



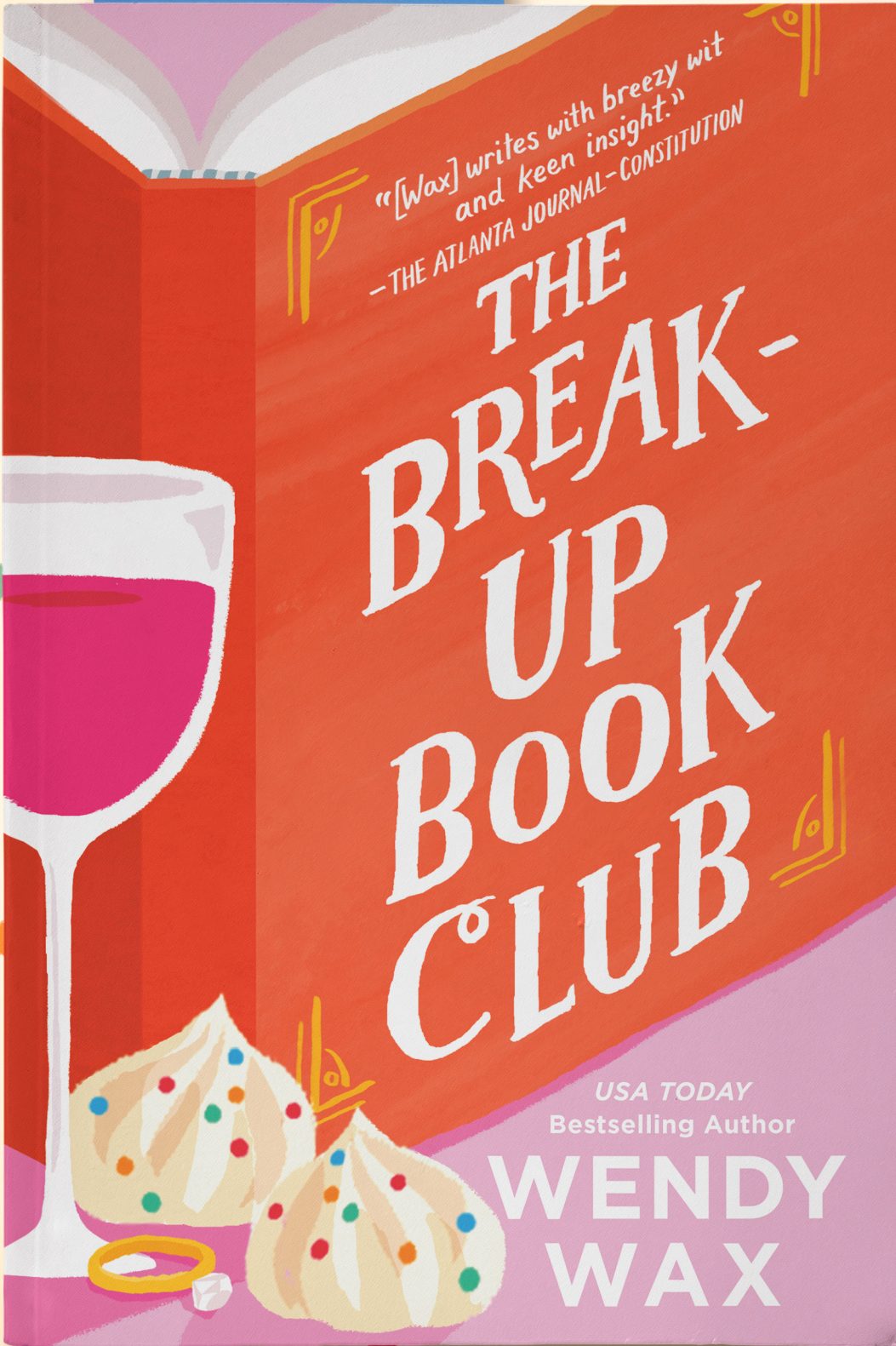
BOOK CLUB KIT

"[Wax] writes with breezy wit
and keen insight."
—THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

THE BREAK- UP BOOK CLUB

USA TODAY
Bestselling Author

WENDY
WAX



WINE...

BECAUSE MY NEPHEW OWNS BROOKHAVEN WINES, a popular wine store not far from where I live, I've allowed myself to rely on his expertise rather than develop any real knowledge of my own.

In fact, I've come to realize that my approach to drinking wine is similar to my approach to writing, which is highly instinctual and could also be referred to as by the seat of my pants.

Rather than take classes or pay attention at wine tastings, I've discovered new wines haphazardly: at someone's house (back when we used to spend time in other people's homes) or at a restaurant or on someone else's recommendation.

Once I try and enjoy a new wine, I typically drink it, or something similar, until friends start making fun of me or I happen across something else that tickles my taste buds.

