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Summers at the Saint

by Mary Kay Andrews



About the Book

Book your summer escape with a "mesmerizing mix of mystery and romance" (*Publishers Weekly*, starred) from the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE HOMEWRECKERS and THE NEWCOMER.

Welcome to the St. Cecelia, a landmark hotel on the coast of Georgia, where traditions run deep and scandals run even deeper.

Everyone refers to the St. Cecelia as ?the Saint.? If you grew up coming here, you were ?a Saint.? If you came from the wrong side of the river, you were ?an Ain?t.? Traci Eddings was one of those outsiders whose family wasn?t rich enough or connected enough to vacation here. But she could work here. One fateful summer she did, and married the boss?s son.

Now, she?s the widowed owner of the hotel, determined to see it return to its glory days, even as staff shortages and financial troubles threaten to ruin it. Plus, her greedy and unscrupulous brother-in-law wants to make sure she fails. Enlisting a motley crew of recently hired summer help --- including the daughter of her estranged best friend --- Traci has one summer season to turn it around. But new information about a long-ago drowning at the hotel threatens to come to light, and the tragic death of one of their own brings Traci to the brink of despair.

Traci Eddings has her back against the pink-painted wall of this beloved institution. And it will take all the wits and guts she has to see wrongs put to right, to see guilty parties put in their place, and maybe even to find a new romance along the way.

Told with Mary Kay Andrews' warmth, humor, knack for twists, and eye for delicious detail about human nature, SUMMERS AT THE SAINT is a beach read with depth and heart.

Discussion Guide

1. The Saint is a family business, and Traci wants Parrish to work the guest relations desk so she can promote the family image. How did Traci?s varying relationships with the Eddings family impact her running the hotel and resort? Would you ever go into business with your family?

2. At the beginning of the story, we learn that Traci was born into a working-class family so she was considered an ?Ain?t.? Because she marries into the wealthy Eddings family, she becomes a ?Saint.? How are class differences presented in the story? Which characters were you more sympathetic towards?

3. SUMMERS AT THE SAINT is told from a variety of third person limited perspectives. How did this structure impact your reading experience? Whose perspective was your favorite to read?

4. In Chapter 13, Traci revealed that her mother?in-law started a tradition to watch the sunset on the patio with a glass of wine. Do you have any vacation traditions?

5. Traci was only 40 when she became a widow, and it?s been four years since her late husband, Hoke, died. Parrish?s death also devastates her. How does Traci cope with both of their losses? How is grief portrayed in the book?

6. SUMMERS AT THE SAINT is a summer mystery beach read, but the author nods to several serious topics like sexual assault and harassment, the opioid crisis and white privilege. Why is it important to bring awareness to these issues in a story like this?

7. Shannon raised Olivia as a single mother. Traci tried to have kids with Hoke, going through four rounds of IVF, but ultimately never had children. Traci is closer to Parrish than Parrish?s own mother and stepmother, Madelyn, are to her. How are Shannon, Madelyn and Traci?s approaches to motherhood different?

8. Shannon and Traci have been friends since they were children. Although they go through a long period of time without speaking to each other, they reconcile by the end of the story. Other female friendships in the story include Traci and Parrish, Olivia and Felice, and Olivia and Parrish. What is the significance of including and preserving female friendships in the story?

9. When you realized who was behind Parrish?s death and the shady deals going on in the resort, were you surprised? Which characters were you most suspicious of? Were there clues throughout the story that gave them away?

10. Were you rooting for Whelan and Traci to get together? What was your favorite moment between the pair?

Author Bio

Mary Kay Andrews is the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE BEACH HOUSE COOKBOOK and more than 30 novels, including ROAD TRIP, SUMMERS AT THE SAINT, THE WEEKENDERS, LADIES' NIGHT, SPRING

FEVER, SUMMER RENTAL, THE FIXER UPPER, DEEP DISH, BLUE CHRISTMAS, SAVANNAH BREEZE, HISSY FIT, LITTLE BITTY LIES and SAVANNAH BLUES. A former journalist for *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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