

Booking Mama

Sharing Ideas on Books, Book Clubs, and occasionally some other things

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About Me



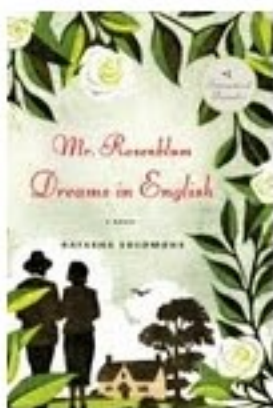
Julie P.

I am a stay-at-home mother of two

whose passion (besides my family) is books. I am an avid reader who enjoys all types of books, although I mainly read fiction. In addition to reading, I also love crocheting, knitting, cooking, and watching Penn State football. Contact me: bookingmama@gmail.com @bookingmama (Twitter)

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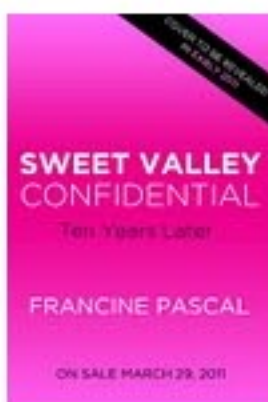
What I'm Reading Now



What I'm Giving Away



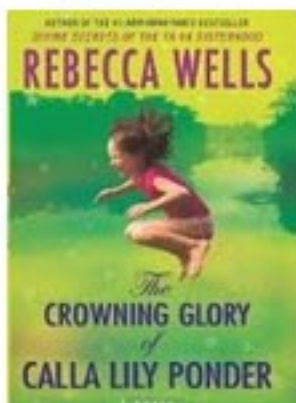
2 copies



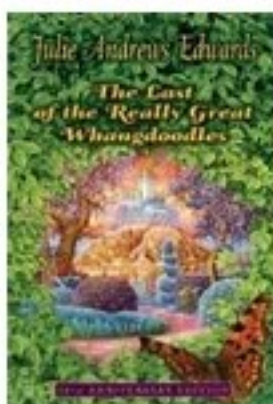
10 St. Martin's Books



My Book Club Pick



Mother Daughter Book Club Pick



Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Book Club Exchange: Christine Lemmon



I'd like to welcome author **Christine Lemmon** to **Book Club Exchange**, a regular feature on Booking Mama which highlights anything and everything book club-related! Her most recent book **SAND IN MY EYES** sounds like an ideal summer book club pick!

Some of the themes it explores include motherhood, marriage, self-discovery and friendship. Plus it's set on the beautiful Sanibel Island.

Today, Ms. Lemmon wrote a very honest guest post about her first experience with a book club. As a reader and book club member, I love getting this insider's glimpse into an author's feelings!

Book Club Experience

"Once a book is released into the world there is no going back, no changing the things you wish you could change, no spending more time with the chapters you knew you should have spent more time with. It's the same as when a loved one dies. There are no last kisses to be kissed, hugs to be hugged, words to be spoken—no going back, apologizing for what was or wasn't."—excerpt from the book Sand in My Eyes

Writing is intimate to me. It's intimate because it has always been a part of me—writing in my diary since I was a little girl. When writing a novel, hardly do I talk about what I am writing and my husband is usually the only one I allow to read my manuscripts. When a copy of the finished book arrives at my house, I can hardly open it. What if no one likes it? For weeks I hide under a rock of vulnerability, ignoring my husband as he reminds me that now it's time to promote!

When I got my first invitation as an author to attend a book club in which the group of ladies had read one of my novels, I sat in my car outside the house where they were meeting, nervously flipping through the pages of my own book. What were they going to say to me? How could Lydia keep that secret from Josh, and why didn't you have Jaden run, run, running across the country after Ava? This invitation to attend the book club had me revisiting my story as if I were revisiting loved ones who died long ago. I had felt sad when I finished writing the story and now, I missed my characters—all that time spent creating them and working through the issues of their lives.

Filled with emotion and trepidation, like a person entering a courtroom ready to face interrogation, I entered the living room where the twenty women were waiting for me. But one after the next, they came up welcoming me with hugs, handshakes, kisses on the cheek, telling me their favorite quotes, sharing with me stories from their lives in relation to what they had read in my book, and how this character spoke to them personally, and that theme inspired change in their life and this went on until one lady was wiping tears from her eyes and so was I. Books do this to people. They bring us together. And some books tear us apart.

Interacting with the members of this book club, hearing their reactions and seeing their emotions have made me a better writer. I have learned that no matter the age, background, financial status or education of a person, we are all similar when it comes to wants and dreams, heartache and sorrow. I left the discussion that night feeling a unique attachment to this group, the kind that only a writer feels when she encounters a roomful of her readers. And I took with me a new sense of accountability for what I write. If what I write is going to take up hours, days, and nights from a person's life, then I want to write something worthy of their time and if nothing else, add a little beauty to their life.

I have since had the opportunity to attend numerous book clubs in my area. Sometimes I still think my writing is an intimate part of me but it isn't. It's no longer something locked up in the pages of my diary but rather a part of my heart and soul that I am sharing with others. Due to an influx of book clubs nationwide selecting my novels for their discussions I have recently launched a brand new website that includes a letter to groups, ideas for themed get-togethers, and of course, discussion questions I came up with that should spur meaningful conversations. For those groups far away from where I live, I am happy to answer emailed questions so I can in a way be a part of the experience.

For more on Christine Lemmon and her books, visit: www.christinelemmon.com or find her on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

2010 EW Summer Books Challenge



Sign-Up

2010 EW Summer Books Challenge Reviews

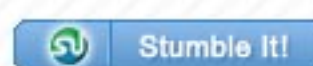
Reagan Arthur Books Challenge



Back-to-School Feature



SheKnows Book Club



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