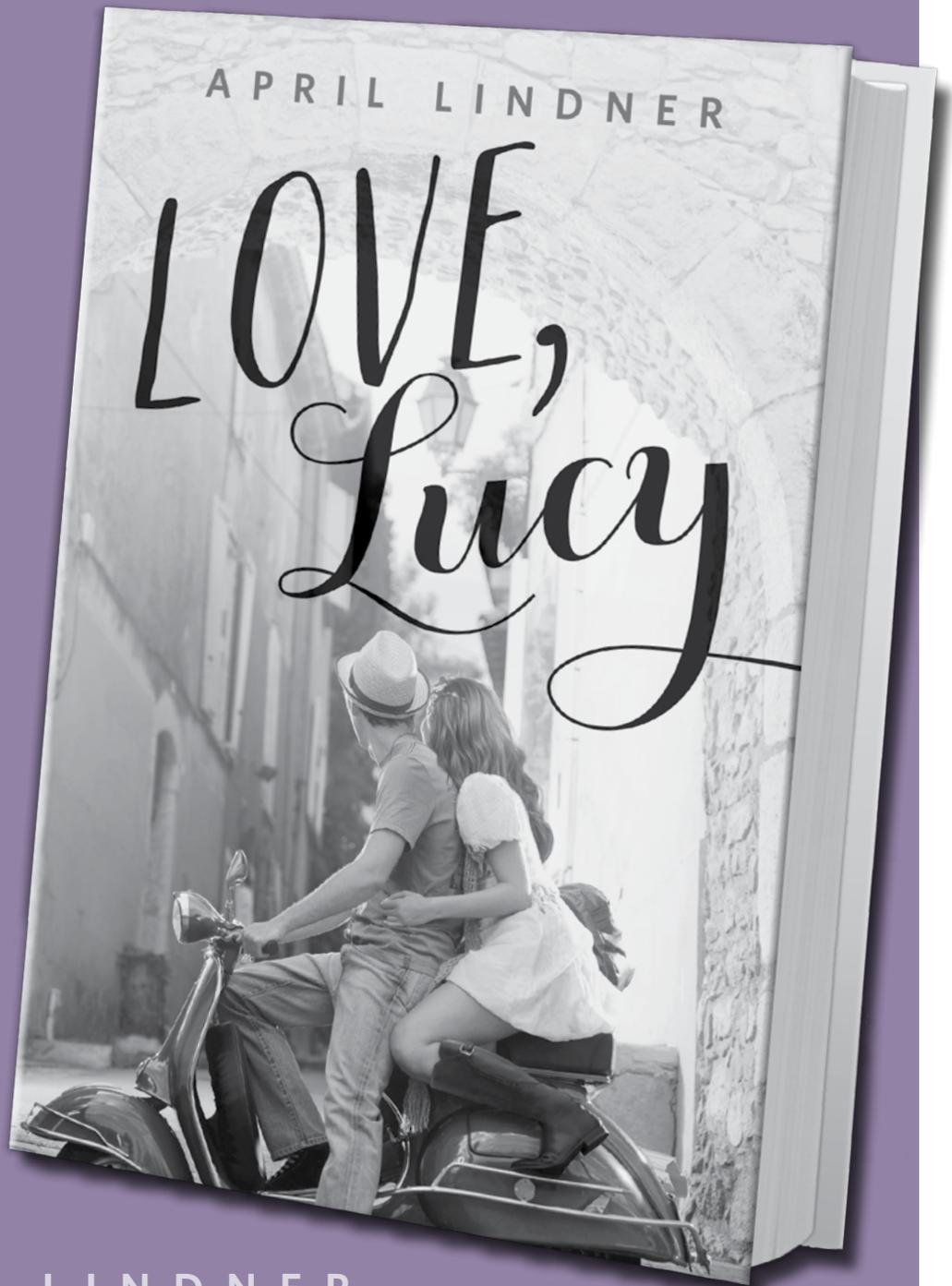
Curriculum connections

- ❖ Literature
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Performing Arts

Thematic connections

- ❖ Love and romance
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Travel
- ❖ Identity

