Nathan Englander is a masterful writer who has written an irreverently funny story that encompasses the human and family experience. He weaves themes of altered family and interpersonal processes stretching from Brooklyn to Jerusalem.

The protagonist, Larry/Shuli, shirks responsibility to recite Kaddish for his father. He goes through a metamorphosis over a 20 year period while trying to absolve himself, and find a way to reclaim his birthright from the yeshiva boy/man who recited eleven months worth of Kaddish for Larry/Shuli’s father.

Name an emotion, and you will find reference to it in this novel. Englander can effortlessly guide the reader through dreams where, as Freud theorized, wish fulfillment can become reality, while also conveying the experience of Teshuvah, Tefillah, Tzedakah, and Tikun Olam.