



Carousel

By April Ford
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"An arch and darkly comic look into obsession, marriage, and family trauma, *Carousel* takes us deep into the tilting, whirling world of Margot Soucy, its one-of-a-kind protagonist. Caught between three formidable women—intimidating Estelle, insouciant Katy, and unstable Marguerite—Margot must determine for herself the answer to the question that dogs modern life: Why do we want what we want, and what will we sacrifice to get it? Her journey will stay with you long after your head's stopped spinning."

—Anna Leventhal, author of *Sweet Affliction*

Reading Guide

1. How would you describe Margot's feelings about her father, Morgan Wright?
2. How does the instability of Margot's childhood, especially her mother's behaviors, affect her self-esteem and her sense of place in the world as an adult?
3. Consider how Margot's first-person narration influences your appreciation and understanding of why she develops feelings for Katy.
4. Is it fair of Estelle to force Margot on a road trip to see Marguerite? Should she hold Margot even more accountable? Less accountable?
5. In what ways does Margot's relationship with Bertrand empower her to become a successful adult?
6. How does Margot's childhood experience in Cincinnati with her mother and father shape her budding understanding of sexuality and adult relationships?
7. Why is Marianne an important presence in Margot's life? Is Margot's ongoing irritability toward her justifiable?
8. What does Le Galopant symbolize?
9. How does the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay and Elizabeth Bishop, at the beginning and at the end of *Carousel*, reflect Margot's inner life?
10. Who are the stargazers?

April Ford is a queer fiction writer riding out the pandemic in Montréal, Canada. She's a Pushcart Prize recipient for her short story "Project Fumarase." *Carousel* is her debut novel. aprilfordauthor.com

