

## Discussion Questions for *Off The Moon* by LK Hunsaker

### **On Psychology:**

At the beginning, Kaitlyn appears to be waiting for something while standing on the ledge as Ryan finds her there. She allows him to come out and try to talk her in. Did she actually intend to jump, or was she looking for attention as Ryan guesses?

After her miscarriage when she takes too many pain pills, she says she was not trying to commit suicide; she only wanted Ryan to come. Do you believe her?

The reason the seventh floor was blocked off is never answered. Why do you think this is?

At one point, Kaitlyn asks Ryan how he knows which is the act: his stage persona or his non-stage life. What does she mean and why does he avoid the question?

Kaitlyn chooses to maintain silence through much of her life after her trauma at a young age. Those in charge of her care through the years see it as a weakness or a mental disorder.

~ Is it?

~ Is someone who can deal with as much as she has and still be willing to try again and trust again actually weak or mentally impaired?

~ Is she being controlled by Ryan as her father suggests, or is she the one controlling the situation?

Why does Ryan continually vacillate between wanting Kaitlyn to stay with him and wanting her to stay with his family? Is it for her sake or for his?

How does Ryan's childhood affect how he deals with Kaitlyn?

### **On Age and Intimacy:**

Ryan struggles with Kaitlyn's age throughout the story. Do you think it's her actual age bothering him at the beginning when he thinks she's 19, or is it an excuse to maintain distance?

He thinks about the way he was "on his own" at 19 with plenty of "relationships" and having thought he was plenty old enough to do so. Yet, he believes Kaitlyn is not. Is this a double standard? Is it fair for him to try to make that judgment call for her?

What determines the age of consent for our legal system? [A woman's physical maturity is cited at least in New York's statutes.] How does mental maturity play into it? Is that less important than physical maturity?

Ryan's mom tells him toward the end about how in "older days" age wasn't as prohibitive as it is now. Why would she do this when she obviously didn't approve of the intimacy of their relationship?

In the long run, is Kaitlyn's intimate relationship with Ryan helpful to her as she suggests or will it turn out to be harmful? Will they stay together as she grows?

### **On Relationships:**

Did Ryan want Will to stop acting like his father in reality or did he try to perpetuate it?

How would you describe most of the women Ryan surrounded himself with, other than Kaitlyn? Does he purposely aim at this?

Do you think the interaction between Ryan and Daws shows a normal celeb/bodyguard relationship? If not, why would Ryan accept as much direction as he did from someone paid to work for him?

What did you think of Dani and her background? Although there were only hints of it, did it add to the story or detract from it? How about Nick's relationship with her?

How does Ryan feel about his mom?

Ryan tells Kaitlyn's dad he doesn't care what he thinks about him other than how it affects her. Is that true?

### **On Celebrity:**

Ryan spends time trying to make headlines, but after meeting Kaitlyn, he resents the press intruding on his personal life. Is this hypocritical?

Does the press hounding him about his personal life cross a line? Is this taking freedom of the press too far? How do we draw the line or should we?

Is Ryan a role model in any way? Should he be?

Why is it that we spend so much time following what celebrities are doing? Is it the press's fault?

Is it less hypocritical for us to rail against our children following celebs like role models when we buy the magazines than it is for celebs to feed into it and then rail against the lack of privacy?

Why is it that authors are less "celeb" than singers and actors? Is it only because they're less publicly visible?

### **On Creativity:**

*"My songs are just like everyone else's. Why bother?"* (pg. 123)

During album planning, Ryan gets frustrated about how his songs are produced and extends it to include creativity in general. Does he have a point? Are there any original songs coming out or are they the same songs written in a different way? Does it matter?

How would this apply to novels? As a reader, do you find stories that aren't "just like everyone else's"? What's the difference between a cliché'd story and an original story? Which one is this?

What did you think about Ryan's songwriting process? (at the meeting with his publicist and while sitting alone trying to find words)

### **On Literary Technique:**

What is the role of metaphor in the novel?

Hunsaker terms her work "Literary Romance" as a blend of genres. Is this an appropriate description? How is it different than mainstream novels? than romance novels?

The author originally intended to tell the story from Kaitlyn's point of view. Why do you think she may have changed it to Ryan's?

Was there anything unique about this author's writing style?

There is little character description and few ages are revealed. Why would the author choose to write the story this way?

How did you feel about the ending?

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Book Clubs: If you are reading and discussing *Off The Moon* and would like signed bookplates for each member, email [staff@elucidatepublishing.net](mailto:staff@elucidatepublishing.net) with a contact name and address and the first names of each club member.

Have discussion questions you feel should be added? Send them along for review!

Holding your discussion online? Invite the author and she'll try to pop in.

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