



NANCY: This book transports you back to the 1950s, when “a woman’s place was in the home.” There, you experience life through the lens of the wonderful, indomitable chemist Elizabeth Zott and her intelligent dog as she traverses sexism in academia and the workplace. Artfully and humorously written with an invitation to the reader to cheer on Elizabeth and celebrate the brilliance of women.



MOLLY: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” That’s certainly summarizes this book for me. It’s hard waiting for things to improve and right now, it seems like things are getting worse. But thank God for books like this one, where the underdog triumphs in the end! That made my day! Sometimes justice prevails, ladies.



KATHARINE: I think this book should be on a required reading list for all science students; for both the men and women! Things have certainly changed in academia and the workplace for women in the past 70 years, but we still have issues of sexism. I think anyone who reads this book can’t help but be affected and realize how wrong sexism is, period.



SALLIE: I loved this book. I laughed so hard at Elizabeth thumbing her nose at the men on her cooking show and doing it her way, talking to the women with respect. And I also loved the way she raised her daughter, Madeline, treating her with dignity and honesty. And oh my gosh Six-Thirty. I’ve never thought about teaching my dog words. I’d like to try that.



PRISCILLA: Was it a bad thing for women to stay home? Now most women work and still many take care of the home, too. I think we had it better back then when we didn’t have to work. I didn’t hear Elizabeth saying that, though. But really, don’t you think life was easier for everyone when the man went to work and the women took care of the house and the children?



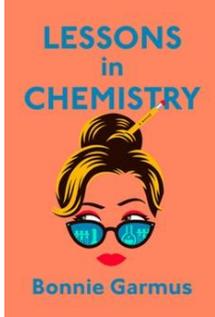
ABIGAIL: I loved, loved, loved this book. A throwback to my childhood days, when my mother “stayed home”. I wonder how many brilliant women haven’t been permitted to share their genius with the world due to their gender. This reminds me of my mother, the smartest person I’ve ever known.



JANE: Hear! Hear! Cheers to Elizabeth! What a strong women who faces rape, sexism and discrimination but stays true to herself. It almost kills her, but here’s to hope for women everywhere! Hang in there and don’t give up! Let Elizabeth be your guide. Can’t wait to see her on the screen.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: Lessons in Chemistry

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Garmus has created a wonderful character in Elizabeth Zott. What did you enjoy about her personality? What about her made you laugh, cry, cheer, and/or lament?
3. How did Garmus portray the romantic relationship between Elizabeth and Calvin? What was unique about their relationship?
4. How did this author deal with the problem of sexual assault? Have you ever experienced sexism and/or sexual abuse in academia or the workplace? Discuss.
5. What progress do you think we've made regarding sexism in the workplace? What more needs to be done?
6. What did you think of their dog, Six-Thirty, and his training? What's been your experience with intelligence in animals?
7. How did Elizabeth win over her audience on her cooking show? Discuss the station's attempts to make it a traditional show and Elizabeth's brilliance in taking a different course.
8. Elizabeth fights depression from being repressed as a brilliant chemist. Have you ever experienced being discredited as a female and had it affect your focus on living your dreams? Explain.
9. This book is going to be made into a TV series. Would you like to watch it? Why or why not?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?

Watch Bonnie Garmus on YouTube:

Bonnie Garmus Was Turned Down 98 Times Before Writing Her Celebrated Debut Novel (4:45)

'Lessons in Chemistry' author Bonnie Garmus stops by New Day - New Day NW (5:01)