



**BOOK
CLUB
KIT**

*#1 New York Times bestselling
author of *The Devil Wears Prada**

LAUREN WEISBERGER

A Novel

*Where The Grass Is Green
And The Girls Are Pretty*

A Note From Lauren Weisberger

Dear Readers,

Thank you for choosing *Where the Grass is Green and the Girls Are Pretty* to read with your book club! Many of my closest friendships were found and nurtured in book clubs, and I hope you'll enjoy the time spent with friends—whether it's in person or virtually! I forgive you in advance if you, like me, don't *always* finish the entire plot and character discussion before moving on to dissect other crucial topics like what each of you will be wearing to your first post-pandemic party or constructing a wish list of exotic travel destinations. I get it.

Like the two main characters in my latest novel, Peyton and Skye, my sister Dana is my very best friend. I've always wanted to write a book centered around sisters, one that reflects this incredibly special relationship. Only a sister gives you her honest opinion—even when you don't want it. She'll tell you if your dress is too tight in the stomach area and if you're being a moody b\$%^&. She adds your name to the condolence flowers she sends to Aunt Dorothy, even though you refused to add hers to your stepmother's Hanukkah gift. She knows what song you lost your virginity to, every time you lied to your parents as a teenager, and the precise degree and location of the bodily damage incurred by each of your childbirths. She's your lifelong witness, the one who's been there from the start, before the friends—and even spouses—who might come and go. Peyton and Skye are also sisters of this kind, the ones who share everything with each other . . . until certain, devastating secrets threaten to change it all.

Which leads me to the next inspiration for this book. Like so many other parents who love and adore their children, I struggle constantly with the question: how much is enough, and when is it too much? You might think you could safely say that buying your child's way into college is firmly crossing the line—and of course I would agree with you. But I was curious and wanted to explore the idea: if the means and the opportunity were there, would you ever cross the line? What really motivates a terrible decision like this or others we may make on behalf of our children? And exactly how intense does this type of parenting become when it's set in the context of a super-affluent, competitive town where it's perfectly normal to hire private coaches for toddlers, shell out \$20K for summer “volunteer” opportunities for young teens, and employ every manner of college consultant for high schoolers? What happens when doting parents with lots of free time and even more money turn their full attention and bank accounts to ensuring that their children are successful—at sports, at school, at life? Ultimately, this novel is about who will stand by you when the chips are down, even if you don't necessarily deserve it.

I hope you'll enjoy one of the suggested cocktails (or another kind you might prefer), listen to the Spotify playlist (and sing along to the epic 80s rock hits), and enjoy chatting about Peyton and Skye's journey. Thank you for reading my novel! It's such a thrill and an honor to share this story with you.

Xx Lauren

Discussion Questions

1. Which character did you most like or relate to in this novel and why? Also: who did you relate to the least and why?
2. At its core, *Where the Grass is Green and the Girls are Pretty* is about family. Although families can be strong and uplifting support systems, Peyton's actions negatively affect several of her family members. How does the novel reconcile their conflicts?
3. The author's close relationship with her sister inspired her to write a novel that delves into that dynamic. Do you have a sister or a close friend who you thought of while reading? In what ways is your relationship similar to Peyton and Skye's? How is it different? What were your favorite scenes between them?
4. Skye graduated from a private liberal arts school, Amherst College, and Peyton graduated from a branch campus of Penn State after completing a year of community college. Regardless of the stereotypes associated with each of these undergraduate schools, Peyton becomes a renowned news anchor. Do you think she was at a disadvantage having gone to a less prestigious school than her sister? Why or why not? Why was Peyton so adamant that Max, who wanted to attend film school, go to a prestigious Ivy League school?
5. To what extent do you think Peyton committed admissions fraud for Max's happiness as opposed to her own? Why do you think that?
6. The need to keep up appearances is a common theme: Peyton's obsession with her appearance, Jim "arranging his face into an impressive façade of empathy", the waiter in the restaurant in the opening scene putting on a "bad fake French accent," Henry rescinding his offer due to "the appearance of impropriety." In what other ways do the characters wear masks and why? In what ways have you experienced this in your life?
7. Why do you think the author decided to include Max's perspective in the book? Did her viewpoint alter your perception of her mother, Peyton? Of her Aunt Skye?
8. Lauren Weisberger is known for her social satire and wit. Were there any scenes that provided comic relief? Did you enjoy her social commentary on her fictional upper-class suburb? Why or why not?
9. Skye states she moved to Paradise for the great public schools but laments the lack of opportunity to connect with "all different kids, from so many varied backgrounds and perspectives." What are the trade-offs of living in a suburb like Paradise rather than in a more economically and socially diverse city?
10. Skye keeps secrets from Gabe (e.g., her debt and the possibility for adoption) and Peyton keeps secrets from Isaac (e.g., committing admissions fraud). In your opinion, is it ever okay to keep secrets from partners?
11. Peyton's and Isaac's affairs get played out in the "court of public opinion." Do you think it is fair that celebrities receive this level of scrutiny outside of the legal system? Why or why not?
12. Do you think Peyton made the right choice in turning herself in? Why or why not? Should she should have turned herself in much sooner?
13. Do you think Peyton is ultimately a good person? Are the sum of your actions what make you a good person? Can one action define you forever?
14. At the end of the novel Peyton finally realizes "how wrong it [her crime] was, on every level." What do you think helped lead her to this realization? Were you surprised by the ending?
15. If *Where the Grass is Green and the Girls Are Pretty* were made into a movie or TV series, which actors would you cast in the lead roles? Did you get the reference to a popular 80s song that inspired the title and the name of the town?

