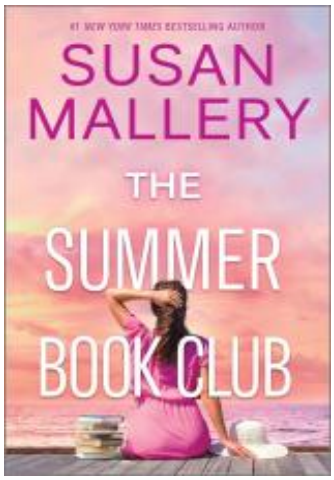
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

The Summer Book Club

by Susan Mallery



About the Book

The rules of summer book club are simple:

No sad books
No pressure
Yesssss, wine!
Besties Laurel and Paris are excited to welcome Cassie to the group. This year, the book club is all about fill-your-heart reads, an escape from the chaos of the everyday --- running a business, raising a family, juggling a hundred to-dos. Even the dog is demanding (but the bestest boy).

Since Laurel?s divorce, she feels like the Worst Mom Ever. Her skepticism of men may have scarred her vulnerable daughters. Cassie has an unfortunate habit of falling for ridiculous man-boys who dump her once she fixes them. Paris knows good men exist. She?s still reeling after chasing off the only one brave enough --- and foolish enough --- to marry her.

Inspired by the heroines who risk everything for fulfillment, Laurel, Paris and Cassie begin to take chances --- big chances --- in life, in love. Facing an unwritten chapter can be terrifying. But it can be exhilarating, too, if only they can find the courage to change.

Discussion Guide

Please note: These questions contain spoilers. We recommend that you finish the book before you read the questions.

1. There are three ?inciting incidents? in this book --- that is, three moments that propel each heroine?s storyline, the

moment when each heroine realizes that something needs to change. What are the inciting incidents for Laurel?s, Paris? and Cassie?s stories?

2. With which heroine did you identify most closely? Why?

3. Laurel worried that her own post-divorce attitude toward men was negatively affecting her daughters. Do you think she was right to worry? Why or why not? If you have children, how do you think your beliefs influence theirs?

4. Should a single mom with no male relatives make sure her kids have positive male role models? If so, what strategies do you think would work? Explain. How did you feel about Laurel?s plan to find a guy friend?

5. How did Colton show that he was different from Laurel?s ex-husband? Did Colton?s parents impact your feelings toward him? If yes, how so?

6. Paris, on the other hand, married a great guy but lost him due to her temper. How did learning this make you feel about her? Did your feelings change as you read the book?

7. Jonah told Paris that he was partially to blame for their divorce. What do you think he meant? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Do you think divorce is ever just one person?s fault? Share your thoughts.

8. Through years of therapy and hard work, Paris was able to change how she reacted to the world, but she was afraid to believe in herself. What finally convinced her that she could risk falling in love again?

9. Why did Cassie?s siblings kick her out? Were they right to do so? Why or why not?

10. In the beginning, all Cassie wanted to do was to return home to Maine, but by the end, she saw the future of her dreams in Los Lobos. What changed her mind?

11. How does the structure of the summer book club in THE SUMMER BOOK CLUB differ from the structure of your book club? How does your book club choose which book to read next? How do you wish your book club would choose? Does your book club continue to meet in the summer months? If so, do you change the types of books you read during the summer?

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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