For years now, I've been on a pinot noir kick and my very favorite pinot remains Meiomi; it has helped me survive the pandemic and the havoc it has wreaked. I also love its more expensive cousin Belle Glos that I sampled during our last writers' retreat, which is far longer ago than I wish it had been.

During the summer when rosé feels like the more refreshing choice, I gravitate to Whispering Angel, a wine a friend turned me on to. I also still enjoy Pamplemousse, a relatively inexpensive rosé I discovered at a tasting hosted by Brookhaven Wines and Mission+Market, a favorite local restaurant, both of which have cameos in *The Break-Up Book Club*. Pamplemousse means "grapefruit" in French, something I didn't find out until I'd consumed large quantities of it but explains why it's so refreshing.

As for white wines, all I can say is, I've tried. I've been told they're "just the thing" in the heat of summer (people told me this about beer, too, but that never worked for me either), and I understand white wine pairs better than the reds I prefer with certain foods.

At the moment, I'm stocking Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc because it's a close friend's favorite and because if it's cold enough I can drink it. It also allows me to drink fewer glasses because, let's face it, it's not red.

Of course, if wine isn't your thing or you just like something else now and again, I'm happy to share a recipe for Bourbon Slush, a favorite summer staple. It came from my longtime friend Rebecca, who I often turn to for food and drink advice.



Bourbon Slush

(Yes, it's almost exactly what it sounds like. You can even keep it in the freezer and scoop out chunks at a time.)

INGREDIENTS

1 (12-ounce) can frozen lemonade, thawed
1 (12-ounce) can frozen orange juice, thawed
4 cups iced tea or cooled hot tea
2 cups sugar
12 cups water
3 cups bourbon

DIRECTIONS

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Divide into plastic containers and place in freezer. After 4 hours, stir. Return to freezer for at least another 4 hours.

When ready to serve, use an ice-cream scoop to scrape the frozen liquid into a beverage glass.



NOTE FROM REBECCA

Use unsweetened tea. It does not have to be frozen if you don't want slush. You can make it at least one day before serving and store in plastic containers.

Serve from a pitcher. Just pour over crushed ice or small cubes. Orange and lemon slices can be dropped in pitcher and/or glass.

Read along with The Break-Up Book Club

Educated

Tara Westover

City of Girls

Elizabeth Gilbert

The Body: A Guide for Occupants

Bill Bryson

All the Ways We Said Goodbye: A Novel of the Ritz Paris

Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, and Karen White

121 First Dates: How to Succeed at Online Dating, Fall in Love, and Live Happily Ever After (Really!)

Wendy Newman

Becoming

Michelle Obama

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been part of a book club? What is your favorite part of the book club? (Did someone say wine?) Have you read books you wouldn't normally have tried if not for the group? What's your favorite book you read with the book club? Do you tend to read more fiction or nonfiction?
2. Jazmine, Erin, Sara, and Judith are very different and yet they become friends through their book club. What do you think draws them together despite their varied ages and backgrounds? Have you made unexpected friends through your book club or at another time in your life?
3. At the beginning of the book, Erin, Sara, and Judith all experience a major upheaval in their lives. What are the similarities and differences in how they all handle their altered circumstances? Did you identify with one woman more than the others? Which character, and why?
4. Sara and her mother-in-law don't get along at the beginning of the novel. What draws them together? How do both of their perspectives change throughout the book?
5. Judith struggles to figure out what to do with her life. Has there been a time in your life when you were unsure of your next step? Were you scared, excited, or a combination of both? What helped you make a plan for your future?
6. Jazmine's sister wants her to get married, but Jazmine isn't very interested in dating. She's happy on her own. Do you think women still feel more societal pressure to get married than men?
7. Erin views Jazmine as a professional mentor, a role Jazmine embraces. How does Jazmine help Erin? What lessons do you think Erin learns from Jazmine? Do you think it's important for women to support one another personally and professionally? Is there a woman you admire, someone who has helped you navigate difficult times?

8. Sara's mother-in-law tries online dating. Jazmine starts dating at her sister's encouragement. How are their attitudes toward dating different and similar? What factors contribute to these attitudes? How do you think dating differs in your twenties, thirties, forties, fifties, and sixties? What do you feel is the best way to date—online, setups from friends and family, or other possibilities? If you're in a long-term relationship, how did you meet your partner?
9. What's your favorite book, and why? What was your favorite book club name mentioned in the book? Which character did you most identify with, and why?

About the Author



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WENDY WAX, a former broadcaster, is the author of sixteen novels and two novellas, including *My Ex-Best Friend's Wedding*, *Best Beach Ever*, *One Good Thing*, *Sunshine Beach*, *A Week at the Lake*, *While We Were Watching Downton Abbey*, *The House on Mermaid Point*, *Ocean Beach*, and *Ten Beach Road*. The mother of two grown sons, she has left the suburbs of Atlanta for an in-town high-rise that is eerily similar to the fictional high-rise she created in her 2013 release, *While We Were Watching Downton Abbey*.