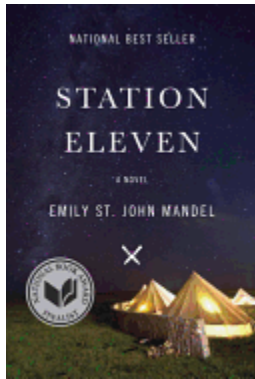


 ELPL Lit Kits

Station Eleven

by Emily St. John Mandel

An audacious, darkly glittering novel about art, fame, and ambition set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse, from the author of three highly acclaimed previous novels.

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of *King Lear*. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains—this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet. Sometimes terrifying, sometimes tender, *Station Eleven* tells a story about the relationships that sustain us, the ephemeral nature of fame, and the beauty of the world as we know it.

About the Author: Emily St. John Mandel was born in British Columbia, Canada. She is the author of three previous novels—*Last Night in Montreal*, *The Singer's Gun*, and *The Lola Quartet*—all of which were Indie Next picks. She is a staff writer for *The Millions*, and her work has appeared in numerous anthologies, including *The Best American Mystery Stories 2013* and *Venice Noir*. She lives in New York City with her husband.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Emily St. John Mandel chose a flu pandemic in *Station Eleven*? Did it seem believable?
2. What factors contributed to some characters surviving the Georgian flu? Was it random luck?

3. In what ways do the humanities and art represent our best human qualities?
4. What are some examples in *Station Eleven* of characters doing more than just surviving?
5. Do you think Shakespeare represents the best? What other works should the traveling Symphony perform?
6. What other parallels can be drawn between Shakespeare's England and the world of *Station Eleven*?
7. What items would you keep to remember the world? What items would you add to the Museum of Civilization?
8. In *Station Eleven*, not everyone wanted to remember the old world. What are the advantages and disadvantages of not remembering?
9. What kind of community would you want to be a part of? What elements do you feel define a community?
10. *Station Eleven* explores many different types of relationships through the novel. Which characters do you think had the most interesting relationships?
11. How do you think the knife tattoos helped Kirsten cope with the lives she had to take?
12. What ethical dilemmas do the characters in *Station Eleven* face?