

Discussion Guide

LAST NIGHT

Story by Kris Blackmore

A Midgray Project

It's Friday night and your phone is buzzing. Your friends are ready to party. But you have a choice to make: do you really want to go with them? In *Last Night* you are in control of your college experience. Navigate hookup culture, keggers, and unrequited crushes.

Author's Note

Last Night is a chooseable-path work of young adult fiction that provides a safe place for teens to experiment with the boundaries of ethical sexual behavior. Readers navigate an archetypical college party scene and make decisions about consuming alcohol, pursuing hookups, and testing friendships. Sex is explored in scenes that reflect real-world scenarios in which consent is often assumed due to body language, shared histories, or physical proximity. There are 14 possible endings, some of which involve your character getting hurt or hurting others. This framework allows young people to explore the ways power can be experienced and wielded— a person might assume a great deal of power in one sexual encounter, but be made to feel powerless in another.

Details

Last Night is a choosable-path story with 15 possible endings. It takes approximately 90 minutes to explore each branch. For the purpose of discussion, readers should try to reach each ending— it's helpful to find a way to keep track of the decisions you have made (e.g. a pencil and paper). It is best experienced in a Chrome browser. It is recommended for teens and young adults ages 13 - 20.

Themes

- Consent
- Hookup Culture
- Binge Drinking
- Sexual Assault
- Emotional Intelligence
- Self-Esteem
- Empathy
- Restorative Justice

Questions for Group Discussion

- 1 Before you begin the story you are given the choice between whether you are romantically interested in boys, girls, or both. This changes the corresponding pronouns of your love interests throughout the story. How do you feel the impact of the story changes if you switch the genders of characters like Lei, Sam, or Jay?
- 2 Your first choice in the story is to either go to a party with your friends or to go to the film screening by yourself. Which did you choose and why? Did you wind up regretting your decision? Are there decisions you've made in your life you wish you could do over?
- 3 What was the first ending you reached in the story? What decisions did both you and your character make that lead you there? Were you happy with the outcome?
- 4 When you got to the party you have the choice to drink or not. Whatever you choose still results in your character drinking. Why do you think you were given a false sense of control over that aspect of the story? Why do you think you lost the ability to choose how and when you drank for the rest of the story?
- 5 If you choose to turn down Sam's advances your character explains that it's because you're leaving soon, to which Sam responds: "But that's why it's perfect. You'll leave and we don't have to deal with any awkward feelings." Why do you think Sam wants to separate hooking up and feelings? Do you agree with Sam's approach?
- 6 Your character finds themselves wrestling with the decision to kiss Lei. What events in the story led you and your character to believe Lei might want that? How might Lei have viewed those same events differently?
- 7 If you make the choice to not talk about consent when you hook up with Lei it results in your character sexually assaulting them. Are there specific things that would clue you into your hookup being non-consensual, either during or after the fact?
- 8 Lei never reports your character to your college or the police for sexual assault. Why do you think they made that decision? How might your character's emotional experience in the story been different if Lei had pursued legal action? What would you do in Lei's situation?