



## Catch Us When We Fall

William Morrow Paperbacks

By Juliette Fay

ISBN: 9780063079960

### Introduction

**“If you love the emotionally complex novels of JoJo Moyes and the dramatic books of Jodi Picoult, you won’t want to miss this newest book about second chances, redemption, and the power of hope from *USA Today* bestselling author of *Shelter Me*, Juliette Fay.**

On her own since the age of eighteen, Cass Macklin dated brilliant, troubled Ben McGreavy, convinced he was the smartest person she’d ever known. They partied their way through their twenties, slowly descending into a bleak world of binge-drinking and broken promises, inebriated for most of a decade. Now Ben is dead, and Cass is broke, homeless, scared...and pregnant.

Determined to have a healthy pregnancy and raise Ben’s baby, Cass has to find a way to stop drinking and build a stable life for herself and her child. But with no money, skills, or sober friends or family, the task seems insurmountable. At wit’s end, Cass turns to the only person with the means to help her: Ben’s brother Scott, third basemen for the Boston Red Sox, a man with a temper and problems of his own.

The two make a deal that neither one of them is sure they can live up to. As Cass struggles to take control of her life and to ask for help when she needs it, Scott begins to realize there’s a life for him beyond the baseball diamond.

By turns heartbreaking and humorous, with its message that change is possible, that forgiveness can be freely given, and that life, though imperfect, is worth embracing, *Catch Us When We Fall* is a story of human connectedness and hope.

---

## Questions for Discussion

1. After drinking a customer's tequila sunset at the very beginning of the story, Cass is able to stay on the wagon for the rest of the novel, though she does come very close to drinking a couple of times. What do you think makes it possible for her to stay sober?
  2. How do people who were not actually in the story, such as Cass's mother and Ben McGreavy, impact the course of events? How does the setting of Wortherton play a role?
  3. What's your idea of a stereotypical alcoholic? Were you surprised that a woman like Laurel, who seemed to have a picture-perfect life, was so addicted?
  4. Scott's focus on his baseball career to the exclusion of almost all else borders on obsession. How does he use baseball to manage the pain that lingers from his abuse as a child?
  5. Are there any bad habits in your life that you have a hard time stopping, even when you know you need to? (Playing online games, shopping for unnecessary items, eating junk food, worrying about things you can't control, holding grudges, etc.)
  6. Are there any positive coping mechanisms that you use? How might some of the Alcoholics Anonymous strategies explored in the novel be helpful?
  7. Why does Patrick want Cass to avoid having romantic relationships for at least six months from the start of her sobriety?
  8. "Fear and shame. An alcoholic's constant companions." Did this sentiment surprise you? How do fear and shame impact people's behaviors?
  9. Cass ruminates on how Gilda McGreavy's grim childhood was similar to Jane Eyre's: "But cruelty didn't make her stronger, like Jane. It just made her manipulative and mean." Why does adversity make some people more compassionate and others more selfish?
  10. What do you think Scott will do once his baseball career is over? How about Cass—will she complete her degree? What do you think each of them would be good at?
  11. Just as Cass worries that her alcoholism could cause problems for their relationship in the future, Scott worries that his temper will come between them. If you had any advice to give them, what would it be?
  12. When would be the right time for them to tell Maggie about her biological father?
-