



First Time for Everything

Book Club Kit

Henry Fry

A note from Henry Fry

Hiya babes. You alright?

Thanks so much for choosing to follow Danny on this wild journey of self-discovery through contemporary queer London! If you like house plants, Dolly Parton, unidentified STIs, and working out who you are by doing everything wrong—this book is for you.

Danny's story came to me after witnessing myself and many of my queer friends going through a “second coming out” in their late twenties or early thirties. The same way straight stories often end when the couple get married, so LGBT+ narratives often end when the lead comes out—the implication of both being that they live happily ever after, whereas we all know the reality is much more complicated. In some ways, this is when the story really starts.

So for Danny: he begins unpicking and redefining himself with the help of some of the most fabulous friends you could hope for and more pop culture references than you could slap Chris Rock with (too soon?). There are difficult emotions, but a lot of laughs, love, and the sorts of shenanigans we've all gotten up to when we were young and trying to find our place in the world. Anxiety who? I don't know her.

I wish I could share a flirtini with you all and discuss which of Jacob's outfits you loved the most, or which of Melania's one-liners you're planning to use on an ex. Who knows, maybe I'll get to.

Until then,

XOXO Gossip Gay

Henry Fry

Discussion Questions

1. How does the notion of queer sexuality in the novel recycle, revise, and challenge traditional perceptions of gender?
2. Discuss the novel's title. Did your understanding of it shift throughout the book?
3. Discuss the importance of friendship in the story. Why do you think it's valuable, and what does it provide that other relationships might not?
4. Discuss one or more choices you've made in both love and life that led you to where you are today. Knowing what you know now, would you have still made those same choices?
5. *First Time for Everything* is written from a first-person point of view. Did that help your connection to the characters? How might the book be different if written from a different perspective?
6. How might *First Time For Everything* cast light on or add complexity to themes that have traditionally been overlooked in the American canon, such as homosexual relationships?
7. How do you see the characters retain a sense of humor even during times of intense sadness? What for you were the funniest moments in the book?
8. Discuss two of the novel's main themes: love and truth. How are they at odds and how do they work together?
9. Danny Scudd is a complicated character. Some readers might see him as annoying and unlikeable; others might see him as honest and sympathetic. How do you characterize Danny? What do you appreciate about him? What irks you about him? Is he someone you'd like to meet in real life?
10. Throughout the novel, love is something that morphs, dissolves, destroys, and repairs; there is familial love, romantic love, platonic love, and sexual feelings. What do you think Henry Fry is trying to say about the nature of love through the lens of his characters and their stories?
11. Being himself is a theme that Danny constantly struggles with—what moments do you think sparked the biggest changes in Danny's character throughout the book?

First Time for Everything Playlist

Play on Spotify



9 to 5 Dolly Parton • Flowers Sweet Female Attitude • Grey Gardens Rufus Wainwright
Party for One Carly Rae Jepsen • My My My! Troye Sivan • Believe Cher
Main title theme Buffy the Vampire Slayer • One Way or Another Blondie

Girl Destiny's Child • Make Me Feel Janelle Monae • Got To Be Real Cheryl Lynn
Eulogy Patrick Wolf • Main title theme Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman
Cologne Dolly Parton • Proud Mary Tina Turner

