ReadingGroupGuides
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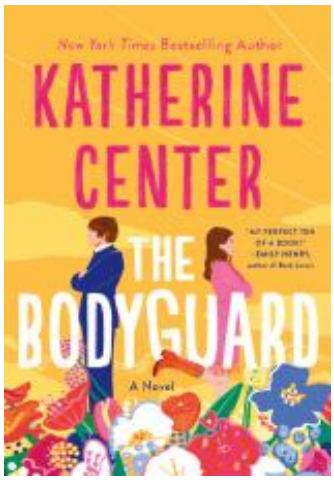
The Bodyguard

by Katherine Center



About the Book

She?s got his back.

Hannah Brooks looks more like a kindergarten teacher than somebody who could kill you with a wine bottle opener. Or a ballpoint pen. Or a dinner napkin. But the truth is, she?s an Executive Protection Agent (aka "bodyguard"), and she just got hired to protect superstar actor Jack Stapleton from his middle-aged, corgi-breeding stalker.

He?s got her heart.

Jack Stapleton is a household name --- captured by paparazzi on beaches the world over, famous for, among other things, rising out of the waves in all manner of clingy board shorts and glistening like a Roman deity. But a few years back, in the wake of a family tragedy, he dropped from the public eye and went off the grid.

They?ve got a secret.

When Jack?s mom gets sick, he comes home to the family?s Texas ranch to help out. Only one catch: He doesn?t want his family to know about his stalker. Or the bodyguard thing. And so Hannah --- against her will and her better judgment --- finds herself pretending to be Jack?s girlfriend as a cover. Even though her ex, like a jerk, says no one will believe it.

What could possibly go wrong???

Hannah hardly believes it herself. But the more time she spends with Jack, the more real it all starts to seem. And there lies the heartbreak. Because it?s easy for Hannah to protect Jack. But protecting her own, long-neglected heart? That?s the hardest thing she?s ever done.

Discussion Guide

1. Jack and Hannah both experienced the loss of someone important to them before meeting each other. How do you

think this helped them form a unique bond?

2. How did Hannah?s prior knowledge of Jack as a celebrity and as a character in movies impact her expectations of him? Were her expectations accurate or inaccurate?

3. When, do you think, was the pivotal moment that Jack fell in love with Hannah? When was that moment for Hannah?

4. Do you think the portrayal of Jack as a movie star is an accurate representation of fame? Discuss.

5. What is the significance of the scene in which Jack and all of the other Thanksgiving guests raise their hands to choose Hannah over Kennedy Monroe? What did that say about Jack?s character?

6. Discuss the theme of forgiveness in Jack?s character arc and its importance. How does this impact his relationship with his family? How does it impact his relationship with Hannah?

7. Do you think Hannah and Jack would have fallen in love if they had met in a different context? How did Hannah being Jack?s bodyguard hinder or help their relationship?

8. What is the significance of Jack holding on to his brother Drew?s secret for so long? Why do you think he finally told the truth? How did revealing the truth impact him?

9. While the book is a love story between Jack and Hannah, the theme of self-love is explored through Hannah?s character. How did Hannah?s character grow during the course of the book? Discuss.

10. The theme of familial love is explored in the stark difference between Jack?s family and Hannah?s upbringing. Hannah tells Jack?s mother, Connie, ?I guess you remind me of the mom I always wished I had.? What did Hannah learn about familial love from the Stapleton family? What did Jack gain from learning about Hannah?s childhood?

11. On page 259, Hannah says, ?Every chance you take is a choice. A choice to decide who you are.? Does this statement resonate with particular times in your life? Which of your choices are you most proud of?

12. Katherine Center has been called ?the reigning queen of comfort reads,? and she talks a lot about how stories have a unique ability to comfort and nourish us. Was reading THE BODYGUARD nourishing for you? What do you look for in a ?comfort read??

Author Bio

BookPage calls Katherine Center ?the reigning queen of comfort reads.? She?s the *New York Times* bestselling author of 11 books, including HOW TO WALK AWAY, THINGS YOU SAVE IN A FIRE, WHAT YOU WISH FOR, THE BODYGUARD, HELLO STRANGER, THE ROM-COMMERS, THE LOVE HATERS and THE SHIPPERS. Katherine writes laugh-and-cry books about how life knocks us down --- and how we get back up. She?s been compared to both Jane Austen and Nora Ephron, and the Dallas *Morning News* calls her stories, ?satisfying in the most soul-

nourishing way.?

Her books have made countless Best Of lists, including *RealSimple*?s Best Books of 2020, Amazon's Top 100 Books of 2019, Goodreads' Best Books of the Year, and many more. Bestselling author Emily Henry calls THE BODYGUARD ?a shot of pure joy.? The movie adaptation of Katherine?s novel THE LOST HUSBAND (starring Josh Duhamel) hit #1 on Netflix, and her novel HAPPINESS FOR BEGINNERS is in production now as a Netflix original starring Ellie Kemper.

Katherine lives in her hometown of Houston, Texas, with her husband, two kids and their fluffy-but-fierce dog.

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