Book Club Guide







Dear Book Club Coordinator,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read the many selections on An Open Book. I hope that the information in my letter helps make your choice for your book club easier.

I have been writing since 2014, after I made a New Year's resolution to finally finish a book. Since then I have written close to thirty books, and they have been published both independently and traditionally. I'm happy to introduce A Run at Love, which was my first foray into the horse racing world and all things Kentucky Derby.

A Run at Love explores identity as my heroine was adopted from an African country and raised by American Caucasian parents. She also has a friendship with the boy next door that she dares not hope could turn to more. There are sprinkles of humor, witty banter, romance, and horses and an exploration of how to lean on your faith when tough times come.

Adding a Kentucky setting—thanks to research and time spent talking to natives and transplants—A Run at Love has that small-town atmosphere we've all come to love. It is book two in the Love in the Spotlight series but can still be read as a standalone book. There are movie pop culture references as well as references to past famous horses.





Though the cover hints at a fun-loving read, the issues discussed between the pages have depth. The heavy moments are balanced by the lighthearted ones. I do hope you enjoy Tuck and Piper's journey. If you'd like me to take part in your book club's discussion, please contact me via the form on my website.

Blessings,

Toni Shiloh

ToniShiloh.com



Non-Alcoholic Mint Julep

From 31 Daily

This virgin spin on the iconic Kentucky Derby cocktail is minty, cool, refreshing, and delicious! The perfect drink to pair with A Run at Love.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 4 quarts, about 16

servings

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cold water
- 11/2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 3/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 11/2 quarts ginger ale, chilled
- 5-6 cups ice cubes
- Fresh mint and lemon slices, for garnish

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the water, sugar, lemon juice, and mint. Let stand for at least 45 minutes. Strain and discard mint. Place ice cubes in two 2-qt. pitchers; add half of the lemon mixture and ginger ale to each. Garnish each glass with lemon and mint. Enjoy!



Discussion Questions



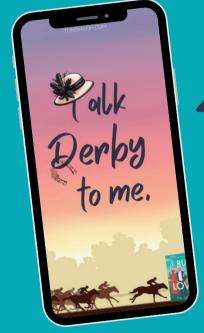
- 1. This novel explored several themes, including love, trust, communication, family, and identity. Which theme stood out to you the most?
- 2. Tuck has two friends that pray for him and hold him accountable. Why do you think relationships like this are valuable? What did you particularly like about Tuck, Chris, and Lamont's relationship?
- 3. Piper struggled to know her place in the world. Could you relate to her struggle? Why or why not?
- 4. Many Black jockeys have won the Kentucky Derby. How do you think the media will respond when the first Black owner wins?
- 5. Tuck and Piper have known each other since childhood. In what ways did that friendship help their romance? How did it hinder it?
- 6. Which character did you relate to or empathize with the most and why?
- 7. What was the most memorable scene or shocking twist in the story and why?
- 8. Do you think Piper's father should have been sent to prison? Why or why not?
- 9. What do you think Piper's relationship with her parents will look like moving forward?



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