

About the Author

At sixteen, Kim Liggett left her rural midwestern town for New York City to pursue a career in music. Along with lending her voice to hundreds of studio recordings, she was a backup singer for some of the biggest rock bands in the 80's. Kim spends her free time studying the tarot and scouring Manhattan for vials of rare perfume and the perfect egg white cocktail.

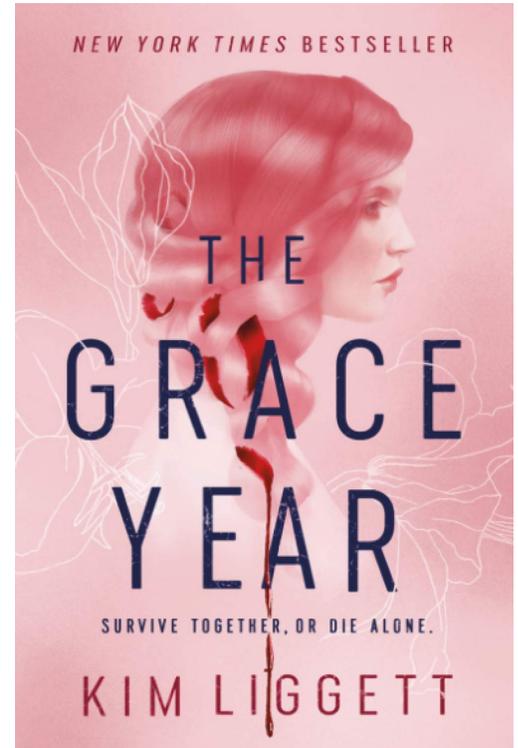
She is the author of four other books called Blood and Salt, The Last Harvest, Heart of Ash, and The Unfortunates.

About the Book

No one speaks of the grace year. It's forbidden.

In Garner County, girls are told they have the power to lure grown men from their beds, to drive women mad with jealousy. They believe their very skin emits a powerful aphrodisiac, the potent essence of youth, of a girl on the edge of womanhood. That's why they're banished for their sixteenth year, to release their magic into the wild so they can return purified and ready for marriage. But not all of them will make it home alive.

Sixteen-year-old Tierney James dreams of a better life—a society that doesn't pit friend against friend or woman against woman, but as her own grace year draws near, she quickly realizes that it's not just the brutal elements they must fear. It's not even the poachers in the woods, men who are waiting for a chance to grab one of the girls in order to make a fortune on the black market. Their greatest threat may very well be each other.



Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think that Tierney was so angry that Michael gave her a veil?
2. Why did the girls turn on each other instead of supporting each other? Do you think that this was realistic for 16 year old girls?
3. What did you think of Kiersten as a character? Why do you think that she was the way she was and did your opinion of her change at all throughout the novel?
4. It's obvious that the other grace year girls didn't have the powers that they thought they did but do you think that Tierney's dreams were her power?
5. Do you think that this book was set in the past or in the future? What did you think of the setting?
6. Were you surprised by Tierney's parents' role in the story? Do you think that they could have done more?
7. What did you think of the ending? Did you find it ambiguous or did you think that it was clear?

General Questions

1. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
2. What did you think of the writing overall? Were there any standout sentences?
3. Which was your favorite part? What about your least favorite?
4. Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?

