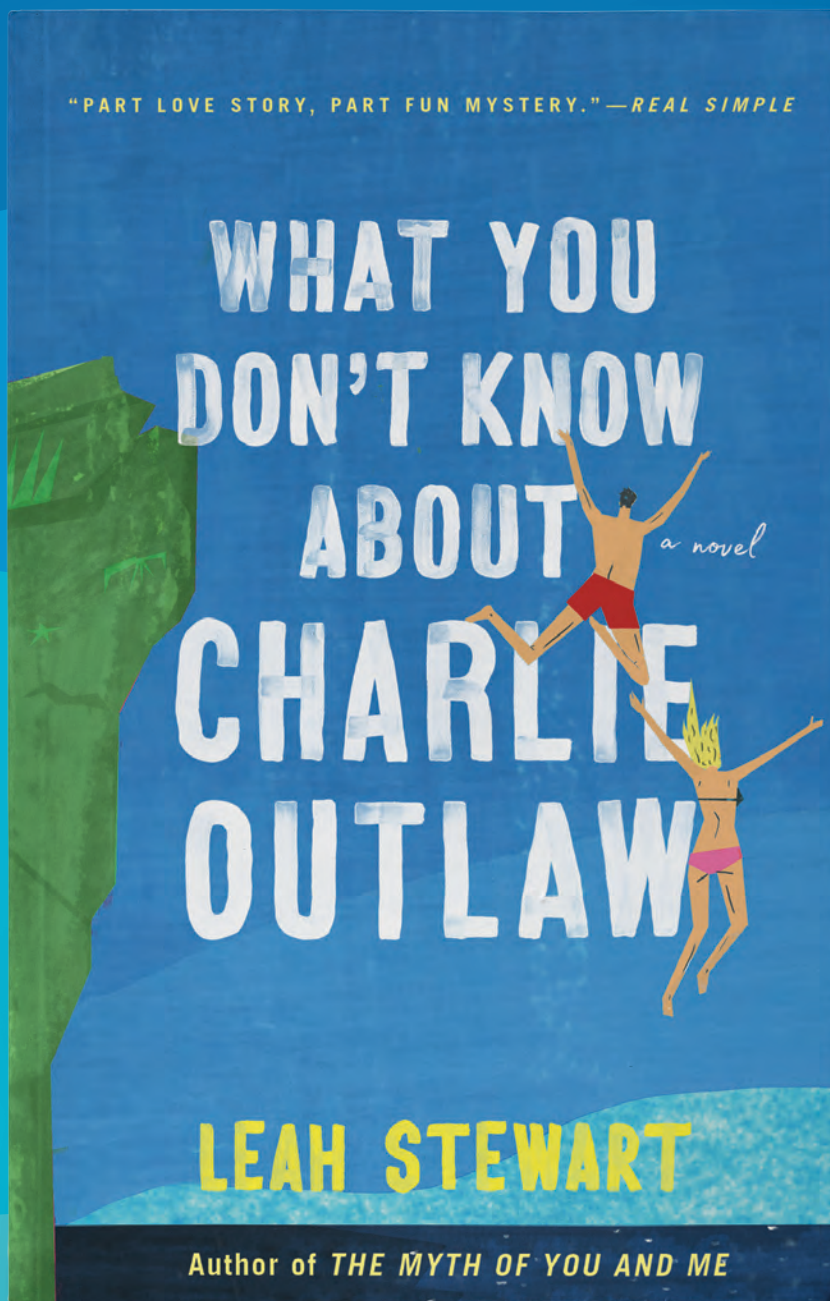


BOOK CLUB KIT

EVERYTHING YOUR BOOK CLUB NEEDS FOR A GREAT PARTY



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

What You Don't Know About Charlie Outlaw is told from the points of view of both Charlie and Josie. Did you enjoy this alternating style? What differences did you notice between how they each perceived events? What was it like seeing things from both points of view?

2

Discuss the rise and fall of fame and its implications in the novel. What are its pitfalls, and how do they affect the characters? In what ways does fame help them? In what ways does it hinder their growth?

3

Do you empathize with Charlie's kidnappers at any point? Discuss their motives for the crime and their actions, both kind and cruel.

