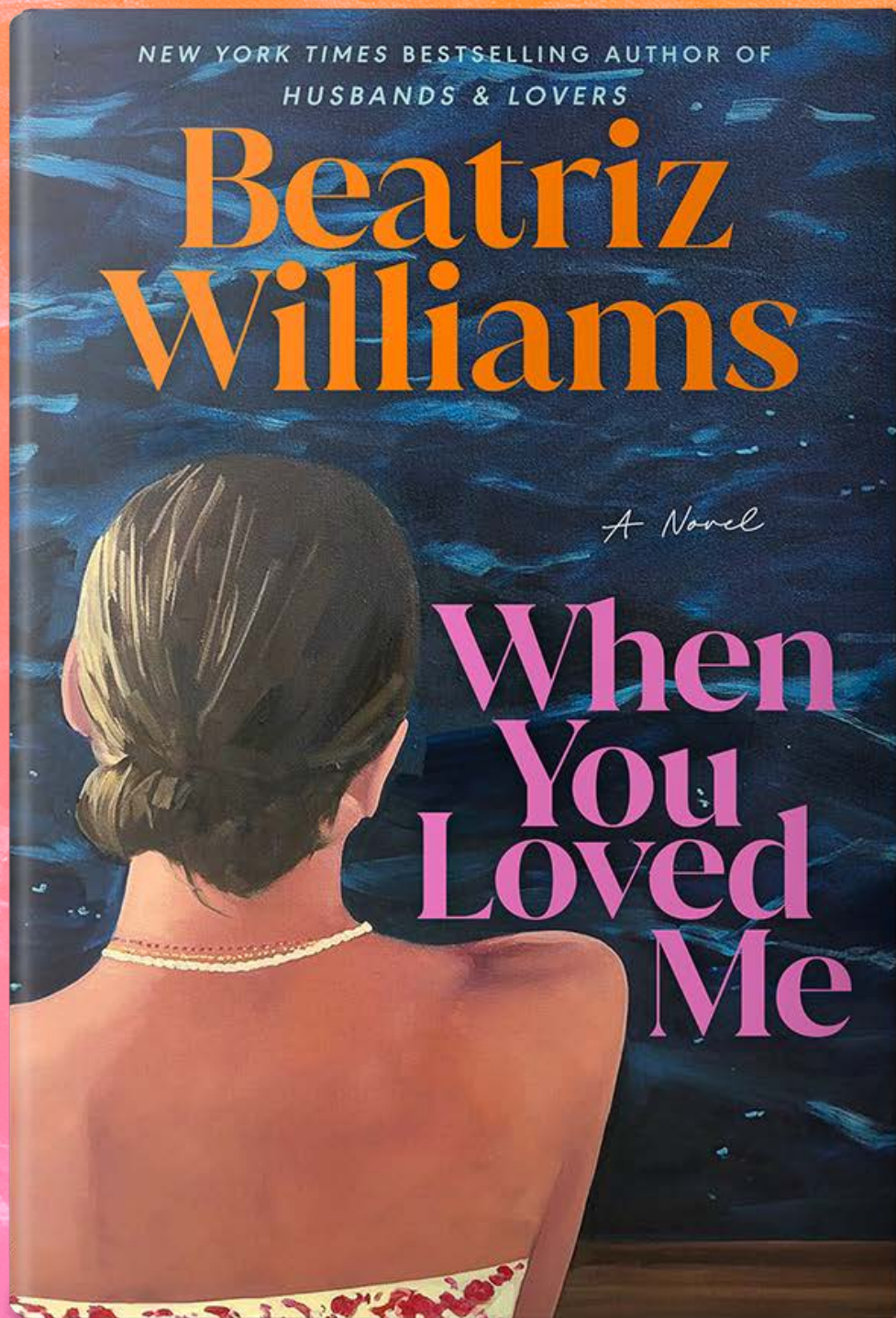




Book Club Kit

Dear Reader,

In so many of my books, characters make seemingly minor decisions or experience chance encounters that change the course of their lives.

My own life-altering moment occurred in the autumn of my freshman year of college. I arrived on campus as a naïve, introverted overachiever, my parents newly divorced, and by November I still hadn't found a job to complete the work-study component of my financial aid package. I walked into the dining hall one day and noticed a flyer posted on the wall: STANFORD FOOTBALL NEEDS MANAGERS. Well, I already loved football—my dad and I used to bond over Seahawks games on television—and the job included some tempting perks, such as the team training table.

