

# A GOOD FAMILY

## Reading Group Guide

### Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. The neighborhood Katie and her family live in is the picture of suburban bliss—down to the name Country Club. What is it about suburbia that makes such a compelling setting for a thriller? Does it make you feel safe or suspicious to have neighbors who are hyper-aware of your comings and goings?

2. The Kuhlmanns live in an impressive home in Country Club. At the end of chapter 1, we learn “*Proud* is not the word to describe how Katie felt about the house. Better words would be *undeserving*, *embarrassed*, *ashamed* even because Katie Kuhlmann did not grow up with wealth.” Why would Katie have such discomfort living in a well-appointed house? How does this affect Katie’s view of what “home” means?

3. Katie is the survivor of her family’s tragic history losing her parents and her young brothers. How does that shape her definition of family as an adult? Does that history lead to her holding on to things or making choices she may not have otherwise?

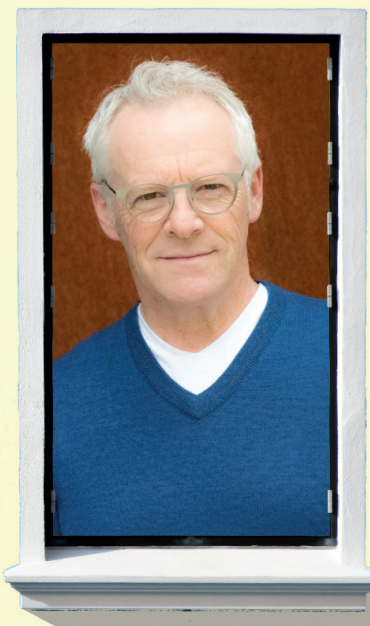


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*New York Times* bestselling author MATT GOLDMAN is a playwright and Emmy Award–winning television writer for *Seinfeld*, *Ellen*, and other shows. Goldman has been nominated for the Shamus and Nero Awards and was a Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List selection. He lives in Minnesota with his wife, two dogs, two cats, and whichever children happen to be around.



4. Katie puts herself in danger to try to decipher Jack's strange behavior, hiding in the basement closet, for example. Did you agree with the risky choices she made? Would you have made similar decisions if you were in that situation?
5. Katie and her friends are rattled at the announcement of Terri's divorce. Why does the dissolution of someone else's marriage have such a jarring effect on others in the community?
6. When Katie learns that Jack is being investigated by *The Wall Street Journal* for falsifying data, she stays by his side, while suspecting he wasn't being entirely honest with her. What would you do in her situation? Do you think she made a wise choice?
7. Between his affair and his misdeeds with fabricated data, Jack betrayed Katie in numerous ways. Did he ever have a chance of redemption? What do you consider the biggest betrayal?
8. Considering how Jack is betraying Katie, how did you feel about her sneaking around to meet with Noah? Their initial affair was an emotional one. Was Katie justified engaging with Noah?
9. Noah's reappearance in Katie's life is so perfect, it almost seems too good to be true. When you found out it was set up by Sandra, did it change how you felt about their relationship? Is her happy ending with him what Katie deserves? Did you find it satisfying?
10. In his final moments, we learn that Bagman was the one who was interested in Katie on the night she met Jack. How would his story have changed if they had gotten together? How would hers? How did you feel about his presence in their home?
11. What does the novel reveal about the meaning of family? How does it define what a "good family" is?

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