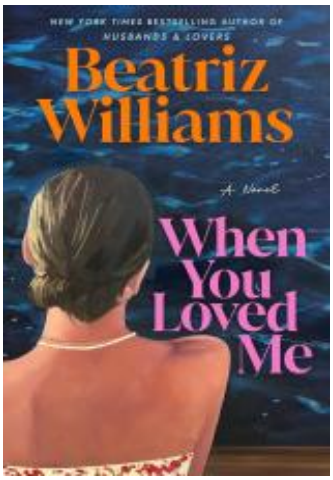
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When You Loved Me

by Beatriz Williams



About the Book

A young widow returns to her late father?s New England estate, only to be drawn into the hunt for the rumored pirate treasure that consumed his life, in this thrilling and moving novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of HUSBANDS & LOVERS.

Local history insists that a legendary pirate buried his treasure somewhere beneath Windward, the decayed Cooper estate on Winthrop Island, but Lucy Cooper never trusted the fable that broke her family apart. When a widowed Lucy returns with her young daughter to grieve her estranged father, she discovers catastrophe. The property is mired in debt she can?t repay, and Ben Ressler has unexpectedly turned up on her doorstep.

Thirteen summers ago, the teenaged Lucy never meant to fall in love with Ben, a Dartmouth football star vacationing nearby at the Peabody estate and the object of an all-consuming crush by Laura Peabody, Lucy?s best friend. Those few weeks were the best and worst of Lucy?s life, dooming her friendship with Laura. Now, after a fatal accident ended his dazzling NFL career, Ben has returned to live quietly in the Peabodys? caretaker lodge. He?s also the last person who saw Lucy?s father alive.

As Lucy reconstructs her father?s troubling final days, she uncovers his research on the frozen winter of 1717, when a desperately wounded pirate sought refuge on Winthrop Island with an enigmatic healer. To Lucy, this history points the way to a different kind of treasure: how to heal from the fractures of the past and earn a second chance at love. But just as Lucy?s long-buried emotions sear to the surface, a shocking turn of events reveals that someone else on the island will do whatever it takes to claim the fabled plunder.

A timeless story of love and atonement, WHEN YOU LOVED ME maps both a centuries-old treasure hunt and the intimate territory of the human heart, weaving together past and present as only Beatriz Williams can.

Discussion Guide

1. Lucy returns to Windward as both a grieving daughter and a widow. How does loss shape the decisions she makes throughout the novel?

2. Parent and child relationships are a central theme to the novel. What do you think Lucy inherited from her father besides the estate itself?

3. Lucy?s father spent much of his life chasing a legendary treasure. Did you view his quest as admirable, destructive or both?

4. How did your feelings about Ben evolve throughout the novel? Did you think their shared experience with loss make them more or less compatible in reality?

5. Laura?s role is central even when she isn?t physically present. How did her friendship with Lucy shape both women?s lives?

6. How do you think the novel explores the concept of redemption? Which character embodies that idea the most?

7. Why do you think the author chose to connect Lucy?s modern story to the winter of 1717? Did you learn anything new or interesting from those chapters?

8. The novel is described as a story of ?love and atonement,? and I think it?s easy to see where characters needed to forgive each other. Which characters did you think needed to forgive themselves, though?

9. Windward is described as decayed, debt-ridden and full of history. In what ways do you think the estate was a metaphor for the deeper relationships represented in the novel?

10. Did you ultimately care if the treasure was real, or was the emotional journey more important?

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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Publication Date: June 23, 2026
Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, Mystery, Romance, Women's Fiction
Hardcover: 464 pages
Publisher: Ballantine Books
ISBN-10: N/A
ISBN-13: 9798217094820