Sometimes I wonder what course my life might have taken if I hadn't called the phone number on that flyer. You wouldn't hold this particular book in your hands, for one thing—the many teammates who became my college family all contributed to the character of football player Ben Ressler, who's one of my favorites in all my novels.

But aside from delivering all those thrilling experiences during the three and a half years of college, my stint as a football manager also led to my first post-university job across the country in New York City, without which I'd never have met my future husband and made a home in Northeast. If I hadn't married into a family with its roots buried deep in New England's past, I'd never have created all those evocative local settings in my books—including the fictional Winthrop Island where *When You Loved Me* takes place, loosely inspired by real-life Fishers Island in Long Island Sound.

And if I hadn't plunged into all that research around Fishers Island, past and present, I wouldn't have learned about the rich history of coastal New England and the many pirates who sailed in and out of its coves and beaches, leaving behind rumors of buried treasure.

As you read this book, I encourage you to think about all the many threads that connect us to the past, about the unseen ways our forebears have shaped our own lives, and about how our own experiences, in turn, shape the way we look at the past and the people who lived in it.

And I hope you'll think about turning points in your own life. Which moments transformed you? Which people have crossed your path and changed it forever? What might your life look like if you'd chosen differently?

Wishing you many happy hours of reading,
Beatriz

P.S. If you enjoyed *When You Loved Me* and its cast of characters, you can read more books set on Winthrop Island! Head to my website at www.beatrizwilliams.com and discover all the novels you've missed.

Discussion Questions

1. Lucy returns to Windward as both as a grieving daughter and a widow. How does loss shape the decisions she makes throughout the novel?
2. Parent and child relationships are a central theme to the novel—what do you think Lucy inherited from her father besides the estate itself?
3. Lucy's father spent much of his life chasing a legendary treasure. Did you view his quest as admirable, destructive, or both?
4. How did your feelings about Ben evolve throughout the novel? Did you think their shared experience with loss make them more or less compatible in reality?
5. Laura's role is central even when she isn't physically present. How did her friendship with Lucy shape both women's lives?
6. How do you think the novel explores the concept of redemption? Which character embodies that idea the most?
7. Why do you think the author chose to connect Lucy's modern story to the winter of 1717? Did you learn anything new or interesting from those chapters?
8. The novel is described as a story of "love and atonement," and I think it's easy to see where characters needed to forgive each other—which characters did you think needed to forgive themselves, though?
9. Windward is described as decayed, debt-ridden, and full of history. In what ways do you think the estate was a metaphor for the deeper relationships represented in the novel?
10. Did you ultimately care whether the treasure was real, or was the emotional journey more important?

Silas Winthrop = Beulah Winthrop
(b. 1652) (b. 1699)

Edward Winthrop
b. 1717

Asa Winthrop = Mary West
b. 1815 b. 1827

(1)
Thomas Schuyler = Francine Taylor =
b. 1912 b. 1914
(2)

Nathaniel "Shep" = Emilia Winthrop
Peabody b. 1925
b. 1923

Michael Winthrop
Kennedy
b. 1974

Edwina Sedgewick Peabody = Ethel
Peabody b. 1960 Burke
b. 1955 b. 1962

Laura Peabody Sedgewick
b. 1992 Winthrop
Peabody b. 1989

David Peabody = Lola Pinkerton
b. 1982 b. 1983
Boswell Bankes = Blythe Miller
Cooper (b. 1960) (b. 1970)

Lucy Cooper
(b. 1994)

Arnaud Frossard
(b. 1983)

Elise Frossard
(b. 2017)

(2)
= Hugh Fisher = Abigail Dumont
b. 1908 b. 1909
(1)
Isobel Fisher Clayton Monk = Olivia Huxley Benjamin Monk
b. 1932 b. 1925 b. 1932 b. 1923

Meredith Fisher
b. 1974

Lucy Monk Barbara Monk
b. 1955 b. 1959
(2)
Jacqueline Monk = Barclay Adams = Rebecca Tate
b. 1961 b. 1959 b. 1970
(3)

Mallory Rose = Barclay Benjamin Thayer Adams
Dunne Monk Adams b. 1982
b. 1987 b. 1987
"Chippy" Adams "Blue" Adams
b. 2000 b. 2000

Samuel Dunne Hannah Dunne
Adams Adams
b. 2009 b. 2023

The Winthrop Island Families

Backslash (—) indicates multiple generations
Dotted line (---) indicates extramarital relationship
Numbers (1) (2) (3) indicate multiple marriages