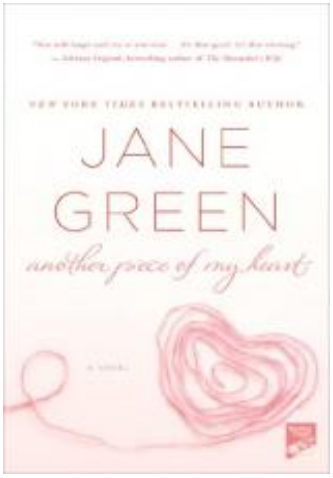
Another Piece of My Heart

by Jane Green



About the Book

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of Jemima J, and The Beach House, comes Jane Green?s most emotional and powerful novel yet: a story that explores the complications of a woman marrying into a ready-made family, and the true meaning of motherhood.

Andi has spent much of her adult life looking for the perfect man, and at thirty-seven, she's finally found him. Ethan --- divorced with two daughters, Emily and Sophia --- is a devoted father and even better husband. Always hoping one day she would be a mother, Andi embraces the girls like they were her own. But in Emily?s eyes, Andi is an obstacle to her father?s love, and Emily will do whatever it takes to break her down. When the dynamics between the two escalate, they threaten everything Andi believes about love, family, and motherhood?leaving both women standing at a crossroad in their lives?and in their hearts.

Another Piece of My Heart is a novel that illuminates the nuances and truths about relationships and is Jane Green at her absolute best

Discussion Guide

1. Jane Green?s novel, **Another Piece of My Heart**, opens with an anonymous quote: ?Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have.? What exactly does this mean? How does it apply to Andi? To Emily? To other characters in the book? Would you say the quote applies to your life? How?

2. As the novel so vividly portrays, being part of a blended family can be extremely challenging. What are some of the mistakes Andi and Ethan make? What should they have done differently? What are some of the challenges that you and your own family have faced together?

3. From the beginning, Ethan?s younger daughter, Sophia, is very accepting of Andi, while his adolescent daughter, Emily, is resentful and rude. When it comes to dealing with big issues like divorce and second marriages, do you think it?s harder for younger children or for teenagers? How is it different, and why?

4. After five years of living together as a family, Andi still feels uncomfortable confronting or disciplining Emily?mostly because Ethan is a defensive dad. Do you think most parents are overprotective and blind to their children?s faults? Do you believe ?it takes a village? to raise a child?or it?s none of your business? Have you ever given and/or received child-rearing advice? How did it go?

5. The author describes the relationship between Andi and Emily as ?a pendulum swinging from love to hate.? Have you experienced anything like that in your own family? Is it normal or acceptable for teenagers to ?hate? their parents or stepparents? Should you simply wait for the child to ?grow out of it? or try to actively deal with the problem? How?

6. Andi?s neighbors tell her that ?Ethan feels constantly guilty? about his divorce and its impact on his children?which is why he lets Emily get away with so much bad behavior. Emily, in turn, seems to take advantage of his guilt. Have you ever felt guilty over something that affects your family? Have you ever felt manipulated by a loved one?

7. Andi notices some dramatic differences between the home she grew up in and the family she married into?especially when it comes to setting ?boundaries? with children. Do you think parenting has changed in recent years? Are parents more lenient today? Are children more spoiled? Would you raise a child the same way you were raised, or would you do it differently?

8. After Ethan tells Andi that he doesn?t want to adopt a child, he feels her pull away from him, as if ?a switch has been flicked? in their relationship. Is he justified in his feelings on the subject of adoption, or is he being selfish? Is Andi justified in her feelings? What sort of things can change the way you feel about a loved one?

9. Nearly halfway through the book, the author begins to write some of the chapters from Emily?s first-person point of view. Why? How does each character?s point of view play a role in the story? Which character?s point of view do you relate to the most? Which character do you relate to the least?

10. Andi, Brooke, and Emily represent three types of mothers. How are they different? How are they alike? Does Emily have the right to call herself Cal?s ?mother? after leaving him with Andi for three years? Do you think Andi has a legal right to have full custody? And, at some point in the future, do you think Emily should be able to get her child back?

11. What does it mean to be a ?real mother??

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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