Playlist

*Peyton and Skye loved sneaking out to go to rock concerts together when they were younger.
Share in the sisters' nostalgia through some of their favorite 80s hits!*

Paradise City by Guns N' Roses

Welcome to the Jungle by Guns N' Roses

Don't Know What You Got ('Til It's Gone) by Cinderella

To Be With You by Mr. Big

Here I Go Again by Whitesnake

Livin' On A Prayer by Bon Jovi

Love of a Lifetime by Firehouse

Crazy by Aerosmith

When It's Love by Van Halen

High Enough by Damn Yankees



**LISTEN
HERE!**

Cocktails

Enjoy a specialty signature cocktail during your book club discussion!

The Paradise Fresh Blueberry Mojito

(The cocktail served at the party Skye and Gabe attend in Chapter 15.)

Makes 1 drink:

Ingredients

- 8 blueberries (fresh or frozen and thawed), plus more for serving
- 2 tsp. (1 oz.) fresh squeezed lime juice
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 8 fresh mint leaves, plus more for serving
- ¼ cup (2 oz.) white rum
- 2 tbsp. (1 oz.) club soda
- Ice
- Lime slice for serving

Instructions

Add blueberries, lime juice, sugar, and eight mint leaves to a cocktail shaker. Use the end of a wooden spoon or cocktail muddler to bash (or muddle) the mint into the lime juice and sugar. This releases oils from the mint, breaks up the blueberries, and helps the sugar dissolve into the lime juice.

Add rum, stir well, pour into a glass filled with ice, (leaving about an inch of room), and top with club soda. Serve with extra blueberries, mint leaves, and a lime slice.

Source: inspiredtaste.net/15348/blueberry-mojito-cocktail-recipe

Skye's Sparkling Strawberry Lime Cocktail

Makes 1 drink:

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. fresh strawberry puree (yield from about 2 large berries)
- ½ tbsp. lime juice
- ½ cup pink champagne, prosecco, or other sparkling wine (well-chilled or regular)
- Strawberries, lime wedges, and mint sprigs for garnish (optional)

Instructions

Mix the strawberry puree with the lime juice and pour it into a champagne flute. Carefully top with the champagne and garnish before serving immediately.

Source: savorynothings.com/three-ingredient-strawberry-lime-champagne-cocktail



Cocktails

Enjoy a specialty signature cocktail during your book club discussion!

Peyton's Pampelle Spritz

Makes 1 drink:

Ingredients

- 2 parts Pampelle
- 3 parts prosecco
- 1 part soda
- 1 slice of grapefruit

Instructions

Fill up a gin glass with ice cubes. Add Pampelle, prosecco, and soda. Stir the mixture in the glass and garnish with a slice of grapefruit.

Source: italianfoodfast.com/pampelle-spritz



Max's Mango Mule Mocktail

Makes 1 drink:

Ingredients

- 4–5 slices of cucumber
- 1 oz. honey syrup
- 1½ oz. mango puree
- 1½ oz. fresh lime juice
- 1½ oz. ginger beer
- Ice

Instructions

Muddle cucumber and honey syrup in the bottom of a cocktail shaker. Add the mango puree and lime juice and shake with ice vigorously. Strain into a copper mug. Top with ginger beer and stir.

Source: townandcountrymag.com/leisure/drinks/how-to/g785/best-mocktail-recipes

