Book Club Kit

"Glorious. A perfect story told with so much heart." —SUSAN MALLERY, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Summer Book Club



JENNIFER PROBST New York Times Bestselling Author of

The Secret Love Letters of Olivia Moretti

BERKLEY

DEAR READER

When I was twelve years old, my life changed.

It was the first day of sixth grade. I walked in and chose a seat next to a redheaded girl with pigtails. She smiled at me; I smiled back. And we became best friends.

Fast-forward many years later. She is the sister I never had; she is my person. We've experienced ups and downs together, and we got married two weeks apart. We've celebrated each other's victories and wept in each other's arms during painful losses. She is the person I chose to love, and in this way, I think our relationship is more powerful because it was not given; it was a choice.

A Wedding in Lake Como is a book about first love—the romantic, passionate love that comes once in a lifetime and is challenged by age and time. But it is also a story about female friendship.

Madison, Ava, and Chelsea meet in college and become best friends. Their relationship grows and changes as they fall in love, create dynamic careers, and struggle with their identities against the thrilling backdrop of New York City and Lake Como.

But female friendships can become complicated, and sometimes love can be toxic.

When dark secrets are revealed, and a lavish wedding in Italy offers the answer, will friendship and love be strong enough to survive?

I loved writing A Wedding in Lake Como and exploring these fascinating themes with my beloved readers.

I invite you to the wedding of the year. Take a seat, grab a cocktail, and enjoy one of the most emotional love stories of the season.

Saluti.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Both Ava and Maddie experienced difficult relationships with their parents. Do you think this affected the intensity and role of their friendship in their lives? If so, how? Discuss.
- 2. A Wedding in Lake Como provides only Maddie's perspective on the story. How do you think Ava's would differ? Chelsea's? Did you wish to have anyone else's point of view shown?
- 3. Italy becomes a backdrop for both Ava's and Maddie's personal growth. Discuss how their second trip to Lake Como varies from their first. How have they changed with each other and within themselves?
- 4. Chelsea was one of the first two people in the girls' friendship circle, but many times she seemed to take a more distant perspective in the story. How would Ava and Maddie be different without Chelsea? Would things have gone on a different path, or do you think they would both still have made the same choices?
- 5. Maddie wants to be a social media influencer. How does this choice of career affect the story? Do you know anyone who is an influencer? Did you learn more about the influencer world through the story?
- 6. Riggs and Maddie fall for each other quickly. Do you think they were meant for each other? Do you think it was their ages that gave them the biggest challenge? Do you think they'd still be together if Ava hadn't been in the picture?

- 7. When Riggs and Ava sleep together, it is five years before Maddie is able to deal with the fallout. Did you agree with her decision to go to Ava's wedding? Why or why not?
- 8. Forgiveness and growth are themes in A Wedding in Lake Como. Discuss how each of the characters experiences both forgiveness and growth in their individual character arc.
- 9. Do you think Riggs and Maddie end up together? Do you think Ava and Riggs's baby will always be an obstacle between them? Why or why not?
- 10. Female friendship is shown in many intricate layers as the young women transition to adulthood. Do you consider Ava a toxic friend? Have you ever experienced difficulties in a close friendship in your past? How did it end up?
- **11.** Who do you feel the most connected to-Maddie, Ava, or Chelsea? Why?
- **12.** Do you believe Ava was cheating on Patrick the entire time? Do you believe Maddie should have confronted her?
- **13.** Do you think Maddie should have stood up to Ava? When? How do you think the story would have changed if this had happened?
- **14.** Do you blame Ava for not telling Riggs or Maddie about the baby? Do you agree with the decision for Riggs not to be involved in his child's life?
- **15.** Ava made choices along the way that hurt other people. Were you able to forgive her like Maddie and Chelsea did?