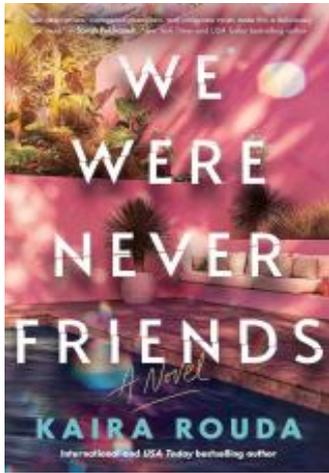


We Were Never Friends

by Kaira Rouda



About the Book

Sisters? Forever. Friends? NEVER. Who knew a reunion weekend could be so deadly?

Meet the sorority sisters of Theta Gamma Mu:

Roxy Callahan Gentry, the ruthless former sorority president and current hostess who has painstakingly choreographed every detail of this weekend --- even matching the cocktails to her couture --- to prove that she remains their undisputed queen.

Amelia Dell, the widow drenched in old money and alcohol, with her big pot-stirring spoon and uninvited boy-toy in tow. Jamie Vale, the double-legacy pledge, straight-A student with no sparkle, now a top cardiologist with a picture-perfect family --- and a well-guarded bad habit.

Beth Harrison, the scholarship student who never quite fit in and was only admitted because her best friend, Sunny, insisted that the two were a package deal.

Sunny Spencer, the carefree and beloved friend to all, or so it seemed --- until she wasn't.

They've been summoned to Roxy's luxurious Palm Springs vacation home to celebrate the engagement of her son to Beth's daughter. But the refurbished 1920s estate is eerily reminiscent of the hotel where tragedy struck during Spring Break 25 years ago. Long-simmering tensions and shocking secrets begin bubbling to the surface like bodies --- because while the weekend was supposed to be about celebrating the future, it's not so easy to bury the past.

For fans of Shari Lapena, Mary Kubica and B. A. Paris, WE WERE NEVER FRIENDS is an unputdownable, riveting train wreck full of dark humor and bad behavior.

Discussion Guide

1. Power Dynamics & Leadership

Roxy maintains her role as the 'queen bee' even decades after college. How do early power structures in friend groups continue to influence adult relationships? Can someone ever truly escape the role they played in their youth?

2. Class and Belonging

Beth's experience as a scholarship student shaped her entire college experience. How do economic differences create invisible barriers in friendships? What does the novel suggest about whether money can truly buy acceptance?

3. The Price of Perfection

Jamie appears to have the 'perfect' life --- successful career, beautiful family --- but harbors a secret addiction. What does her story reveal about the pressure to maintain appearances? How do our public personas often mask our private struggles?

4. Memory vs. Truth

The characters each remember their college years and Spring Break differently. How reliable are our memories of traumatic events? What role does selective memory play in how we construct our personal narratives?

5. Female Friendships

The tagline reads 'Sisters? Forever. Friends? NEVER.' What's the difference between chosen family and forced bonds? Can toxic relationships be healed, or are some friendships too damaged to salvage?

6. Secrets and Consequences

Each character carries secrets that threaten to surface during the reunion. What makes some secrets worth killing for? How do buried truths have a way of clawing back to the surface, and what happens when they finally do?

Author Bio

Kaira Rouda is an award-winning, *USA Today* and Amazon Charts bestselling author of contemporary fiction that explores what goes on beneath the surface of seemingly perfect lives. She is a founding member of the Killer Author Club, a bi-monthly live show supporting authors. She is also a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Women's Fiction Author Association, and the International Thriller Writers Association. She lives in Southern California with her family.

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Publication Date: February 3, 2026

Genres: Domestic Thriller, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Poisoned Pen Press

ISBN-10: 1464244995

ISBN-13: 9781464244995