ReadingGroupGuides
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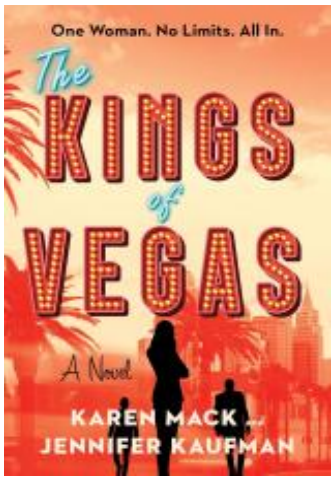
The Kings of Vegas

by Karen Mack and Jennifer Kaufman



About the Book

?Mack and Kaufman?s unfussy prose and well-rounded characters balance out the larger-than-life glitz and grit of Vegas. The result is a suspenseful and entertaining trip to Sin City.?

? ***Publishers Weekly***

?This character-driven quick read will appeal to fans of May Cobb.?

? ***Library Journal***

?Succession? in Las Vegas! From bestselling writing duo Karen Mack and Jennifer Kaufman, a sexy and suspense-packed thriller about the prodigal daughter of a Las Vegas casino empire who returns to take over her family business --- only to discover that she?s up against the Mob, the Feds and her own brothers.

When Josie King left Las Vegas in the '90s, she never looked back. The daughter of gambling mogul Roy King, spirited math whiz Josie grew up on the casino floor but deliberately turned away from the family business. She?s been living a quiet life in LA as an accountant and a single mom when she finds herself summoned back to Sin City.

Now, 15 years later, Josie's father has died unexpectedly, and her siblings are already gathered for the reading of his will...only to discover that in order to inherit, they must spend three years working together at the notorious family casino, The Jackpot.

Josie?s pride won?t let her walk away from the family empire again, so she agrees to take charge of the casino?s finances. She quickly discovers that while Roy King was once the most powerful man in Vegas, times have changed. These days, everyone has a piece of the action: Josie?s brothers, the FBI, the local mobsters, even the sexy rival casino owner who?s more than a friend. Las Vegas is more dangerous than ever, but Josie knows that to save the family business, she?ll have to wade in deeper.

Stacked with sex, crime, sibling rivalry and mountains of cash, THE KINGS OF VEGAS is an electrifying thriller with a tough and irresistible heroine at the center of the action.

Discussion Guide

Questions for Discussion

1. This novel is publicized as a sexy thriller. But it?s also a family saga. Which part of the novel interests you more. And why?

2. Josie faces a tough decision towards the end of the book. Should she throw Frank under the bus or try to work it out so he stays at the casino. Why does she eventually exile him? And do you think it was the right decision?

3. Which of Josie's siblings do you sympathize with most? And why? Does that change over the course of the novel?

4. The book opens with a one-night stand with Josie and Rob. How does this encounter shape the rest of their relationship? Do you think they trust each other? Should they?

5. Blackjack and card-counting skills are an important part of this book. How does Josie's talent in this area shape her ability to run the casino? Have you ever played blackjack? And do you stick or fold at 16?

6. Do you think that Josie will be able to wield as much power as her father did before her? Why or why not?

7. How does Josie?s violent past come into play as she tries to save her casino?

8. Discuss the power and influence of Roy King and his actual connections to the mob.

9. What three words would you use to describe Josie King? Frank King? Sam King? Roy King?

10. At Roy King?s funeral, Josie and Rob share a surprisingly impulsive moment. How appropriate do you feel Josie?s actions were here, despite the circumstances? What would you have done in her shoes?

11. Josie often finds herself reminiscing about her past with her family, especially in light of events like her father?s death and chaos at her family?s casino. How does Josie cope with her family?s violent past?

12. Lionel takes over Moe?s job when Roy King dies. How are Lionel and Moe similar? How are they different?

13. Josie and her family are never in the same room except at the beginning of the book, when they meet to discuss Roy

King?s will. Including Josie?s family, who would you say is her closest ally?

14. What are the repercussions of Billie?s kidnapping? How does it affect Josie's actions besides making her more vengeful?

15. Why do Josie and Sam choose to keep Sunny out of family discussions? Do you agree with this exclusion? Do you have family members you cannot talk to about important issues?

Enhance Your Book Club

1. In the book, Josie is known as a ?blackjack prodigy.? Put your skills to the test by hosting your own blackjack night with your book club.

2. Plan a trip to Vegas! What casinos, natural locations, restaurants and more would you be interested in visiting if you were to travel to Vegas? Make a list and itinerary for a hypothetical (or real!) trip.

3. Create a playlist for your Vegas-themed book club night!

Author Bio

Karen Mack is a novelist and Golden Globe and Emmy Award?winning film and television producer. She has co-authored four novels with Jennifer Kaufman, including the national bestsellers LITERACY AND LONGING IN LA and FREUD'S MISTRESS. Raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, where her family has lived for generations, Mack draws on her deep ties to the city in her fiction.

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