



BOOK CLUB KIT

#### DEAR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS,

The idea of readers picking up Meet Me in Paradise and discussing it with their friends will never cease to fill me with awe and gratitude. If you're the kind of readers who peruse the acknowledgements section, you'll see that I thanked my book club. For me, they have been my found family, friends, and cheerleaders, and talking about the books we read has been a conduit for many meaningful conversations. I am so thankful for you too! I hope that reading Meet Me in Paradise leads to great discussions for you as well.

Like Marin, I've found joy in my deep connection with my family and a quiet, safe life. It wasn't until I was facing a serious health challenge that I found myself wondering if I'd missed out on a lifetime of adventures because I was afraid. I wanted to explore the dichotomy of two sisters—one wild and fearless, the other careful and scared—who love each other more than anything else and are facing the worst possible thing, losing each other. I also wondered about what it means to be brave. Risks aren't always the obvious things like defying gravity, sometimes it's loving someone you didn't expect, and loving them completely even though life is, ultimately, impermanent; sometimes it's clinging to hope, and other times it comes in the act of letting go.

When I was sick, I spent a lot of time stuck on the couch watching Taiwanese dramas. I couldn't get enough of these love stories full of high drama and comedy and sweep-you-off-your-feet romance. They were the one thing that allowed me to escape the harsh reality of my chronic illness. In part, I wrote Meet Me in Paradise as a love letter to the creators of the art that was my respite, but I also hoped to show what kind of magic can happen when we open our minds and hearts to new experiences, new cultures, and new people.

My sincerest hope is that Marin and Sadie's story inspires you to listen to the voice inside you, calling you to take that chance for your own happiness and to enjoy your own life, to drink it up to the last drop. May you find your paradise, wherever and whatever that may be.

Thank you for reading!



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 1. Marin views her world-traveling, mountain-climbing sister, Sadie, as fearless, while she refers to herself as a professional worrier and doesn't view herself as brave. Do you think Marin is right? Are there different ways a person can be brave, even in everyday life?
- 2. Marin and Sadie lost their mother tragically when they were teenagers. How did this loss define the trajectory of their lives? Have you ever experienced a life event that changed you?
- 3. Saba is a key part of Marin's awakening and a place that Lucas says feels more like home than Taipei. What about the island makes it the right place for Marin to take risks and for Lucas to feel at home? Do you have a place you've travelled to that felt like you belonged there?
- 4. Marin struggles with anxiety and has chosen to stay close to home while Sadie travels the world. Have you ever let fear hold you back from things you wanted to do? How would your life be different if you didn't have to worry about what might happen?

- 5. Marin ends up
  with a suitcase full of
  flashy clothes that she would never
  normally wear. Why was it important
  for her to have different clothes? Do
  you have certain clothes that give you
  more confidence?
- 6. When Marin and Lucas go scuba diving, she finds a pearl. What do you think is the significance of the pearl? Have you ever found something while traveling that felt like a sign?
- 7. Sadie keeps her plans and her diagnosis a secret from Marin. Why do you think she made that choice? Have you ever kept a secret from someone you loved, and what were the repercussions of withholding the truth from them?
- 8. Lucas felt obligated to help Sadie with her plan for Marin on Saba. Why did he choose to go off script and take Marin on the karaoke date? If someone planned an ideal date for you, what would it be?
- 9. Lucas withdraws from Marin after she discovers the truth. Have you ever made a mistake that you felt you didn't deserve forgiveness for?
- 10. Sadie, Felix, and Marin experience moments of laughter, love, and happiness despite the sadness of Sadie's prognosis. How did those scenes make you feel? Do you think it is possible to feel joy when you are devastated?

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

(CONTINUED)

- 11. Lucas and Marin are very different people—he is worldly and adventurous; she struggles with worry and stays close to home. How are they similar? What do you think is the most important factor that makes two people right for each other?
- 12. The final card that Lucas gives Marin from Sadie is blank. Why do you think Sadie didn't write anything to her sister?
- 13. At the end of the book, Marin tells Lucas that he is hers in Mandarin. Why do you think she chose to express herself that way? Have you ever done something special to show your love to someone?

## LIBBY'S FAVORITE TAIWANESE DRAMAS

JUST YOU 就是要你愛上我

REFRESH MAN 後菜鳥的燦爛時代 FALL IN LOVE WITH ME 愛上兩個我

LOVE AROUND 真愛黑白配

LOVE CUISINE 料理高校生

SEE YOU IN TIME 已讀不回的戀人

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN PROJECT PARADISE

CHOOSE ONE ITEM FROM EACH GROUP AND FILL IN THE RESPECTIVE BLANK IN THE STORY ON THE NEXT PAGE!

1

Ballgown
Bedazzled underwear
Jeans and t-shirt
Little black dress
Nothing (clothes,
who needs 'em!)
Parka
String bikini
Tuxedo
Velour tracksuit

Base jumping

Bungee jumping
Horseback riding
On a high-speed boat ride
On a night-time helicopter ride
Parasailing
Rock climbing
Singing karaoke
Skinny dipping

Tightrope walking

2

Kyoto, Japan
London, England
Machu Picchu, Peru
Marrakesh, Morrocco
Mt. Everest
Nusa Dua, Bali
Reykjavík, Iceland
Saba
Saint-Tropez, France
Taipei, Taiwan
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

5

Cooked for ourselves
Dined at a five-star restaurant
Foraged for wild delicacies
Found a hole in the wall
Sampled street food
Took a cooking class
Went on a culinary tour

3

A billionaire business mogul
A friend I've always
had a crush on
A very helpful local
An international
person of mystery
An old flame
My boss
My current significant other
My sibling's best friend
My worst enemy
The parent of my secret baby

6

Historic bed and breakfast
Eco treehouse
Glamping tent
Hostel
Luxury apartment
Opulent hotel
Spa resort
Villa

7

Cuddling
Dancing
Having mind-blowing sex
Playing cards
Sleeping
Talking

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN PROJECT PARADISE



### MY TRIP TO PARADISE

I decided it was time to have an adventure and find my happy place.
So I threw into my suitcase, headed to the air-
port and hopped on a plane to After an exciting
plane ride, I was shocked to run into outside
the airport.
Sparks flew and we decided to go, which
was an incredible experience. Afterward, we were ravenous, so
we We enjoyed the scrumptious food
and scintillating conversation. Finally, it was late, so we headed
back to our 6 where we spent the entire
night