

When Spring Blooms 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 *When Spring Blooms* gave you a taste of love, community, 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 Jack and Meredith and maybe to reflect on the ways your own heart longs to be healed and loved.

***When Spring Blooms* | Questions for Reflection:**

1. **Meredith enters the story carrying both grief and relief.** She's grieving the end of her marriage and her mother's death, while also feeling free from a relationship that had slowly drained her. How did this complexity shape your understanding of her healing journey? Did any part of her experience resonate with you?
1. **The divorce recovery group becomes a place of safety and truth** for Meredith and others. How does the group function as a form of found family? What role does community play in real healing?
2. **Jack arrives in Whitmere seeking anonymity and peace**, not connection. How does his past with fame, addiction, and loss shape the way he approaches relationships and trust? In what ways does his restraint become a strength rather than a limitation?
3. **Meredith and Jack's relationship grows slowly and intentionally**, with clear boundaries and honest conversations. How did this pacing affect your experience as a reader? Did the slow burn deepen the emotional payoff for you?
4. **Sobriety and self-worth are central themes in Jack's arc.** How does the novel portray recovery, not as perfection, but as daily choice? What moments stood out to you as signs of Jack's growth?
5. **Fear surfaces for both characters in different ways.** Meredith fears trusting her heart again, while Jack doubts he deserves a future at all. Which fear felt most familiar or compelling to you? How do they help one another move forward?

6. **The hospital scene marks a turning point** in their relationship. What does Jack's decision to stay, even when Meredith told him not to, reveal about love, presence, and commitment? How did that moment shift the story for you?
7. **Public attention threatens the quiet life they've built.** How does the return of Jack's past challenge Meredith's sense of safety and agency? What does the novel suggest about choosing love when control feels impossible?
8. **The title *When Spring Blooms* is both literal and symbolic.** By the end of the story, what has "bloomed" in Meredith's life? In Jack's? How does the novel redefine what a new beginning can look like?

Bonus Fun & Reflection Questions:

- **Casting Call:** If *When Spring Blooms* were adapted for film or television, who would you cast as Meredith? As Jack? Which supporting character would you most want to see brought to life?
- **Found Family Moment:** Which scene best captured the heart of the group - the support group, the hospital, or the England trip? Why?
- **Setting & Mood:** How did Whitmere (and later England) contribute to the emotional tone of the story? Which setting stayed with you most?
- **Love Languages:** How do Meredith and Jack each express love? Through presence, words, actions, or sacrifice? Which expression resonated with you personally?
- **Boundaries vs. Risk:** If you met someone in and agreed not to pursue romance, would you be able to honor that boundary? Why or why not?
- **Dream Retreat:** If you could attend a book club getaway inspired by the novel, would you choose a cozy small town like Whitmere or a countryside escape in England? What would your ideal itinerary include?

When Spring Blooms reminds us that healing isn't loud, fast, or linear. Sometimes it happens quietly in honest conversations, shared meals, hospital waiting rooms, and the steady presence of people who choose to stay.

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