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MARC
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THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

BLACKOUT



MORE
THAN
TWO MILLION
COPIES
SOLD

READING GROUP GUIDE

1. We rely on electricity for the most basic and essential aspects of our day-to-day lives—transportation, water, heat, food, and countless other necessities—but also for more intricate parts of society like the stock markets and distribution of goods. What was something electricity-reliant that surprised you when you read *Blackout*? Something you had never thought about before?
2. Imagine your city experiences a sudden blackout. Would you be prepared? How do you think you would react?
3. If you had prior warning, what would you do to prepare?
4. How would you describe Piero Manzano? What is his background? Why do you think he's trying to help fix the blackout?
5. In the story, different government agencies across Europe are scrambling to fix the power crisis and locate the hacker behind it. Imagine it is your government, either local or national, dealing with this emergency. How do you think they'd react? If you were in a position of power, what would you do?
6. Shannon takes it upon herself to travel to The Hague and investigate the blackout further. What drives her to do this? What are her motives to help fix the blackout?

7. Who do you relate to more, Manzano or Shannon? What are the differences between them? Similarities?
8. Why do you think Shannon follows Manzano after he leaves for Düsseldorf? Describe their relationship.
9. What are the implications of the nuclear plant explosion? Who is at risk?
10. What do you think is the most frightening part of *Blackout*? The most heartrending?
11. What do you make of the hackers at command headquarters? What are they trying to gain? Do you think they have remorse for what they've done?
12. What are some of the long-term ramifications of the blackout?
13. In today's political and cultural climate, could you imagine an attack of this magnitude happening in real life? How do you think the world would react? How would you cope?