

Book Club Discussion Guide



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Meet Me at the Lake

By Carley Fortune

About the author:

Carley is an award-winning journalist and worked as an editor at some of Canada's top publications, including The Globe and Mail, Chatelaine, Toronto Life, and the much-beloved, now-defunct weekly paper, The Grid. She was most recently the Executive Editor of Refinery29 Canada. Carley holds a Bachelor of Journalism from Toronto Metropolitan University.

Carley spent her young life in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia, and in Barry's Bay, a tiny lakeside town in rural Ontario and the setting for Every Summer After.

She lives in Toronto with her husband and two sons, and is currently working on her third book.

Source: <https://www.carleyfortune.com/about>

About this book:

A random connection sends two strangers on a daylong adventure where they make a promise one keeps and the other breaks, with life-changing effects, in this breathtaking new novel from the New York Times and #1 Globe and Mail bestselling author of Every Summer After.

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Fern Brookbanks has wasted far too much of her adult life thinking about Will Baxter. She spent just twenty-four hours in her early twenties with the aggravatingly attractive, idealistic artist, a chance encounter that spiraled into a daylong adventure in Toronto. The timing was wrong, but their connection was undeniable: they shared every secret, every dream, and made a pact to meet one year later. Fern showed up. Will didn't.

At thirty-two, Fern's life doesn't look at all how she once imagined it would. Instead of living in the city, Fern's back home, running her mother's Muskoka lakeside resort—something she vowed never to do. The place is in disarray, her ex-boyfriend's the manager, and Fern doesn't know where to begin.

She needs a plan—a lifeline. To her surprise, it comes in the form of Will, who arrives nine years too late, with a suitcase in tow and an offer to help on his lips. Will may be the only person who understands what Fern's going through. But how could she possibly trust this expensive-suit wearing mirage who seems nothing like the young man she met all those years ago. Will is hiding something, and Fern's not sure she wants to know what it is.

But ten years ago, Will Baxter rescued Fern. Can she do the same for him?

Source: <https://www.carleyfortune.com/meet-me-at-the-lake>

Discussion Questions:

1. Fern and Will develop a close bond over just a day. Have you ever felt that kind of strong, fast connection with another person, whether platonic or romantic? If so, what do you attribute it to?
2. How did Fern's and Will's life stages play into their friendship when they first met? Do you think they would have been as drawn to each other at another time in their lives?

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3. In Chapter Five, Fern thinks to herself that secrets are a key ingredient in close friendships. Do you agree? Do you think Fern still believes this by the end of the book?

Source: <https://bookclubs.com/discussion-guides/meet-me-at-the-lake>