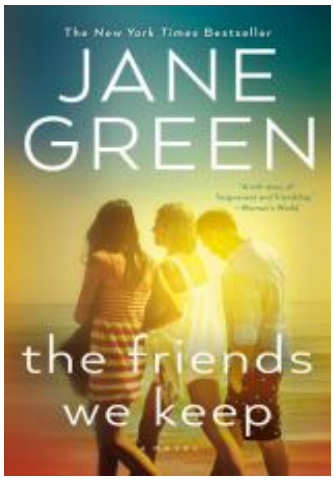
The Friends We Keep

by Jane Green



About the Book

THE FRIENDS WE KEEP is the heartwarming and unforgettable new novel from Jane Green, the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE SUNSHINE SISTERS and THE BEACH HOUSE.

Evvie, Maggie and Topher have known one another since college. Their friendship was something they swore would last forever. Now years have passed, the friends have drifted apart, and they never found the lives they wanted --- the lives they dreamed of when they were young and everything seemed possible.

Evvie starved herself to become a supermodel but derailed her career by sleeping with a married man.

Maggie married Ben, the boy she fell in love with in college, never imagining the heartbreak his drinking would cause.

Topher became a successful actor, but the shame of a childhood secret shut him off from real intimacy.

By their 30th reunion, these old friends have lost touch with one another and with the people they dreamed of becoming. Together again, they have a second chance at happiness...until a dark secret is revealed that changes everything.

THE FRIENDS WE KEEP is about how, despite disappointments we?ve had or mistakes we?ve made, it?s never too late to find a place to call home.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel opens with Ben?s point of view, and we see that he wants to change for the better. Do you think there could have been redemption for him, or was it far too late at that point?

2. One of the inspirations behind the story was the author?s realization that many women are leading lives far more isolated than they ever anticipated. Is this true for you, and if so, why?

3. Evvie commits an act of betrayal against Maggie, but Maggie is able to forgive her in the end. Do you think you could forgive Evvie? Why do you think Maggie can? What would you have done in Maggie?s position? In Evvie?s position?

4. Have you ever lost touch with your old and close friends and then seen them again? What did that feel like? How did time change --- or not change --- your relationships?

5. If you haven?t gotten in touch with old friends, why haven?t you? Do you want to do it? Or are you glad you haven?t?

6. Is a shared history enough to sustain a real friendship? What are the elements required of a true friend?

7. The story is told through the points of view of Evvie, Maggie, and Topher. Do these different perspectives allow you to sympathize with each of the characters despite their flaws? Who can you relate to the most?

8. Evvie has a history of being around men who are abusive, both emotionally and physically. Is it possible for her to break the pattern to find a good partner, and if so, how? What about Maggie? Do you think Topher will find love in the end too?

9. If you were in Jack?s position, how do you think you?d feel after finding out the truth? Would you have behaved the way Jack did? Why and why not?

10. Topher, Maggie and Evvie decide to move in together after the ordeals they?ve all endured. As they continue to live together, what do you think the dynamic will be like, especially with Evvie and Maggie going into business together? Do you think they?ll always live together or separate again someday?

Author Bio

Jane Green is the author of 22 novels, including 18 *New York Times* bestsellers. She has over 10 million books in print, is published in over 25 languages, and has several books in development for film and TV.

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