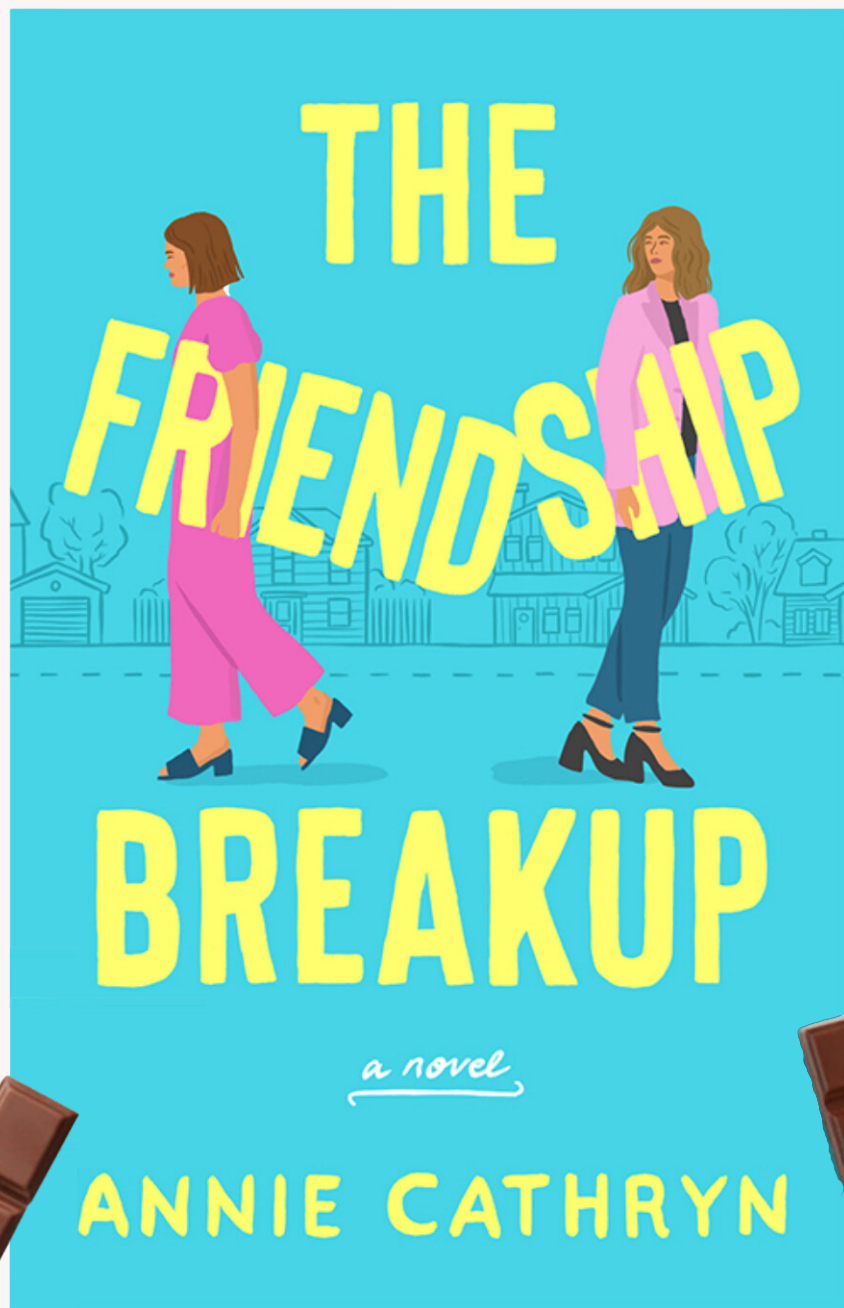


The Official  
**BOOK CLUB KIT**



Featuring: Discussion Questions,  
Author Q&A and more!

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Fallon Monroe struggles with insecurities as a mother, friend, and wife yet is able to push herself oftentimes out of her comfort zone, being vulnerable and determined to come out on the other side a better mom, friend, and wife. In what ways do you identify with Fallon and her life struggles? Have you ever pushed yourself out of your comfort zone and what failures or successes did you experience along the way?

2

How do you face insecurities in motherhood, friendships, and/or in your partner relationships? If you could share some advice with Fallon, what would you say?

3

Fallon is ghosted by one of her very best friends Beatrice, and mutual friends seem to join #teambeatrice while Fallon was left wondering just what went wrong. Have you ever been ghosted by a friend? Share what happened with you and your friend. Were you able to experience closure, and did you and your friend part ways for good or did you reconcile?

4

Life isn't turning out quite like we expected it to. Fallon and her friend Elenore bond as they both contemplate some unexpected turns in each of their lives. Have you had an unexpected turn in life? How did you navigate those twists and turns?

