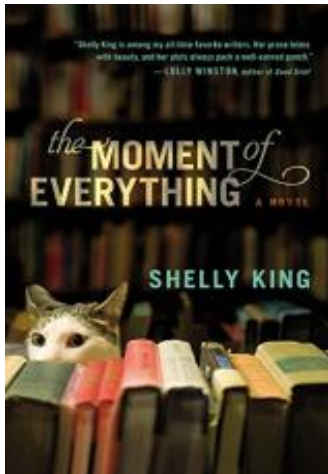


# The Moment of Everything

by Shelly King

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## About the Book

Maggie Duprès, recently "involuntarily separated from payroll" at a Silicon Valley startup, is whiling away her days in The Dragonfly's Used Books, a Mountain View institution, waiting for the Next Big Thing to come along.

When the opportunity arises for her to network at a Bay Area book club, she jumps at the chance --- even if it means having to read *LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER*, a book she hasn't encountered since college, in an evening. But the edition she finds at the bookstore is no Penguin Classics Chatterley --- it's an ancient hardcover with notes in the margins between two besotted lovers of long ago. What Maggie finds in her search for the lovers and their fate, and what she learns about herself in the process, will surprise and move readers.

Witty and sharp-eyed in its treatment of tech world excesses, but with real warmth at its core, *THE MOMENT OF EVERYTHING* is a wonderful read.

## Discussion Guide

1. "Books don't change lives, not like people think they do." Do you agree or disagree with the first line in Shelly King's novel? Do you think it's meant to be tongue-in-cheek? Did a book, or books, change Maggie's life?
2. At the beginning of the novel, Maggie's life is in a holding pattern after her layoff. Have you ever been laid off or fired? Does Maggie's experience, of feeling part of a corporate family and then being let go, resonate with you?
3. Have you ever read *LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER*? Was it for a school assignment or leisure reading? Which of the book club members' interpretations ring the most true to you?
4. Though the Silicon Valley Women Executives Association Book Club is an extreme (and somewhat satirical) example

of a reading group, have you encountered similar dynamics in any of your own reading groups? What do you think makes for a good reading group?

5. Have you ever written in a book?

6. How does Maggie's relationship with her mother change over the course of the novel? Do you fault Georgine for staying in her marriage? Why or why not?

7. Throughout the book, we meet characters who want to lose themselves in other worlds? from those who read romances to those who imagine they're Henry or Catherine and still others who participate in medieval re-creations. What does it say about these characters, and the world they all do live in, that they create and escape to these other worlds? Have you ever pretended to be someone else, either in real life or a virtual world?

8. By the end of the book, Maggie has lost two good friends for two very different reasons. Which of those reasons do you think is harder to get over? She's also made a very good friend in Jason. Did that surprise you? Have you ever had an antagonistic relationship turn into a close friendship?

9. Who did you think Henry and Catherine would reveal themselves to be? Were you surprised by Maggie's discovery? Did you think her involvement in their love story was reasonable, or did she cross a line?

10. What do you think happens to Maggie and Rajhit after the novel ends?

## Author Bio

Shelly King is a native Southerner who packed her bags and moved to Silicon Valley at the beginning of the Internet boom. She works for a major software company as a social media strategist and information architect. Her stories have been published in the GW Review, Epiphany, Slow Trains, the Dos Passos Review and the Coe Review. She lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains with her husband, two big dogs and a disapproving cat.

## Critical Praise

?King's charming debut will strike a chord with book lovers who have whiled away many an hour in a beloved local bookstore.?

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