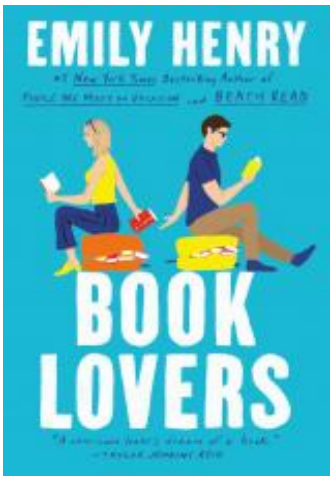
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Book Lovers

by Emily Henry



About the Book

An insightful, delightful new novel from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of BEACH READ and PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION.

One summer. Two rivals. A plot twist they didn't see coming...

Nora Stephens' life is books --- she?s read them all --- and she is not that type of heroine. Not the plucky one, not the laidback dream girl and especially not the sweetheart. In fact, the only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients, for whom she lands enormous deals as a cutthroat literary agent, and her beloved little sister, Libby.

Which is why she agrees to go to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina for the month of August when Libby begs her for a sisters? trip away --- with visions of a small town transformation for Nora, who she?s convinced needs to become the heroine in her own story. But instead of picnics in meadows, or run-ins with a handsome country doctor or bulging-forearmed bartender, Nora keeps bumping into Charlie Lastra, a bookish brooding editor from back in the city. It would be a meet-cute if not for the fact that they?ve met many times and it?s never been cute.

If Nora knows she?s not an ideal heroine, Charlie knows he?s nobody?s hero, but as they are thrown together again and again --- in a series of coincidences no editor worth their salt would allow --- what they discover might just unravel the carefully crafted stories they?ve written about themselves.

Discussion Guide

1. Nora sees herself almost as the villainess in someone else?s love story. Who are some of your favorite villainesses --- whom you either outright love or love to hate?

2. Nora reads the last page of a book first. Libby likes to go in knowing as little as possible. How do you prefer to read?

3. What was the book that made you fall in love (or fall in love again) with reading?

4. Would you rather spend a month in Sunshine Falls, or in Nora?s New York life? Why?

5. Have you ever felt like different places brought out different parts of you?

6. As Libby and Nora grow, they have to accept that life is carrying them in different directions. Have you ever been through something like that with a friend or family member?

7. Nora and Libby grew up together, and yet they experienced their childhoods very differently. Why do you think that is? Have you ever had this happen with a family member or friend?

8. Charlie initially set out to write and wound up editing. Nora wanted to edit and became an agent instead. Have you ever pursued something that led you in a different direction?

9. As children, Nora and Libby would change the endings of stories if they didn?t like them. If you could change the ending of one book, what would it be and how would you change it?

10. All of Nora?s exes have ended up with partners who were seemingly totally different from them. Nora and Charlie, however, are peas in a pod. Do your favorite fictional couples tend to fall in one category or the other? Do you feel the same about real-life relationships?

11. One of Nora?s biggest struggles is finding the balance of how much to compromise in her life for those she loves. What role do you think compromise plays in love? What, to you, is uncompromisable?

12. What is your idea of a happy ending?

Author Bio

Emily Henry is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE, FUNNY STORY, HAPPY PLACE, BOOK LOVERS, PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION and BEACH READ. She studied creative writing at Hope College and now spends most of her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the part of Kentucky just beneath it.

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