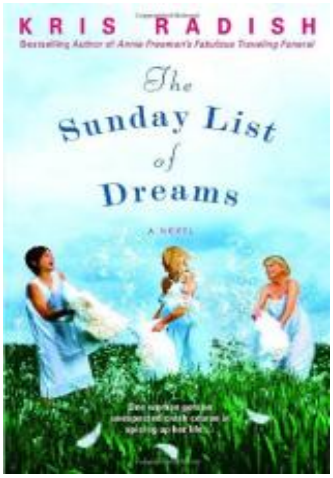
The Sunday List of Dreams

by Kris Radish



About the Book

Connie Nixon is no stranger to making lists. In fact, she has rewritten the list of her deepest desires no fewer than forty-eight times. And each Sunday, for as long as she can remember, she?s tinkered with it. But actually doing something about her desires is a different story?until the night she comes across a box belonging to her estranged daughter?and makes a stunning discovery. It turns out that her seemingly straitlaced Jessica is part owner of one of the most successful sex toy shops in America.

Shocked by her daughter?s secret life, Connie tucks her list in her back pocket and does something utterly impulsive: she hops on a plane to New York City to track down Jessica?and winds up on the wildest adventure of her life. Because with her daughter?s help, Connie?s about to let her own inner bombshell see the light of day.

Now, for the first time ever, things are flying off Connie?s list. Like reconnecting with her daughter. And getting tipsy before noon. And the most startlingly extraordinary desire of all: falling in love.

Discussion Guide

1. How does Connie?s list of dreams change throughout the novel? What does her list say about her sense of self?

2. Chapter four describes Connie?s sustaining friendship with Frannie O?Brien, who is described as both co-pilot and navigator. How does Frannie help move Connie, and the novel, forward? Who is the O?Brien in your life?

3. How does Connie feel about her house (even when it?s talking to her) and the artifacts from her children and husband? What new concept of home does she dream of?

4. Why did Jessica relate to her mother differently than Sabrina and Macy did? What puts the distance or closeness in

their relationships? Put yourself in Connie?s or Jessica?s shoes upon the discovery of ?Diva?s.? What would you do?

5. Why had Connie disapproved of her other daughters? What did it take to bring reconciliation among all four Nixon women?

6. Jessica has to travel to Louisiana because of production issues. Talk about what sexuality means in your community: Are there differences in the way men and women perceive this?

7. How does Connie reconcile the idea of Jessica as her baby, and the reality that Jessica is a grown woman? How do mothers and daughters shift in the way they relate to each other throughout life? How does it happen in the novel?

8. How do the novel?s three primary settings?Cypress, Indiana; New York City; and New Orleans?compare to each other? How does each one capture a different side of Connie?s personality, especially considering that two of the cities have recently survived tragedy

9. On the plane bound for New York, Connie bonds with Mattie the hairdresser in a process Kris Radish calls ?female communion.? When has female communion brought miracles into your life? How does this shape the novel?

10. What role did Romney, Kinsey, and Meredith play in fostering Jessica?s career? What did Romney show Jessica about being a good lover? At what point did Jessica?s career overtake her ability to find pleasure in life?

11. What do Connie and Jessica learn about themselves, and about each other, from Saffine in Louisiana? What makes her so good at stirring honesty in them?

12. What is the significance of Connie?s life as a nurse? What does it say about her capabilities? Did it prepare her at all for a life in retail? How did she go about deciding where to dedicate her life after retirement?

13. Michael taps a well of passion in Connie, and Martin does the same for Jessica. What enabled both women to let go of their fears? What were the origins of these fears? What is the antidote to Connie?s panic attack in chapter twenty-three?

14. Chapter fourteen ends with Connie?s advice to her patients that ?the center is a very fine place to be, because from there you can see both sides and select the best way home.? Respond to this.

15. In an interview, Kris Radish has said that her stories are a way for her to ?honor the relationships women have with each other, their friendships, and the great love that women share with each other.? Do you think she has achieved this goal with The Sunday List of Dreams?

16. What threads link The Sunday List of Dreams to Kris Radish?s previous novels? What would Radish?s previous heroines think of Diva?s?

Author Bio

Kris Radish is the author of six books. Her Bantam Dell novels THE ELEGANT GATHERING OF WHITE SNOWS, DANCING NAKED AT THE EDGE OF DAWN and ANNIE FREEMAN'S FABULOUS TRAVELING FUNERAL have been on the bestseller and Book Sense 76 Selection lists. She also writes two weekly nationally syndicated columns.

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