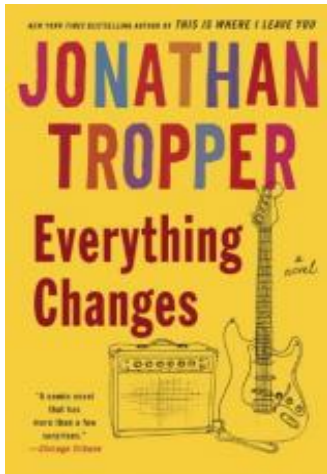


Everything Changes

by Jonathan Tropper



About the Book

To all appearances, Zachary King is a man with luck on his side. A steady, well-paying job, a rent-free Manhattan apartment, and Hope, his stunning, blue-blooded fiancée: smart, sexy, and completely out of his league. But as the wedding day looms, Zack finds himself haunted by the memory of his best friend, Rael, killed in a car wreck two years earlier—and by his increasingly complicated feelings for Tamara, the beautiful widow Rael left behind.

Then Norm-Zack's freewheeling, Viagra-popping father—resurfaces after a twenty-year absence, looking to make amends. Norm's overbearing, often outrageous efforts to reestablish ties with his sons infuriate Zack, and yet, despite twenty years of bad blood, he finds something compelling in his father's maniacal determination to transform his own life. Inspired by Norm, Zack boldly attempts to make some changes of his own, and the results are instantly calamitous. Soon fists are flying, his love life is a shambles, and his once carefully structured existence is spinning hopelessly out of control.

Charged with intelligence and razor sharp wit, **Everything Changes** is at once hilarious, moving, sexy, and wise—a work of transcendent storytelling from an exciting new talent.

Discussion Guide

1. **Everything Changes** begins with an earthquake, in New York City no less. How does Zach interpret this event? What does it lead you to expect from the novel?
2. Several times, Zach refers to himself as the man in the middle—among friends, in his family, and especially at work. To what extent is this true? To what extent is he also expected to be the man in charge?
3. When Norm arrives for his surprise reunion, the first thing Zach notices is his father's bulge. What was your reaction

to this theme of virility in comic proportions? How do the novel's characters view their own sexiness, including Pete (who wanted the Mustang to be his chick magnet)?

4. Zach's health scare gives him a quick lesson in urology, and mortality. What else does his experience with Dr. Sanderson teach him about himself, physically and emotionally?

5. In chapter Seven Zach recalls the wreck that took Rael's life. How do you picture Zach before the accident? In what way does it seem to have changed him? Were Rael and Tamara a good match?

6. In your opinion, what is the novel's turning point? What spurs Zach to face his true self? Can it be attributed to one event, or was it a gradual process that would have happened no matter what?

7. Chapters Ten and Eleven give us a glimpse of Matt as a performer, while Zach is botching a one-night stand with Jesse. What do Matt and Zach have in common at that point in their lives, besides being brothers?

8. How do Lela's sons perceive her? How does she compare to the other women in their lives?

9. Discuss the choices Jonathan Tropper made in crafting a storytelling voice for Zach. How does he weave new plot twists with Zach's memories? What is the effect of the passages that begin "this is what happens" and are written in the second person?

10. How does Zach's family compare to Hope's in ways that extend beyond material wealth? Does her overzealous father share any personality traits with Norm? Do Vivian and Lela have similar burdens to bear?

11. Zach shirks responsibility and fools around with other women. Does this mean he is following in his father's footsteps?

12. Zach and his family take on a number of bullies in the novel: bosses, snobs, a country club that Norm believes to be anti-Semitic, rude doctors, and Satch, who sold the car to Pete. How many of these battles do they win? How do they define victory?

13. Though Tamara didn't initially want children, she is devoted to her daughter. What is Sophie's role in Zach's life? How does her presence shape the narrative?

14. What stays the same in **Everything Changes**? What are the constants in Zach's life?

15. What did Norm mean at the end of chapter Thirty-nine when he writes, "*If all it took was the love in my heart, I'd be father of the year*"? Was Henry the only reason he came back to his family? Could anything have made him stay? Could anyone have made him honest?

16. Why were Tamara and Zach so hesitant to acknowledge their attraction? Was it simply an issue of timing, or were they both afraid of something deeper?

17. What do you predict for Henry's new life with Zach? What will Henry's role be among his three colorful brothers?

Author Bio

Jonathan Tropper is the author of ONE LAST THING BEFORE I GO, HOW TO TALK TO A WIDOWER, EVERYTHING CHANGES, THE BOOK OF JOE and PLAN B. He lives with his family in Westchester, New York, where he teaches writing at Manhattanville College. He is currently adapting THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU as a feature film for Warner Brothers Studios and is an Executive Producer and co-creator of the Cinemax series ?Banshee.?

Critical Praise

"Women: Want to know how men think? Here's a smart, funny, brutally honest, much-needed guy's point of view on how messy love can be. Jonathan Tropper makes me laugh and breaks my heart at the same time."

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