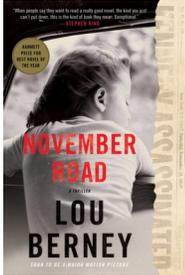


Books by the Stack



November Road by Lou Berney

A street lieutenant for a New Orleans mob boss flees when his knowledge about JFK's assassination makes him a target, a situation that is dangerously complicated by his relationship with a fugitive housewife.

Why you'll like it: *Suspenseful. Intricately plotted. Compelling.*

About the Author: Lou Berney is the author of *November Road* (a *Washington Post* Best Book of 2018), *The Long and Faraway Gone* (winner of the Edgar, Anthony, Barry, Macavity, and ALA awards), *Whiplash River*, and *Gutshot Straight*, all from William Morrow. He's also written a collection of stories, *The Road to Bobby Joe*, and his short fiction has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, and the Pushcart Prize anthology. He teaches in the MFA program at Oklahoma City University.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How would you describe Frank Guidry at the beginning of *November Road*? Were you confused as to whether he was the hero or the villain of the story? How do your views of Guidry change over the course of the novel?
2. What was Guidry's relationship with Carlos Marcello? Before reading *November Road*, were you at all aware of the real-life Marcello – his hatred for and stated intent to kill President John F. Kennedy?
3. After the Kennedy assassination, how did Guidry's world shift? Why is Paul Barone after him?
4. Talk about Charlotte Roy. What do you think of her decision to pack up her daughters (plus dog) and leave her husband? Other than putting distance between herself and Dooley, what else does Charlotte want? What is she looking for? What are her ambitions for herself and her daughters?
5. Talk about ways in which both Guidry and Charlotte change during the course of the novel? What attracts each of them to the other?
6. What is the symbolic meaning of the journey, the road?
7. Why is the novel title "November Road"? Consider the month of November – not only is it the month of the JFK assassination in the novel, but it traditionally signals the end of fall and the beginning of winter. Considering the national culture, how might November been seen as sort of watershed in the national culture: an end to something and the beginning of something else?
8. How does JFK's assassination affect events and people Frank and Charlotte meet along the way?

9. If you are old enough to have lived through the JFK assassination, talk about what you recall of that weekend. If you are too young, what have you been told about it?

(Questions provided by the litlovers.com)



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