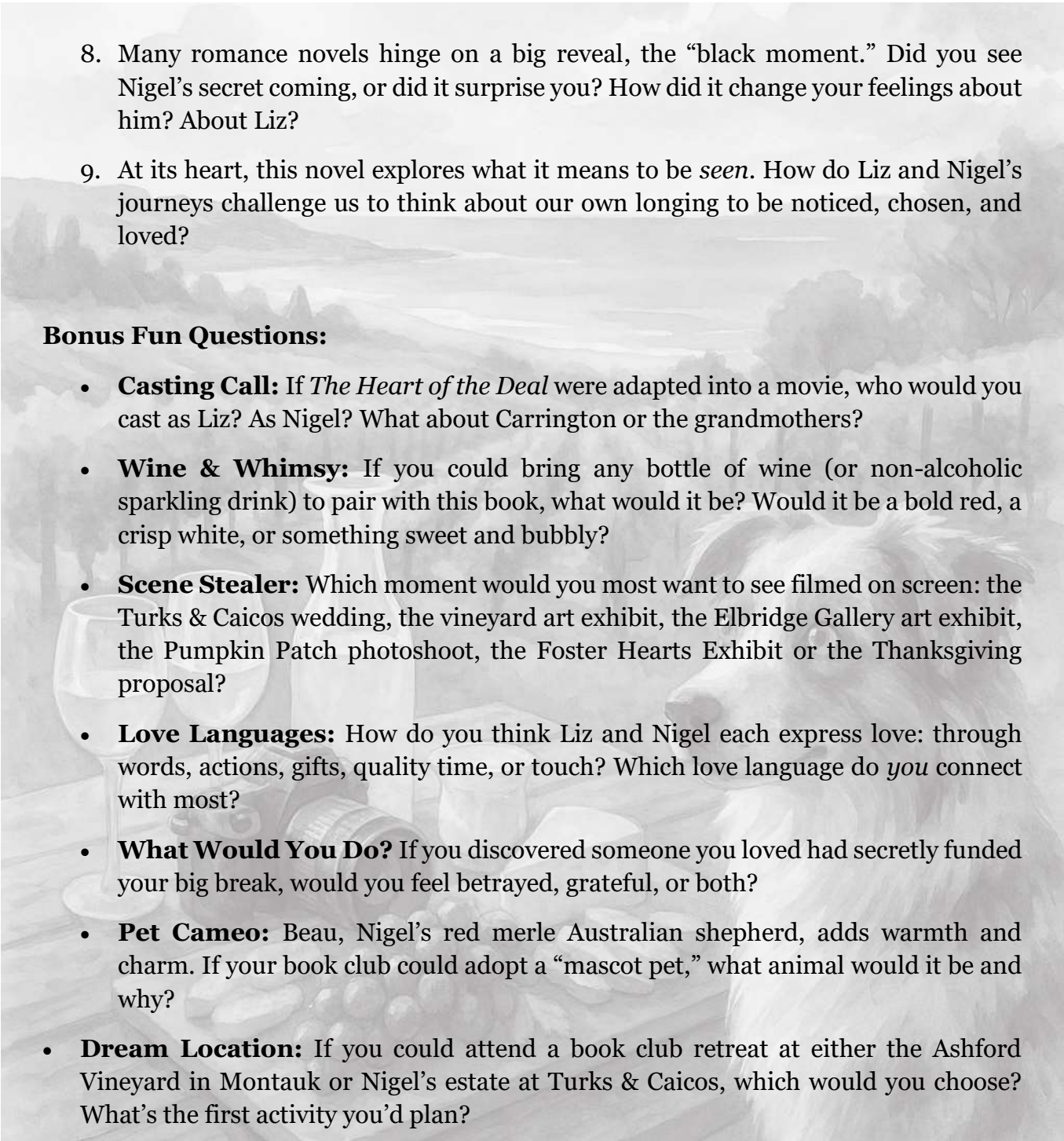


The Heart of the Deal Bonus Feature: Book Club Guide (Questions for Reflection):

Stories aren't just meant to be read. They're meant to be shared. My hope is that *The Heart of the Deal* gave you a taste of love, legacy, and the beauty of second chances. Whether you're gathered with friends around the table, curled up on a porch with the sound of waves nearby, or chatting over coffee or tea, these questions are here to spark conversation. Think of them as an invitation to linger a little longer with Liz and Nigel and maybe to reflect on the ways your own heart longs to be truly seen and loved.

***The Heart of the Deal* | Book Club Discussion Questions:**

1. Liz often feels invisible in her career, while Nigel hides behind his wealth and status. How do their struggles mirror each other? Did you relate more to Liz's longing to be seen or Nigel's desire to be loved for who he truly is?
2. The vineyard plays a big role in the story, not just as a backdrop but as part of Nigel's legacy. How does the setting add to the romance and the conflicts between Liz and Nigel?
3. Liz downplays her artistic talent while quietly craving validation. Why do you think so many people—especially women—struggle to claim their gifts?
4. Nigel goes to great lengths to hide his wealth. Do you see this as self-protection, deception, or a test of love? Would you have reacted the same way Liz does when the truth comes out?
5. The vineyard foster photo session becomes a turning point for both Liz and Nigel. What did that scene reveal about their true selves? How did it set the stage for the ending? Trust is one of the novel's central themes. What risks do Liz and Nigel each take to earn the other's trust? Which risk felt most powerful to you?
6. How do secondary characters (Carrington, Sophie, Meredith, etc.) help move Liz and Nigel toward or away from each other? Which supporting character would you like to see get their own story?
7. The Quinn and Ashworth grandmothers ("the intelligence committee") add a touch of humor and legacy to the story. How did their meddling and friendship enrich Liz and Nigel's romance?

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8. Many romance novels hinge on a big reveal, the “black moment.” Did you see Nigel’s secret coming, or did it surprise you? How did it change your feelings about him? About Liz?
9. At its heart, this novel explores what it means to be *seen*. How do Liz and Nigel’s journeys challenge us to think about our own longing to be noticed, chosen, and loved?

Bonus Fun Questions:

- **Casting Call:** If *The Heart of the Deal* were adapted into a movie, who would you cast as Liz? As Nigel? What about Carrington or the grandmothers?
- **Wine & Whimsy:** If you could bring any bottle of wine (or non-alcoholic sparkling drink) to pair with this book, what would it be? Would it be a bold red, a crisp white, or something sweet and bubbly?
- **Scene Stealer:** Which moment would you most want to see filmed on screen: the Turks & Caicos wedding, the vineyard art exhibit, the Elbridge Gallery art exhibit, the Pumpkin Patch photoshoot, the Foster Hearts Exhibit or the Thanksgiving proposal?
- **Love Languages:** How do you think Liz and Nigel each express love: through words, actions, gifts, quality time, or touch? Which love language do *you* connect with most?
- **What Would You Do?** If you discovered someone you loved had secretly funded your big break, would you feel betrayed, grateful, or both?
- **Pet Cameo:** Beau, Nigel’s red merle Australian shepherd, adds warmth and charm. If your book club could adopt a “mascot pet,” what animal would it be and why?
- **Dream Location:** If you could attend a book club retreat at either the Ashford Vineyard in Montauk or Nigel’s estate at Turks & Caicos, which would you choose? What’s the first activity you’d plan?

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