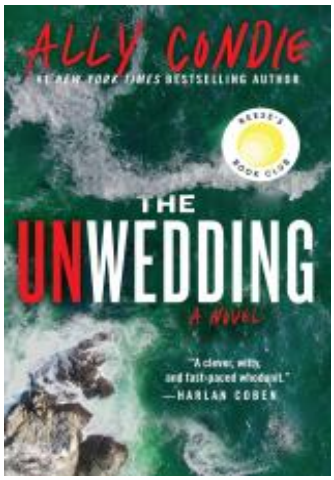
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The Unwedding

by Ally Condie



About the Book

"The White Lotus" meets Agatha Christie in this bold novel from a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author: a recent divorcee's exclusive Big Sur resort vacation unravels when she discovers a dead body on the day of a wedding, in this ?clever, witty and fast-paced whodunit.? (Harlan Coben)

Ellery Wainwright is alone at the edge of the world.

She and her husband, Luke, were supposed to spend their 20th wedding anniversary together at the luxurious Resort at Broken Point in Big Sur, California. Where better to celebrate a marriage, a family and a life together than at one of the most stunning places on earth?

But now she?s traveling solo.

To add insult to injury, there?s a wedding at Broken Point scheduled during her stay. Ellery remembers how it felt to be on the cusp of everything new and wonderful, with a loved and certain future glimmering just ahead. Now, she isn?t certain of anything except for her love for her kids and her growing realization that this place, though beautiful, is unsettling.

When Ellery discovers the body of the groom floating in the pool in the rain, she realizes that she is not the only one whose future is no longer guaranteed. Before the police can reach Broken Point, a mudslide takes out the road to the resort, leaving the guests trapped. When another guest dies, it?s clear something horrible is brewing.

Everyone at Broken Point has a secret. And everyone has a shadow. Including Ellery.

Discussion Guide

1. Big Sur, California, sets the stage for this enticing mystery and provides a stunning landscape for our cast of characters to lose themselves in. In what ways was this setting an asset to the storytelling by providing more than a backdrop for the story to unfold?

2. A recurring theme that is explored throughout the narrative is that of grand loneliness. What is the story saying about these emotions, and how are they explored through the various characters?

3. Ellery is going through a tremendous life change with the divorce from Luke, the man she thought she would spend the rest of her life with. In what ways does the story handle the topic of beginning again and starting a new chapter later in life? How does that impact the story and Ellery?s growth as a character?

4. Ravi and Nina at first appear to be polar opposites to Ellery, as glamorous and carefree individuals who often indulge in the finer things life has to offer. How does their relationship evolve throughout the course of the novel? In what ways have they saved Ellery, both literally and figuratively?

5. Motherhood is a central topic of the novel and plays a big part in many of the characters? lives. Which iteration of motherhood felt most significant to your reading, and how did it impact the overall narrative?

6. There are many different forms of relationships that play out in the narrative, including platonic, familial and romantic. Which characters' relationship felt the most consequential to the story?

7. THE UNWEDDING is a nightmare scenario for a day that is meant to be joyous and filled with love. Describe a time that you went to a wedding that was less than ideal.

8. There is a clear class disparity between many of the characters throughout the story. For some luxury is easily accessible, for others this is the opportunity of a lifetime. In what ways does the novel address this issue of economic divide between the characters, and how does it propel the story?

9. Ellery?s past traumas resurface in the face of this new horror, but she is keen on discovering the truth behind Ben and Matt?s deaths. In what way has this new experience allowed Ellery to face her fears and set her on the road towards healing?

10. The cards presented to the guests at Broken Point provide important details on the conditions of the day, and not just in terms of the weather. The quotations on the cards work as markers throughout the story. How did this help guide the narrative, and did these quotes set expectations for the story's progression?

Author Bio

Ally Condie is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and internationally bestselling *Matched Trilogy*, the instant *USA Today*

bestseller and Reese?s Book Club pick THE UNWEDDING, the Edgar Award finalist SUMMERLOST, and many other nationally published works across multiple genres. She holds a B.A. in English Teaching and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children and Young Adults and is a professor at Brigham Young University. Ally?s work has been published in 30+ languages and optioned for film. She lives in Utah Valley, where she loves hiking with her four wonderful children.

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