

Lost Along the Way

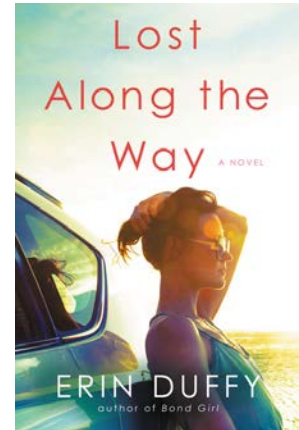
William Morrow

By Erin Duffy

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Introduction

A fresh, funny, and insightful novel about what it really means to be “friends forever” from the acclaimed author of *Bond Girl* and *On the Rocks*.



All through childhood and adolescence, Jane, Cara, and Meg swore their friendship would stand the test of time. Nothing would come between them, they pledged. But once they hit their twenties, life got more complicated and the BFFs began to grow distant. When Jane eloped with her slick, wealthy new boyfriend and didn't invite her oldest friends to the ceremony, the small cracks and fissures in their once rock-solid relationship became a chasm that tore them apart.

Ten years later, when her husband is arrested and publically shamed for defrauding his clients, Jane realizes her life among the one percent was a sham. Penniless and desperate, she comes crawling back to her childhood friends seeking forgiveness. But Cara and Meg have troubles of their own.

The story of three friends who find themselves on a laugh-out-loud life adventure, *Lost Along the Way* illuminates the moments that make us, the betrayals that break us, and the power of love that helps us forgive even the most painful hurts.

Questions for Discussion

1. Jane says that one of the reasons she pulled away from her friends was that she felt left behind once Meg and Cara were both married. Do you think that marriage can cause rifts in life-long friendships? Should it?
2. Having children is a major theme in this book. One of the big issues Meg has is that she finds the social pressure to have a baby overwhelming. Do you think that women intentionally put pressure on each other to marry and have kids? Is there judgment when or if those life events never happen? Why or why not?

3. The girls grew up like sisters, but were unable to maintain their bond into their thirties. Why is it sometimes difficult to maintain friendships in our teens and twenties into our thirties and forties? Do you think the girls should've worked harder to stay together? Would it have been possible? Why or why not?
 4. Jealousy is another major topic in this book. Do you think all women envy their friends to some degree? Why or why not?
 5. Jane has no idea that Doug is a fraud, and her ignorance causes extreme self-loathing. Do you think she was wrong to never question him, or is it okay for her to trust him because he was her husband? Should she have known better?
 6. Meg and Steve were obviously in love, but Meg decided that Steve was better off without her. Do you think that was her decision to make? Was she trying to do Steve a favor, or was her leaving him a selfish act?
 7. Fate helped bring the girls back together after years apart. Do you believe that people come into your life at a particular time and a particular place for a reason? Do you think they learned anything about themselves from their eventual reconciliation? Were any (or all) of them free from blame?
 8. Cara is trapped in an emotionally abusive marriage, but no one knows. Why do you think women are so reluctant to talk about hardships in their marriages, or to ask for help when they need it? Do you think society pressures women to keep their problems to themselves? Why or why not? Should Cara have behaved differently? If so, what should she have done?
 9. At the end of the book, the girls have reconciled, but their futures are still very much up in the air. Do you think they will manage to maintain their friendship into their next decades? Or, once they go on with their lives, do you think they will drift apart again? What other challenges will they face as they get older? Is it really possible to have friends for a lifetime?
 10. Which of the main characters do you identify with the most? Cara is headstrong and a perfectionist. Jane is a free spirit and a bit of a loose canon. Meg is private and responsible. Why are they so drawn to each other when their personalities are all so different? Do opposites attract in friendship as well as in romance? What role do friendships play in a person's life?
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