ReadingGroupGuides
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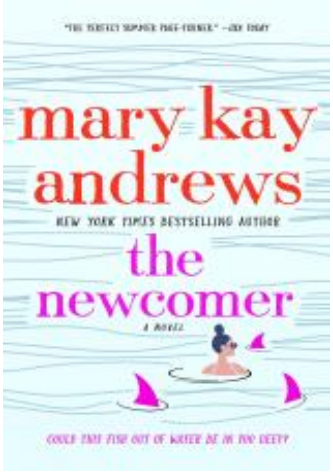
The Newcomer

by Mary Kay Andrews



About the Book

Mary Kay Andrews, the *New York Times* bestselling author and Queen of the Beach Reads, delivers her next page-turner for the summer with THE NEWCOMER.

In trouble and on the run...

After she discovers her sister Tanya dead on the floor of her fashionable New York City townhouse, Letty Carnahan is certain she knows who did it: Tanya?s ex; sleazy real estate entrepreneur Evan Wingfield. Even in the grip of grief and panic, Letty heeds her late sister?s warnings: ?If anything bad happens to me --- it?s Evan. Promise me you?ll take Maya and run. Promise me.?

With a trunkful of emotional baggage...

So Letty grabs her sister?s Mercedes and hits the road with her wailing four-year-old niece Maya. Letty is determined to out-run Evan and the law, but run to where? Tanya, a woman with a past shrouded in secrets, left behind a ?go-bag? of cash and a big honking diamond ring --- but only one clue: a faded magazine story about a sleepy mom-and-pop motel in a Florida beach town with the improbable name of Treasure Island. She sheds her old life and checks into an uncertain future at The Murmuring Surf Motel.

The No Vacancy sign is flashing and the sharks are circling...

And that?s the good news. Because The Surf, as the regulars call it, is the winter home of a close-knit flock of retirees and snowbirds who regard this odd-duck newcomer with suspicion and down-right hostility. As Letty settles into the motel?s former storage room, she tries to heal Maya?s heartache and unravel the key to her sister?s shady past, all while dodging the attention of the owner?s dangerously attractive son Joe, who just happens to be a local police detective. Can Letty find romance as well as a room at the inn --- or will Joe betray her secrets and put her behind bars? With danger

closing in, it?s a race to find the truth and right the wrongs of the past.

Discussion Guide

1. Letty and Tanya were both drawn from small-town life to big-city life. What do you think attracts people to cities? Do you think that feeling has changed over the course of the past few years? Which appeals more to you? Has that changed over time?

2. Letty and Tanya are sisters, but they have their issues. Still, they have a bond that makes them rely on each other even when tragedy occurs. Do you have a bond with anyone like that? Who is your go-to person?

3. In which ways was Tanya more naive than Letty? In which ways was Letty the naive one?

4. After Tanya?s death, Letty immediately went on the run. Do you agree, or disagree, with her actions? What would you have done?

5. Do you find hotels like The Murmuring Surf appealing? What is your ideal vacation spot? What is your ideal hideaway spot? Have you ever stayed in a hotel like The Murmuring Surf?

6. Does Maya seem like a typical four-year-old? Why or why not? What effect do you think she had on Letty?

7. What were your first impressions of Joe? Did you think he was likable? Suspicious? Attractive?

8. What do you think motivates someone like Evan Wingfield? Have you ever known anyone like him? Do you think he really wanted to have custody of Maya?

9. Discuss the cast of characters staying at the Murmuring Surf. Who did you enjoy the most? Have you ever known people to vacation at the same place year after year? What do you think is the appeal of such consistency?

10. Picture Letty, Joe and Maya 10 years from now. What do you picture them doing? Do you think they will be happy? What kind of teenager will Maya be? Do you think Letty and Joe will still live at the Murmuring Surf?

Author Bio

Mary Kay Andrews is the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE BEACH HOUSE COOKBOOK and more than 30 novels, including ROAD TRIP, SUMMERS AT THE SAINT, THE WEEKENDERS, LADIES' NIGHT, SPRING FEVER, SUMMER RENTAL, THE FIXER UPPER, DEEP DISH, BLUE CHRISTMAS, SAVANNAH BREEZE, HISSY FIT, LITTLE BITTY LIES and SAVANNAH BLUES. A former journalist for *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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