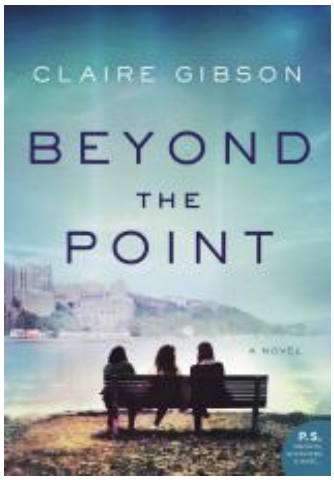
Beyond the Point

by Claire Gibson



About the Book

Three women are brought together in an enthralling story of friendship, heartbreak and resilience. Set at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, this is an amazing debut novel.

Duty. Honor. Country. That?s West Point?s motto, and every cadet who passes through its stone gates vows to live it. But on the eve of 9/11, as Dani, Hannah and Avery face four grueling years ahead, they realize they?ll only survive if they do it together.

Everyone knows Dani is going places. With athletic talent and a brilliant mind, she navigates West Point?s predominantly male environment with wit and confidence, breaking stereotypes and embracing new friends.

Hannah?s grandfather, a legendary Army general, offers a stark warning about the dangers that lie ahead, but she moves forward anyway, letting faith guide her path. When she meets her soul mate at West Point, the future looks perfect, just as planned.

Wild child Avery moves fast and doesn?t mind breaking a few rules (*and hearts*) along the way. But she can?t outpace her self-doubt, and the harder she tries, the further it leads her down a treacherous path.

The world --- of business, of love and of war --- awaits Dani, Hannah and Avery beyond the gates of West Point. These three women know that what doesn?t kill you makes you stronger. But soon, that adage no longer rings true --- for their future, or their friendship. As they?re pulled in different directions, will their hard-forged bond prevail or shatter?

BEYOND THE POINT is a heartfelt look at how our closest friends can become our fiercest battle buddies. After all, the greatest battles we fight rarely require a uniform.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel opens with Dani, Avery and Hannah each choosing to go to West Point for very different reasons. What are their motivations, and how does that set them up for disappointment (and redemption) later in the book? How did you decide where to go to college? Do you have any regrets?

2. The book cycles through each character?s perspective. Did you have a favorite? Why?

3. Have you ever visited the U.S. Military Academy at West Point? What were your perceptions about that place, and what have you learned about it through the lens of these characters that you didn?t expect? How do you think you would have coped with the rules and standards of life at West Point as an 18-year-old?

4. The girls? basketball coach, Coach Jankovich, continually makes life at West Point even more difficult for her players. Have you ever had a coach or boss who operated out of fear and paranoia as she does? Is she the villain of the book? Or is something else (time, distance, war) a greater villain?

5. Dani, Avery and Hannah all pursue love and relationships with men in very different ways. Do any of them handle them well? Should they have done things differently?

6. Dani?s injuries set her life on a totally different path than she?d expected. How does she cope with that change over the course of the novel? Do you think she found her true path in the end? Have you ever had a moment in life when a career path closed? How did you find a new way forward?

7. For most of the book, Avery is stuck in a pattern of choosing the wrong men --- one of whom even ends up going to jail. Is she a victim? Or is she responsible for those relationships?

8. Hannah makes many of her choices in this book out of a sense of faith and duty, believing that it will all be worth it in the end. In the last scenes of the book, when she confronts God, do you believe she is losing her faith? How have you coped with your ideas of spirituality, when confronted with loss and grief?

9. The girls prove to be essentialfriends --- the kinds that help carryyou through the darkest days oflife --- as they?re each facing theirown crises. In what ways do they show up for one another in the pages of this book? What can you learn from their friendship, in the way that you relate to your friends moving forward?

10. Do you still keep in touch with your college friends? Why or why not? What about West Point set these women up for a stronger bond?

Author Bio

Claire Gibson is a writer and journalist based in Nashville, Tennessee. Born and raised at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, she grew up captivated by cadets and always dreamed of writing a story that honored her childhood home and the women that inspired her there. Her stories have been featured in *The Washington Post*, T*he Christian Science Monitor*, *The Tennessean* and *Entrepreneur Magazine*, among many other publications.

Critical Praise

"An inspiring tribute to female friendship and female courage!"

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Publication Date: April 2, 2019
Genres: Fiction, Women's Fiction
Paperback: 528 pages
Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks
ISBN-10: 0062853740
ISBN-13: 9780062853745