

THE JANUARY WISH

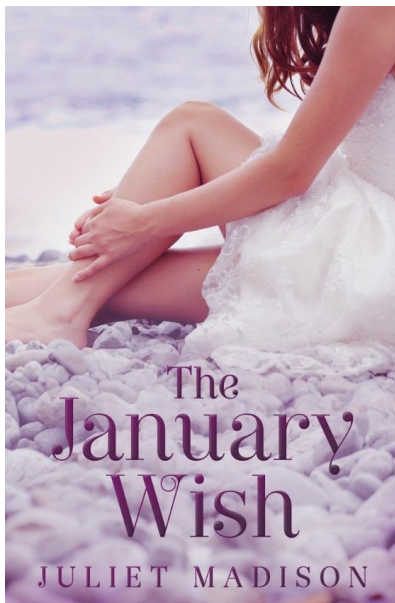
READING GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUBS

THE JANUARY WISH by Juliet Madison

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When Dr Sylvia Greene makes an impromptu wish at the Tarrin's Bay Wishing Festival, it's the most out of character action she can think of. Hers is not a life of wishes. Hers is a controlled life of order, plans and preparation...of science and research and diagnosis and treatment. But her past has been weighing on her mind, and decisions made long ago have far-reaching consequences.

A week later, the daughter she secretly gave up for adoption at sixteen arrives in Sylvia's small coastal town with secrets that can't be shared. Between feelings of guilt, gossip, and a growing attraction to an emotionally unavailable colleague, Sylvia's well-ordered life is soon thrown into chaos. She is no longer alone, and for the first time she feels as if her world is open to possibilities.

They say be careful what you wish for, but, for Sylvia, the unexpected consequences may be just what the doctor ordered.

***Warning: some of these questions contain spoilers and are meant for those who've already read the book.**

QUESTIONS:

1. If you could attend the Tarrin's Bay Wishing Festival, what would you wish for?
2. Do you think it was fate or coincidence that Sylvia's wish came true?
3. Do you think Sylvia should have told Richard about Grace when they first started dating?
4. When Sylvia's relationship breaks up she indulges in a late night cake and coffee. Do you think women resort to comfort food too often to deal with emotional challenges? How do you cope with unexpected changes in your life?

5. Sylvia and Mark are at odds with each other's system of medicine. Was Sylvia initially disrespectful of Mark or just being a responsible doctor?
6. Do you have a favourite scene from the book?
7. What was your favourite moment between Grace and Jonah?
8. Did you enjoy the multiple point of view that the story was told in (ie; Sylvia, Grace, and Mark)?
9. Did you suspect that Sylvia had a hidden talent or were you surprised when she revealed it?
10. Did you suspect that Jonah was hiding something?
11. Mark falls for Sylvia yet still yearns for Cindy... do you think it is possible to have true love more than once in your lifetime?
12. Do you believe Sylvia would still have become a doctor had she kept her baby and become a young mother?
13. Is there a decision you've made in your life that makes you wonder what would have happened had you made a different choice?
14. Do you think Grace would still have searched for Sylvia had her adoptive mother not died?
15. Were you happy with the decision Grace made at the end to follow her dream instead of following Jonah overseas? Do you think these two characters will end up together down the track or has their relationship served its purpose?
16. During a blackout, Sylvia and Mark play candlelit Scrabble. Do you play board games or did you enjoy playing them when you were younger? Which games did you enjoy?
17. The Wishing Festival is a significant part of Tarrin's Bay history and culture. Does your town have a regular event that you enjoy?
18. Describe The January Wish in three words:

IDEAS FOR HOSTING A BOOK CLUB PARTY FOR THE JANUARY WISH:

- Dress up as a doctor
- Dress up in a glamorous dress like Grace wore to the concert
- Bring your favourite photo from your teenage years
- Talk about what you wanted to be when you grew up
- Serve hummingbird cake and dandelion chai (use chai spice mix along with dandelion tea)

- Create a makeshift wishing fountain out of a bucket or cardboard box and have everyone toss in a coin and make a wish
- Play piano music in the background
- Dance to the songs played at Larissa's wedding - *Love Shack* by the B52's, and *The Way You Make Me Feel* by Michael Jackson
- Go around the circle and have each person mention what talent they believe they have.
- Have a musical competition: each person does an impromptu performance with either a real instrument or a makeshift one from household items, and each guest gives them an anonymous rating. Add up the scores at the end to see who the winner is.
- Play candlelit Scrabble.

*If you're hosting a face-to-face book club for *The January Wish* and would like to hand out *The January Wish* postcards/bookmarks that have been signed by Juliet, please contact **jtmauthor@gmail.com** to discuss.

Thank you for reading The January Wish!

Stay tuned for book #2 in the Tarrin's Bay series; February or Forever, releasing on 1st Feb 2014, and check back for more book club questions.