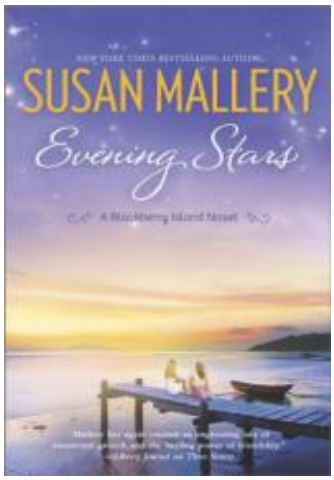
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Evening Stars: A Blackberry Island Novel

by Susan Mallery



About the Book

New York Times bestselling author Susan Mallery returns to Blackberry Island with the poignant tale of two sisters on the verge of claiming their dreams.

Small-town nurse Nina Wentworth has made a career out of being a caretaker. More ?Mom? than their mother ever was, she sacrificed medical school --- and her first love --- so her sister could break free. Which is why she isn?t exactly thrilled to see Averil back on Blackberry Island, especially when Nina?s life has suddenly become?complicated.

Nina unexpectedly finds herself juggling two men --- her high school sweetheart and a younger maverick pilot who also wants to claim her heart. But as fun as all this romance is, Nina has real life to deal with. Averil doesn?t seem to want the great guy she?s married to, and doesn?t seem to be making headway writing her first book; their mom is living life just as recklessly as she always has; and Nina?s starting to realize that the control she once had is slipping out of her fingers. Her hopes of getting off the island seem to be stretching further away?until her mother makes a discovery that could change everything forever.

But before Nina and Averil can reach for the stars, they have to decide what they want. Will Averil stay? Will Nina leave? And what about the men who claim to love them? Does love heal, or will finding their happy ending mean giving up all they?ve ever wanted?

Download a copy of the EVENING STARS book club kit here! Inside you?ll find a letter from Susan, a Blackberry Island map, a special author Q&A, recipes and more to make your book club a success!

Discussion Guide

1. Why did Nina stay on Blackberry Island so long? Why did she put everyone else?s needs ahead of her own? Do you

know any women like that?

2. If you have a sister, how is your relationship similar to Nina and Averil?s relationship? How is it different? In general, do you think brothers? relationships are as emotionally complex as sisters? relationships are?

3. One of the themes of EVENING STARS clearly related to taking responsibility for one?s own life. How were different facets of responsibility explored through the characters of Nina, Averil and Bonnie? Is it possible to be too responsible? Where do you fall on the responsibility spectrum?

4. What other themes did you think about as you read EVENING STARS?

5. Were you on Team Dylan or Team Kyle? Why? Did your allegiance change as you progressed through the book? Were you satisfied with the choice Nina made?

6. What did you think of Averil?s relationship with her husband, Kevin?

7. Early in the book, when Dylan drives Nina home, she sees the house through his eyes. How did her feelings about her home reflect her feelings about how her life had turned out? How would you feel if your first love visited your house?

8. Do you think Bonnie will change? Why or why not?

9. What caused Averil and Nina to begin to see each other differently? What caused them each to see themselves differently, and to take positive steps in their lives?

10. Explore a metaphor from EVENING STARS.

Author Bio

Susan Mallery is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of novels about the relationships that shape women's lives --- family, friendship, romance.

Library Journal says, ?Mallery is the master of blending emotionally believable characters in realistic situations," and readers seem to agree --- 40 million copies of her books have sold worldwide. Her warm, humorous stories make the world a happier place to live. She?s passionate about animal welfare, which shows in the many quirky animal characters she has created.

Susan grew up in California and now lives in Seattle with her husband.

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