

# BOOK CLUB KIT

HER FRIEND DISAPPEARED.  
A STRANGER CAME BACK.

## THE RETURN

RACHEL  
HARRISON





# A CONVERSATION WITH RACHEL HARRISON

## **What compelled you to write this book?**

My relationships with my female friends are so beautiful and complex, and they have become increasingly complex as we move through our 20s. I wanted to write about that, and how scary it is to watch your friends change and drift away.

## **Why did you become a writer?**

I'm obsessed with stories.

## **Which writer has had the greatest influence on you?**

Shirley Jackson or Stephen King.

## **What is your guilty pleasure book?**

No guilt with books but some shame with *Us Weekly*.

## **List your motivational music.**

Writing this book I listened to a lot of Mitski, Lykke Li, Jenny Lewis, Japanese Breakfast, and, truth be told, Cardi B.

## **What advice would you give aspiring writers?**

Work at it, don't give up, read a lot, and stay hydrated.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This book revolves around the friendship between its four characters. Did you find these relationships compelling? Did they remind you of any of your own friendships?
2. Much of the tension between Elise and her friends comes from the differences in their situations: finances, careers, location. How much responsibility do you think each character bears to bridge that gap?
3. How did Elise's affair make you feel about the character? Why do you think she made those choices?
4. The Red Honey Inn is a striking, memorable setting. How much does this contribute to the increasing atmosphere of horror?
5. Why do you think Elise chooses to stay with Julie when Mae and Molly leave?
6. Have you ever had a friend change so much you don't recognize them?
7. What do you think happened to Julie? Does it matter whether we know the answer?
8. What do you think the future holds for Elisa, Mae, and Molly?
9. Are you a regular horror reader? Why do you think we like to be scared?



# ABOUT RACHEL HARRISON

**Rachel Harrison** was born and raised in the weird state of New Jersey. She received her bachelor's in Writing for Film & Television from Emerson College. After graduating, she worked on TV game shows, in publishing, and for a big bank. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and their cat/overlord. This is her first novel.

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