

My Name is Lucy Barton – Elizabeth Strout

In this deeply affecting, many layered novel, Lucy Barton's life story is told in a series of vignettes. A surgical complication results in a prolonged hospitalization for Lucy who one day wakes to see her long estranged mother sitting by her bed. Mother and daughter talk but not about the issues bothering Lucy most – a childhood marked by poverty, neglect, loneliness, indifference and abuse. Lucy sketches in later points in her life: her marriage, her own daughters, other relationships. What is NOT said is just as important as what IS said. This novel will stay with you long after you've turned the last page. It's about the vagaries of memory, denial, acceptance and the importance of family.