4

Author Leah Stewart offers psychological insights into

the audition process and the struggles of Hollywood, but she also shows us a very different set of pressures on the island where Charlie vacations. What role do these two settings play in the novel?

5

Compare the on-screen and off-screen romances. Are they similar? What draws Josie to Max after their time apart? What does she love about Charlie?

6

Why do you think Mystery makes the choice she does at the end of the novel? Discuss her role in the story and what you imagine her backstory to be.

7

The novel opens with the quote "The actor's instrument . . . is himself; he works with the same emotional areas which he actually uses in real life." Discuss examples of the overlapping real and performed emotions. How

do you see this play out in Charlie's situation?

8

Discuss the portrayals of the lives of working actors in the book. What did or didn't surprise you about the acting profession?

9

Trying on different roles, both onstage and off, is a theme throughout *What You Don't Know About Charlie Outlaw*. What new roles does Josie take on? Charlie? The kidnappers? Are there any similarities?

10

At its heart, *What You Don't Know About Charlie Outlaw* is a love story. Were you rooting for Charlie and Josie to end up together? Did you agree with Josie's decision to forgive Charlie?



10 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT CHARLIE OUTLAW

This movie star is filled with surprises—how he met his girlfriend Josie, his first job, the one thing he won't eat, and more.

1. Charlie's first role was in the play *Grease* during sophomore year of high school. He only tried out because of his girlfriend's persuasion, and he ended up getting the role of Kenickie. His girlfriend was cast as an extra. Though she was bitter, she still came to see him every night because, even back then, his performances were incredible.

2. CHARLIE MET JOSIE AT THE HOME OF AN ACTOR WHO LIKED TO GATHER GROUPS FOR READINGS OF SHAKESPEARE PLAYS. HE AND JOSIE ACTED OUT BENEDICK AND BEATRICE TOGETHER.

3. When he was nine years old, Charlie wrote a book report on the autobiography of Marlon Brando. In

this report, he decided that he wanted to be an actor and use many of the same techniques that Marlon Brando used as a Method actor.

4. CHARLIE HAILS FROM CINCINNATI, OHIO.

5. Charlie's father was the exhibitions director at the Contemporary Arts Center, site of the famous Robert Mapplethorpe controversy.

6. CHARLIE'S MOTHER WAS A FIRST AMENDMENT LAWYER.

7. Charlie's first steady job was a small part on Alan Reed's show when he was twenty-eight years old. Alan Reed was a TV star, a man in his late fifties, veteran of two long-running and high-rated comedies. This show was a workplace sitcom set in a restaurant, with Alan as the brilliant, hot-tempered chef, and Charlie as his sweet bumbling nephew, the world's worst waiter, fired and rehired repeatedly throughout the show's two seasons.

8. CHARLIE HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A SPY.

9. Charlie doesn't eat beef.

10. CHARLIE OUTLAW IS ACTUALLY HIS REAL NAME!

Recipes to jazz up your book party

SPIKED MILKSHAKES

*"That Oreo milkshake sounds pretty damn good to me.
When's the last time I had an Oreo milkshake?"*

BOOZY OREO MILKSHAKE

- ½ cup milk**
- 2 cups vanilla ice cream**
- 4 Oreo cookies, plus one extra for garnish**
- 1 ounce Kahlúa**
- 1 ounce Baileys**
- 1 ounce chocolate syrup**
- Whipped cream**

- 1.** Place milk, ice cream, Oreo cookies, Kahlúa, Baileys, and chocolate syrup in a blender.
- 2.** Blend on high until the mixture is smooth and creamy, with no lumps.
- 3.** Pour mixture into serving glasses.
- 4.** Garnish with extra Oreos and whipped cream.

Serve immediately. **Serves: 2**

MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP MILKSHAKE

- ½ cup milk**
- 1 scoop mint chocolate chip ice cream**
- ¼ cup Baileys**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 4 ice cubes**
- Whipped cream**
- Sprinkles**

- 1.** Place milk, ice cream, Baileys, vanilla, and ice cubes in a blender and mix until fully combined and creamy.
- 2.** Pour into tall glasses.
- 3.** Top with whipped cream and sprinkles.

Serve immediately. **Serves: 2**