5

Fallon contemplates how to balance motherhood with her own career aspirations – her dreams. Have you had to make hard choices in motherhood, with your career, or in life? How did you approach the decisions? How did you work through options and set a plan to move forward? Maybe it wasn't that simple. Share your highs and lows with navigating motherhood and your career.

6

Friendships that end may experience the same stages of grief that we do with other life losses: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Choose a passage of *The Friendship Breakup* that identifies with one of these stages and discuss together how Fallon successfully, or perhaps unsuccessfully, was able to work through her feelings. Share your thoughts about other pathways Fallon could have taken in her attempts to regain her friendships.

# AUTHOR CHAT

Q

What was your inspiration for writing *The Friendship Breakup*?

A

I'm an avid reader and I enjoy stories with female friendships as the main plot, but I haven't seen a lot of them out there, especially highlighting a friendship breakup. I think this is an important topic and one that people don't often talk about. A friendship loss can be devastating, and I wanted to shed light on the real emotions that often occur when one is enduring this loss. Having been through a few myself, I could draw from personal experience. Inspiration also came from my role as a mother. Anyone who is a mom knows how chaotic this journey can be. It literally is the toughest and most rewarding role I've ever taken on. Writing Fallon's character brought back memories, both trying and joyful, and I hoped readers could relate.

Q

What themes are explored in this book?

A

The story isn't simply about a friendship breakup. Motherhood, marriage, and following a career path are woven into the book. Within these subplots, the themes explored include grief, abandonment, forgiveness, determination, rejection, loneliness, unhealthy relationships, following dreams, and letting go of the perfect life.

Q

Would you share a glimpse into the publishing path for *The Friendship Breakup*?

A

*The Friendship Breakup* is my fourth book. When I didn't get any agent offers on the first three books after querying each of them 100 times, I decided to move on. *The Friendship Breakup* received one full manuscript request for every 10 queries, so I knew I had something agents were interested in. After hiring a freelance editor to help me clean it up, I signed with an agent. I worked with my agent on the manuscript for a few months before we went on publisher submission. Not long after submission, I signed with my publisher, Alcove Press.

# AUTHOR CHAT

**Q** Who is your favorite character in *The Friendship Breakup* and why?

**A** Mel is my favorite character because she is strong and doesn't care what others think. She has no filter and provides comic relief. As I was writing about her, I would laugh out loud at her antics and words. She's not only funny, she gives Fallon great, honest advice and is a good friend.

**Q** What is your favorite line in *The Friendship Breakup*?

**A** "Oh, the sweet innocence of childhood—right before the world smacks you upside the head with the thing you never even saw coming, and you're never the same after."

**Q** What advice would you share with writers looking to be published?

**A** Find a way to engage with other writers and authors through writing groups, webinars, social media, etc. When you can share your journey, it becomes more enjoyable and less daunting. Other writers are the only group of people who will truly understand exactly what you're going through. It's nice to have a supportive community.

**Q** If *The Friendship Breakup* became a movie, what songs would be on the soundtrack?

**A** Several songs referenced in the book would help create an incredible soundtrack, including:

- "I'm Every Woman" Whitney Houston
- "Watermelon Sugar" Harry Styles
- "Best of My Love" The Emotions
- "My Way" Frank Sinatra
- "Livin' la Vida Loca" Ricky Martin
- "Sugar" Maroon 5
- "Ironic" Alanis Morissette
- "Let it Go" Idina Menzel
- "Roar" Katy Perry

# MEET ANNIE

Annie Cathryn has always dreamed of becoming an author and lives by the motto, "Creating is Living." *The Friendship Breakup* is her debut book baby, born out of love.

Annie geeks out over books. Devouring more than 100 titles a year, Annie has read so many books she blossomed into a leading Bookstagrammer influencer and launched a hit book podcast, *Soulful Series*. She also guest blogs for *Revision Division*, where she interviews authors and shares her own book reviews.




Many moons ago, Annie worked in marketing communications for a Fortune 500 company. Then, after reading *Eat, Pray, Love*, traveled to Italy, embarked on an African safari, and meditated for 10 days with no contact with the outside world. When she emerged, she started her own marketing consulting agency.

But writing is really Annie's first love, and she was thrilled her debut novel, *The Friendship Breakup*, hit #15 on Amazon's New Releases in Friendship Fiction and was honored with The BookFest® Award for Spring 2023.

Annie's essays have been published by *YourTango*, *Moms Don't Have Time to Write*, *Shepherd.com*, and *Moms Don't Have Time to Grieve*. Annie is a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association, the Chicago Writers Association, and the Author's Guild. Annie earned her undergraduate degree in journalism and a master's in communications (PR and Advertising) from Marquette University.

When Annie is not writing or reading, you can find her organizing her personal library collection by color or discovering delectable chocolate in Chicagoland with her husband, daughter, and two fur babies.

## CONNECT WITH ANNIE

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