Ages: 15 and up

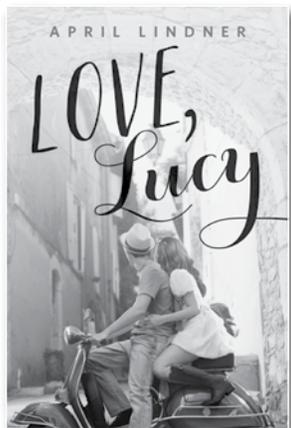


BY APRIL LINDNER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why did Lucy's parents send her to Europe? Was it a gift? A bribe? Why does her father insist she study business? Why doesn't he trust her to make her own decisions?
 2. During a family argument, Lucy's father says to her mother: "We're not her friends; we're her parents." But Lucy wonders, "*Can't you be both?*" (page 8). How would you answer Lucy's question? Can parents also be friends to their children? Should they be? Are yours?
 3. How would you describe Charlene's relationship with Lucy? "We never weren't friends," Charlene tells Lucy in Florence (page 49). Do you agree? Why or why not? How does their relationship evolve over the course of the novel?
 4. Why is Charlene so insistent about getting a room with a view in Florence? What is the practical advantage of such a room? What is the symbolic significance?
 5. Why is Jesse in Europe? What is he looking for? What do his parents want for him? "I don't believe in making plans," he says (page 55), when he meets Lucy. Is that still true by the end of the novel?
 6. "How could they go from being so in love one moment to wanting to kill each other the next?" Lucy wonders (page 81), when she sees a quarrel between lovers turn violent. Why are love and anger often two sides of the same coin?
 7. Before Lucy has sex for the first time with Jesse in Rome, she wonders, "*What if I'm not as ready as I think I am?*" (page 101). Is she rushing into a sexual relationship? What risks is she taking? Why does she ignore them?
 8. Why does Lucy immediately refuse Jesse's offer to stay with him in Florence? What does she realize about herself?
 9. What role do men play in the rising tensions between Lucy and Charlene in Italy? Is Charlene justified in feeling abandoned by Lucy? Why does Charlene fear that she is failing in her duty to Lucy and her parents? Do you think she is?
 10. Lucy tells her father that she will quit the college play, but she doesn't. Was she lying to him when she made the promise? Was she lying to herself?
 11. Lucy's father calls her "moderately talented" (page 255). Why does that feel to her like a slap in the face?
 12. *Love, Lucy* is loosely based on *A Room with a View*—a novel by E. M. Forster that was made into a popular film. If you can, read the original novel or view the movie. Discuss what's common to each version. Explore what's different.
 13. A picture taken by Charlene of Lucy kissing Jesse appears in the popular guidebook *Wanderlust*. Why does Lucy feel betrayed by Charlene? Why does Charlene feel betrayed by the writer of the guidebook? Would you be?
 14. "You're like a dream boyfriend," Lucy tells Shane. "I think maybe I don't deserve you" (Page 259-260). Do you agree? Why is Shane such an appealing guy? Why doesn't Lucy treat him better?
 15. Lucy has several hard decisions to make over the course of this novel. How does she arrive at those decisions? How well does she balance her heart and her head?
 16. "You have no idea what it feels like not to get every single thing you want," Charlene says to Lucy (page 94). Is Charlene being mean, as Lucy thinks? Or is she being truthful, as she claims? Does Lucy always get what she wants?
 17. *Love, Lucy* ends the summer after Lucy's freshman year in college. Try to imagine what her life will be like in 10 years. Will she still be with Jesse? Where does she live? What career is she pursuing?
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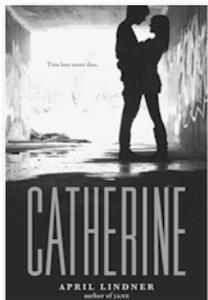
about the book



LOVE, LUCY
by April Lindner
HC 978-0-316-400695
Also available as an eBook

In this stunning novel, April Lindner perfectly captures the highs and lows of a summer love that might just be meant to last beyond the season. While backpacking through Florence, Italy, during the summer before she heads off to college, Lucy Sommersworth finds herself falling in love with the culture, the architecture, the food... and Jesse Palladino, a handsome street musician. After a whirlwind romance, Lucy returns home, determined to move on from her “vacation flirtation.” But just because summer is over doesn’t mean Lucy and Jesse have to be, does it?

also by April Lindner



HC 978-0-316-19692-5
PB 978-0-316-19693-2
Also available as
an eBook

A forbidden romance. A modern mystery. Wuthering Heights as you’ve never seen it before.

Told in two voices, twenty years apart, *Catherine* interweaves a timeless forbidden romance with a captivating modern mystery.

★ “Intricately written, this fast-paced story...will enthrall readers. Give this book to readers of Sarah Dessen, Stephanie Perkins, and Simone Elkeles.”
—*Library Media Connection*, starred review



HC 978-0-316-08420-8
PB 978-0-316-08419-2
Also available as
an eBook

An epic retelling of Charlotte Brontë’s classic Jane Eyre with an alluring rock star twist.

An irresistible romance interwoven with a darkly engrossing mystery, this contemporary retelling of the beloved classic promises to enchant a new generation of readers.

“Well-written and faithful to the original, Lindner’s story imbues Jane with the requisite innocence, stubbornness, and darkness of Brontë’s protagonist.... A fresh and addictive adaptation.” —*Publishers Weekly*

about the author



April Lindner is the author of *Catherine* and *Jane* and a professor of English at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. Her poetry collection, *Skin*, received the Walt McDonald First-Book Prize in Poetry, and her poems have been featured in many anthologies and textbooks. April lives with her husband and two sons in Pennsylvania. Visit her online at AprilLindner.com.



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