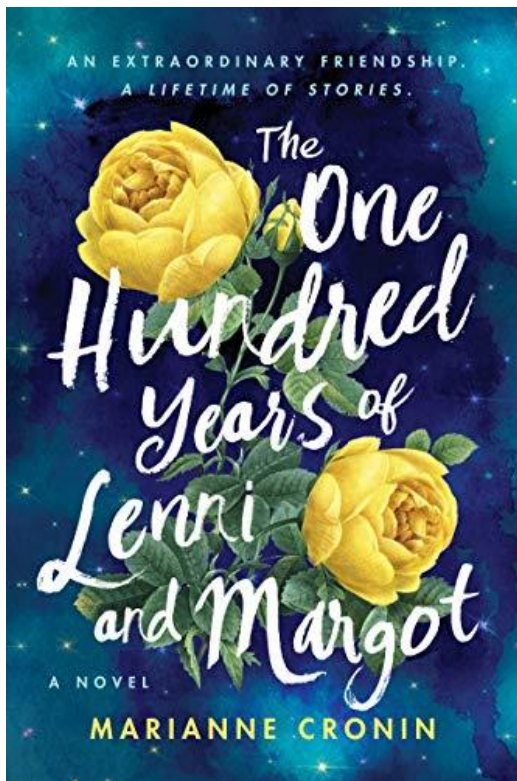


A Reader's Guide

The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot: A Novel

Author: Marianne Cronin

Subject: Literary Fiction



Summary

Seventeen-year-old Lenni Pettersson is terminally ill, a long-term, motherless patient rarely visited by her father. But in her final months, she gathers a new family of quirky characters who inhabit Glasgow Princess Royal Hospital. As the days drift by, Lenni seeks something to fill her time. One day, she decides to visit the chapel even though she is not particularly spiritual and her religious training is haphazard at best. She meets Father Arthur who is just months away from retirement. The priest finds in Lenni a witty, playful friend. She's just as likely to good-naturedly mock his vestments as to ask him why she is dying. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the hospital, a young office temp is trying to use her art degree to snag a full-time job.

Although her work backfires a bit when she loses her job to a proper teacher, the art therapy program she creates introduces Lenni to Margot, an 83-year-old woman awaiting her own death, Margot instantly clicks with Lenni. Recognizing that their ages add up to 100, Lenni and Margot embark on a massive project: 100 works of art to represent their entire century of life. Well, it's mostly Margot's art, because she's a wonderful artist, and Lenni's stories, because she's a terrible artist. So as Lenni's health declines, Margot's stories chase through a broken marriage, criminal escapades, and unexpected liaisons. A book of joy and whimsy on the end of life!

Conversation Starters

1. Friendship is a big theme of the book. How do Lenni's friendships with Margot, Father Arthur and New Nurse change her?
2. What do you think happens to Margot after the end of the book? Do you think she makes it to Vietnam to see Meena again?
3. How did Margo change throughout the stages of her life?
4. How do you think Lenni's unusual home life affected her?
5. If Lenni had grown up, what do you think she might have done with her life?
6. If you could visit one of the times or places in the book, where would you go?
7. If you were to make a film of Lenni and Margot, who would play the lead roles?
8. If you could be friends with one character from the book, who would it be?

About the Author

Marianne Cronin was born in 1990 and grew up in Warwickshire, England. She studied English at Lancaster University before earning a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Birmingham. She now spends most of her time writing, with her newly-adopted rescue cat sleeping under her desk. When she's not writing, Marianne can be found performing improv in the West Midlands, where she now lives. Her debut novel, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*, is to be translated into over 20 languages and is being adapted into a feature film by a major Hollywood studio.