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Things to Do When It's Raining

by Marissa Stapley



About the Book

When secrets tear love apart, can the truth mend it?

Mae Summers has it all: a loving fiancé, Peter, a job at the flourishing company he owns and a beautiful New York City apartment. But Mae?s life shatters when she wakes up one morning to discover Peter gone --- leaving only a cryptic note behind him --- and the company in shambles, its investments founded on lies.

There?s only one place for Mae to go: home to Alexandria Bay, the small tourist town in upstate New York where she was raised by her grandparents in the inn they own. And not all is right in Alex Bay, either: Mae finds her grandmother struggling with dementia, separated from Mae?s grandfather thanks to a terrible secret she never meant to reveal.

She also finds Gabe, her childhood best friend who became the love of her young life --- now a handsome if brooding adult, working through a private trauma that still haunts him.

A lifetime of secrets stands in the way of Mae and her family?s happiness. Home may be where the heart is, but sometimes it takes equal parts love, forgiveness and will to mend that heart.

Discussion Guide

1. What does ?family? mean to you? Is family something you?re born into or something you can create?

2. Describe the relationship Mae and her fiancé, Peter, had. Do you believe he ever loved her? What does Mae learn from their interactions?

3. The St. Lawrence River is a character in and of itself in this novel. How would you describe its role in the story and its

effect on the various characters?

4. Do you think it?s possible for teenage sweethearts to pick up where they left off? How do time and maturity change our outlook on life and our relationships with others?

5. What role do love and jealousy play in the novel?

6. Gabe comes from a family that has a legacy of alcoholism and abuse. How does he view himself in light of that? Do you think that makes him a different person than he might otherwise have been? How does his past affect the decisions he makes?

7. Lilly hurt George by accidentally revealing the truth about Virginia?s paternity. What would you have done in George?s situation? Was Lilly was right to have hidden the truth from him all these years?

8. Lilly?s actions have an enormous effect on her granddaughter?s life. In your opinion, were those actions justified? Why do you think she tells Gabe ?Mae is not for you?? How much regret do you believe she feels and in what ways does that regret change her?

9. Why does George befriend Jonah so late in both their lives? Do they have anything in common besides their shared family history? What influence, if any, do they have on each other?

10. Does Mae?s character change as the story progresses? If so, how?

11. Do you agree with Gabe?s decision not to tell George about Lilly?s lie? Why or why not? What would you have done in the same situation?

12. In your opinion, why does Gabe hold himself responsible for the deaths of Mae?s parents?

Author Bio

Marissa Stapley is the bestselling author of the novels THE LIGHTNING BOTTLES; LUCKY, soon to be an Apple limited series starring Anya Taylor-Joy; MATING FOR LIFE; THINGS TO DO WHEN IT'S RAINING; and THE LAST RESORT. She lives in Toronto with her family.

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