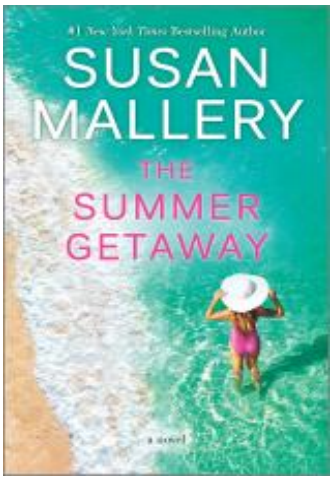
The Summer Getaway

by Susan Mallery



About the Book

One woman takes the vacation of a lifetime in this poignant and heartwarming story about the threads that hold a family together from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Mallery.

Single mom Robyn Caldwell needs a new plan for her future. She has always put her family first. Now, with her kids grown, she yearns for a change. But what can she do when her daughter has become the most demanding bride ever, her son won?t even consider college, her best friend is on the brink of marital disaster, and her ex is making a monumentally bad decision that could ruin everything?

Take a vacation, of course. Press reset. When her great-aunt Lillian invites her to Santa Barbara for the summer, Robyn hops on the first plane to sunny California.

But it?s hard to get away when you?re the heart of the family. One by one, everyone she loves follows her across the country. Somehow, their baggage doesn?t feel as heavy in the sun-drenched, mishmash mansion. The more time Robyn spends with free-spirited Lillian, the more possibilities she sees --- for dreams, love, family. She can have everything she ever wanted, if only she can muster the courage to take a chance on herself.

Discussion Guide

Note: These questions contain spoilers. Lots and lots of spoilers. For the best reading experience, we recommend that you wait until after you have finished THE SUMMER GETAWAY before reading the questions.

1. Mother/daughter relationships can be difficult, even when both are lovely people. Why do you think that is? What makes the stakes so high between mother and daughter? What were some of the reasons that Robyn and Harlow?s relationship was complicated?

2. Why do you think Robyn stayed with Cord even after he cheated? Would you have stayed?

3. Cord surprised Robyn with a house, a grand gesture supposedly made in apology for his infidelity. Would you be happy if your significant other bought a house for you that you?d never seen? Why or why not?

4. Robyn feels Harlow is too young to marry at 22, even though she (Robyn) married at 18. What ?s something you did as a young adult that you wouldn?t want your kids to do? Do you think 22 is too young to marry?

5. When Mindy talked about having an affair with her tennis instructor, Robyn tried to warn her, but Mindy wouldn?t listen. What did you think was going to happen? Were you surprised that Payne forgave Mindy? What would you do if a friend told you she wanted to cheat on her husband? How would you react after she followed through?

6. Mason spent 25 years in the army, including two as a drill instructor. How do you think this shaped him as a man? What made him so appealing to Robyn?

7. Family dynamics are infinitely complex, as Susan Mallery has demonstrated with one bestselling family drama after another. Each family is unique, and each relationship within that family is unique. How did Austin and Harlow?s relationships with their mom and dad differ?

8. What would you do if you inherited $250,000? What about $10 million?

9. Were you surprised when Lillian died, or did foreshadowing lead you to suspect it?

10. Robyn was the heart of her family, as evidenced by the way everyone followed her to California. Who is the heart of your family?

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.

Critical Praise

"THE SUMMER GETAWAY is a reflective and moving tale of family ties."

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