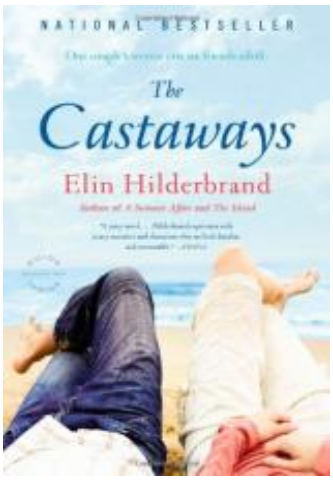
The Castaways

by Elin Hilderbrand



About the Book

Greg and Tess MacAvoy are one of four prominent Nantucket couples who count each other as best friends. As pillars of their close-knit community, the MacAvoys, Kapenashes, Drakes, and Wheelers are important to their friends and neighbors, and especially to each other. But just before the beginning of another idyllic summer, Greg and Tess are killed when their boat capsizes during an anniversary sail. As the warm weather approaches and the island mourns their loss, nothing can prepare the MacAvoy's closest friends for what will be revealed.

Once again, Hilderbrand masterfully weaves an intense tale of love and loyalty set against the backdrop of endless summer island life.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel opens with the tragic death of Tess and Greg MacAvoy; as it develops, we see how the lives of their six best friends are forever altered. How do you think the relationships of each couple within the group would have developed if Tess and Greg had not died on their sailing trip?

2. The heart of the novel explores the dynamics of a close- knit group of four couples, the complexities of their friendships, and how they get along with each other. What are the dynamics like in your circle of friends? Have you faced similar struggles?

3. The Castaways is set mainly on the island of Nantucket. How does this setting contribute to the story?s insular nature as the novel portrays a tight- knit group of four couples?

4. The novel occasionally leaves the Nantucket setting to travel back in time to the group vacations taken by the Castaways. Discuss the importance of the setting for each of these trips and how it plays a part in the development of the

characters and the plot.

5. Hilderbrand describes how each of her eight main characters came to live on Nantucket. Which characters seem the most at home on the island? Discuss the factors that brought you to settle where you live now.

6. The Castaways is told from multiple points of view. With which character did you feel the most connected, and why? Did that change in the course of the story?

7. The surviving members of the Castaways are all grieving in their own way after losing two of their best friends. Discuss how grief manifests itself in each character and how each handles that grief. How have you handled grief in your own life?

8. Delilah says at one point that honesty should be met with honesty, yet then she makes an important decision not to share the truth. Discuss the role of honesty and dishonesty in the novel and the ways in which moral ambiguity creates confl ict for the characters.

9. By the end of **The Castaways**, grieving has led many of the characters to reach an acceptance of the tragedy and an absolution in their lives. Discuss how each character achieves this absolution and learns to move forward.

10. What do you think the future holds for the three surviving couples and their children?

Author Bio

Elin Hilderbrand is the beloved, bestselling author of over 30 novels, most based on Nantucket, an island 30 miles off the coast of Massachusetts, earning her the title ?Queen of the Beach Reads.? Elin grew up outside of Philadelphia, PA and is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Iowa Writers? Workshop.

Elin has lived year-round on Nantucket for more than 30 years. She enjoys reading and traveling, going to the beach and barre class, and cooking for her four adult children and many friends. She is also a grateful 10-year breast cancer survivor.

Elin?s 2018 *New York Times* bestselling novel, THE PERFECT COUPLE, was adapted by Netflix into a six-episode limited series starring Nicole Kidman and Liev Schrieber that set viewership and download records. Peacock?s 2026 adaptation of THE FIVE-STAR WEEKEND, starring Jennifer Garner, became their most-watched scripted series ever, and will receive a second season. Elin?s latest book, THE THOROUGHBREDS, concludes her two-book Academy series, set at a New England boarding school, and co-authored with her daughter, Shelby Cunningham.

She is also the co-host of the hit literary podcast ?Books, Beach, & Beyond? with the creator of Tim Talks Books, Tim Ehrenberg.

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