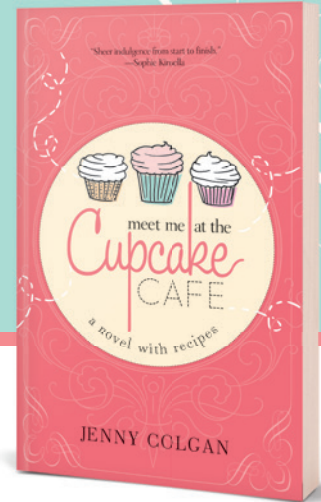


Meet Me at the CUPCAKE CAFE

BY JENNY COLGAN



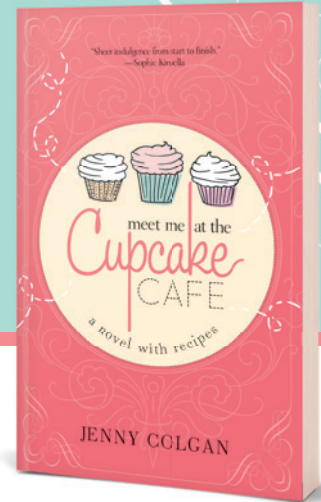
Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Baking and cooking are important parts of Issy's life. How does baking help Issy connect with her past?
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Pearl and Caroline. How does each of them play a part in Issy's life? Are they at all similar, or do they contribute different things?
3. How do Grampa Joe's recipes influence Issy's life? Is it fate that they arrive when they do?
4. Why do you think Issy gives Graeme another chance? Is their relationship healthy, or normal?
5. Each of the female characters in *Meet Me at the Cupcake Café* struggles with issues of self-esteem and self-confidence. How do their experiences relate to what we see happening in society now? Can you identify with any of the characters?
6. Issy struggles to keep the people the café serves a priority over making money. How is this tension between business and people highlighted in other characters of the novel? Do you think they manage to strike a balance between the two?
7. Grampa Joe taught Issy everything he knew about life and baking. How is his legacy carried throughout the novel? In what ways do our actions and words last after we die?
8. Arthur had to put aside his personal aspirations to take care of his brother after their parents' death. In what ways does that incident force him to grow up? In what ways did it hold him back?



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9. Opening a café with no business experience is a huge step for Issy. Have you ever taken a leap of faith like that with something before? If not, have you ever wanted to?
10. The Cupcake Café makes a name for itself among the residents of the area near Pear Tree Court. How does the atmosphere created by the café help its patrons forge connections with each other?
11. Helena is Issy's best friend and biggest cheerleader, but she isn't afraid to hand out some tough love when needed. What role do you think friends should play in our lives? Is it one of unconditional support? Or should they tell us when we're wrong?
12. Issy and Pearl have similar romantic relationships, yet neither listens to the other's guidance. Is it easier to analyze another person's relationships than our own? Why is it hard to take your own advice?
13. After seeing Graeme's grant application, Arthur makes an assumption about Issy's motivations that is incorrect. Have you ever misjudged someone and later been proven wrong? Is it important to give people the benefit of the doubt in these types of situations?
14. How important is communication in any relationship? Is there ever anything that you shouldn't share with the other person? What are the potential consequences of keeping secrets from each other?
15. How do Arthur and Issy complement each other? In what ways do they challenge each other?
16. What we owe others and what we owe ourselves is a theme that runs through this novel. How do these ideas play out in the various characters?

