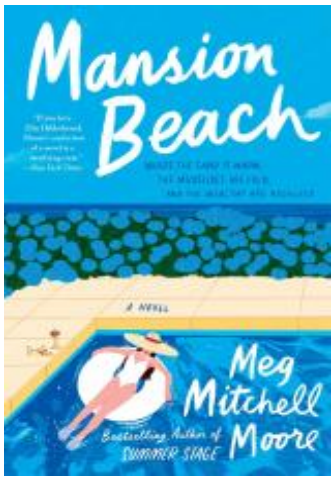
Mansion Beach

by Meg Mitchell Moore



About the Book

From nationally bestselling author Meg Mitchell Moore comes a sparkling new novel following a young woman entwined in the opulent lives of her neighbors on Block Island, set against a backdrop of scandal, secrets and a not-so-subtle love triangle, perfect for readers of PINEAPPLE STREET and SEX AND VANITY.

It?s the beginning of the summer, and Nicola Carr has just arrived on Block Island, RI, eager for a fresh start and some R&R. But her plans for a tranquil summer are derailed as the extravagant parties from the grand home next door pique her curiosity. She soon discovers the home belongs to Juliana George, an enigmatic entrepreneur with a past shrouded in mystery.

Juliana George, CEO and founder of a hot fashion-tech company, is at the top of her game. She?s spending the summer on Block Island preparing for a major IPO. But she?s chasing her dreams in more ways than one. This summer she hopes to rekindle a flame with a man from her past --- a man who has a surprising connection to her neighbor, Nicola.

Taylor Buchanan, the wife of Nicola?s cousin, is second-in-command of a real estate empire. Her life is exactly the way she planned it: she has the wealth, the family, the prestige and the power. And there?s nothing she?ll let get in her way of Having It All. But when everything suddenly verges on the edge of collapse, she has no choice but to take matters into her own hands.

As Nicola, Juliana and Taylor?s summers unfold, the three women are set on a collision course that leads to inevitable self-discovery, unforgivable betrayal, an unavoidable love triangle --- and, most unexpectedly, a dead body.

A sophisticated escapist novel filled with light humor and surprising observations, MANSION BEACH explores the depth of human relationships, our cruelly classist society, and the price of secrets that refuse to stay buried.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel intertwines the stories of three women who are each navigating their own conflicts and crises. Discuss the themes of self-discovery and personal growth as demonstrated by Juliana, Nicola and Taylor.

2. MANSION BEACH is inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald?s classic, THE GREAT GATSBY. What parallels did you pick up on? Discuss the ways in which this novel from 100 years ago is still relevant today.

3. The setting, Block Island, is almost like a character in the book. How does the role of Block Island influence the story?

4. Discuss the ways the author explores success, wealth and power in the novel. How are the characters affected by having these privileges, or not?

5. How do the main characters' pasts influence their present situations and choices?

6. Taylor and Juliana are both women in a position of power. Discuss the ways they are different and similar. Reflect on how their disparate upbringings shaped their attitudes as businesswomen. Do you agree with how Taylor confronts Juliana in the end? If the situation had been reversed, how do you think Juliana would have handled that confrontation?

7. The intermittent podcast transcripts provide a viewpoint of the island?s community. How does this chorus add to the narrative? Do you think this perspective provided insights into the drama unfolding on the island?

8. How is class depicted in MANSION BEACH? In particular, reflect on Juliana?s backstory and how it led her to where she is now. What do you think the author is trying to say about class in modern American society?

9. The notion of being an outsider is strongly represented throughout the book. Discuss the ways in which each of the prominent characters can be seen as an outsider.

10. When the book begins, it?s clear there?s been a death. Were you surprised, in the end, by who died? How does the fact that the reader knows there will be a death influence the narrative and the reading experience?

Author Bio

Meg Mitchell Moore worked for several years as a journalist for a variety of publications before turning to fiction. She lives in the beautiful coastal town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, with her husband and their three daughters. DOWN WITH THE SHIPMANS is her 10th novel.

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