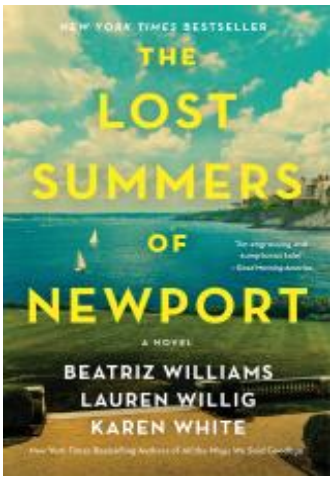
The Lost Summers of Newport

by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, and Karen White



About the Book

From the *New York Times* bestselling team of Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig and Karen White comes a novel of money and secrets set among the famous summer mansions of Newport, Rhode Island, spanning over a century from the Gilded Age to the present day.

2019: Andie Figuero has just landed her dream job as a producer of Mansion Makeover, a popular reality show about restoring America?s most lavish historic houses. Andie has high hopes for her latest project: the once glorious but gently crumbling Sprague Hall in Newport, Rhode Island, summer resort of America?s gilded class --- famous for the lavish ?summer cottages? of Vanderbilts and Belmonts. But Andie runs into trouble: the reclusive heiress who still lives in the mansion, Lucia ?Lucky? Sprague, will only allow the show to go forward on two conditions: One, nobody speaks to her. Two, nobody touches the mansion?s ruined boathouse.

1899: Ellen Daniels has been hired to give singing lessons to Miss Maybelle Sprague, a naive young Colorado mining heiress whose stepbrother John has poured their new money into buying a place among Newport?s elite. John is determined to see Maybelle married off to a fortune-hunting Italian prince, and Ellen is supposed to polish up the girl for her launch into society. But the deceptively demure Ellen has her own checkered past, and she?s hiding in plain sight at Sprague Hall.

1958: Lucia ?Lucky? Sprague has always felt like an outsider at Sprague Hall. When she and her grandmother --- the American-born Princess di Conti --- fled Mussolini?s Italy, it seemed natural to go back to the imposing Newport house Nana owned but hadn?t seen since her marriage in 1899. Over the years, Lucky has lost her Italian accent and found a place for herself among the yachting set by marrying Stuyvesant Sprague, the alcoholic scion of her Sprague stepfamily. But one fateful night in the mansion?s old boathouse will uncover a devastating truth...and change everything she thought she knew about her past.

As the cameras roll on Mansion Makeover, the house begins to yield up the dark secrets the Spragues thought would stay hidden forever.

Discussion Guide

1. Had you ever heard of or visited Newport, Rhode Island, before reading this book? Why do you think the authors chose it as a setting for this novel?

2. Andie tells the reader: ?My interest...was all about the careful restoration of our collective past that was held in trust by old buildings.? What do you think old buildings tell us about our collective past? Is that true of Sprague Hall?

3. What did you make of Stuyvesant Sprague and his marriage to Lucky? What do you think she meant when she said at the end that Stuy ?deserved better??

4. Was Ellen right to report Dermot to the police once she knew the depth of his criminality, despite his personal kindness to her? How does her flight from New York foreshadow the decision that Ellen makes later in the book? Do you agree with her choices?

5. Ellen thinks to herself: ?She?d no call to be feeling sorry for an heiress... As long as her salary was paid.? Did you feel sorry for Maybelle? What?s her role in this story? What kind of different ending would you have written for her?

6. Prince Sebastiano encourages Ellen to take Maybelle?s place, saying ?Honor her with your living. Live the life she might have led.? Is that what Ellen does? Would you have been persuaded by that argument?

7. Jackie Kennedy tells Lucky: ?All these palaces...had a single perfect moment in history, and then the hour was past... I don?t know if you can ever get such a thing back once it?s gone.? Do you agree with her? What do you think the next phase of Sprague Hall?s history will be like, once Lucky sells it?

8. Each ?Team W? book is written in alternating storylines by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig and Karen White. Can you guess who wrote which storyline?

9. When Brenda needed Charlie?s help to repair the organs, did you expect him to have so much fun doing it? Why do you think he enjoyed it so much?

10. Why does Charlie hate the nickname Trigger so much?

11. From the first chapter to the last, Brenda says she regrets the unloving way she behaved toward Charlie in their early times together. Likewise, Charlie reveals his regrets about his work on the bomb. What does the ending of the book tell you about their efforts to find redemption?

Author Bio

Beatriz Williams is the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and internationally bestselling author of HUSBANDS & LOVERS, THE SUMMER WIVES, THE SECRET LIFE OF VIOLET GRANT, A HUNDRED SUMMERS, the *Wicked City* series, and several other works of historical fiction, including five novels in collaboration with fellow bestselling authors Karen White and Lauren Willig.

A graduate of Stanford University with an MBA in Finance from Columbia University, Beatriz worked as a communications and corporate strategy consultant in New York and London before her first novel was published in 2012. Beatriz?s books have won numerous awards, have been translated into more than a dozen languages, and appear regularly in bestseller lists around the world. Her essays have appeared in magazines such as *Real Simple* and *Southern Living*, among others, and she regularly reviews fiction for the *New York Times Book Review*.

Born in Seattle, Washington, Beatriz now lives in southeastern Connecticut with her husband and four mostly grown children.

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