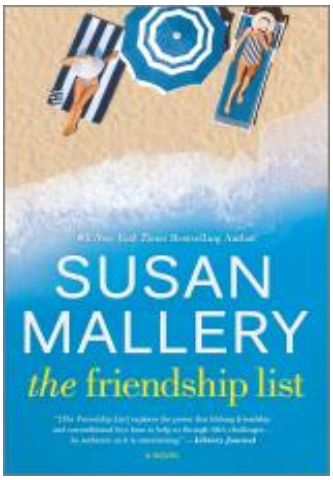
The Friendship List

by Susan Mallery



About the Book

A witty, heartfelt and irresistible story about two best friends determined to help one another shake things up and live life to the fullest in a summer that will change them forever.

Susan Mallery, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of CALIFORNIA GIRLS and SISTERS BY CHOICE, has delivered the perfect escape about the power of female friendship and the importance of making your dreams come true.

Single mom Ellen Fox couldn?t be more content --- until she overhears her son saying he can?t go to his dream college because she needs him too much. If she wants him to live his best life, she has to convince him she?s living hers.

So Unity Leandre, her best friend since forever, creates a list of challenges to push Ellen out of her comfort zone. Unity will complete the list, too, but not because she needs to change. What?s wrong with a thirtysomething widow still sleeping in her late husband?s childhood bed?

The Friendship List begins as a way to make others believe they?re just fine. But somewhere between ?wear three-inch heels? and ?have sex with a gorgeous guy,? Ellen and Unity discover that life is meant to be lived with joy and abandon, in a story filled with humor, heartache and regrettable tattoos.

Discussion Guide

1. Every satisfying novel shows character growth. In what ways were Ellen and Unity different at the end of the book than they were at the beginning? What happened in the story to convince each woman that she had to make a change in her life? How did the challenge lists change them? Which character changed the most?

2. Why do you think the neighborhood of Silver Pines appealed to Unity so much? What did it represent to her?

3. Which woman did you like more? Why?

4. Early in the book, Ellen and Unity had a falling-out. What caused the rift? How did they heal their friendship? How did they stay connected with each other even when Ellen was out of town?

5. Susan Mallery is renowned for her in-depth characterization, and a big part of that is giving readers a clear picture of the characters' lives before the story even started. Discuss what you know about each of these characters from prior to page 1: Ellen, Unity, Keith, Thaddeus. How did their lives prior to this point affect their actions in the story? (Shoutout to Thaddeus' late mom for ironing his tips!)

6. If you had to choose, which guy would you marry: Keith or Thaddeus? Why? If marriage is off the table and we're just talking about a hook-up, would your answer change?

7. What did you think of Ellen's reaction when she walked in on Lissa and Luka in the hotel room? Did she do the right thing? Why or why not? What would you have done?

8. Did you guess what was bothering Lissa before she blurted it out to her dad? Looking back through the story, discuss the ways that you could tell that Lissa was hiding something. Should Keith have realized sooner? Why or why not?

9. What surprised you in the story? Which scenes made you laugh? What moments are sticking with you?

10. Name something you would put on your own personal challenge list. Would that help you grow in some way and, if so, how? What has held you back from doing it already?

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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