



THE RESOLUTIONS

BOOK CLUB KIT

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

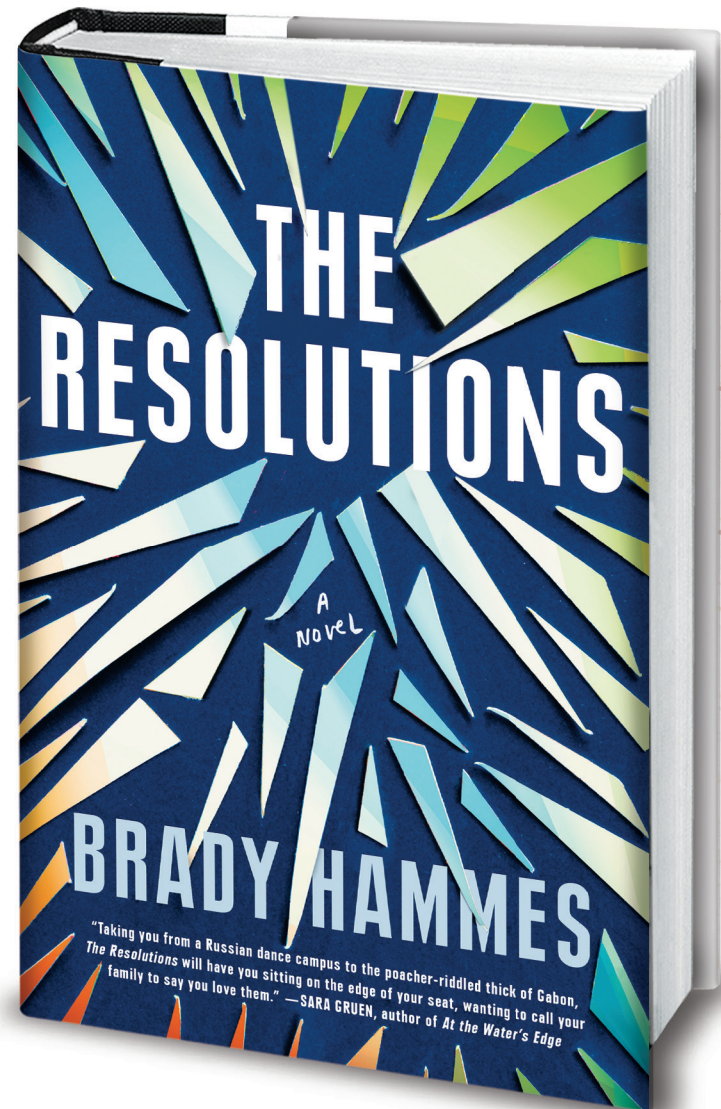
Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for choosing *The Resolutions* for your book club. Many years ago, I watched a *60 Minutes* profile about a group of research scientists studying elephant communication in the forests of West Africa. As someone who's always loved elephants, I began learning as much as I could about their work, and that initial research became the basis for Jonah's storyline. Around the same time, I'd begun drafting a short story about a heroin-addicted ballerina trying to keep her head above water in rural Russia and another about an actor in L.A. whose life is imploding around him. At some point, it occurred to me that these three stories were related, quite literally, and thus began *The Resolutions*.

The book is about a lot of things—drug addiction, elephant conservation, career stagnation—but at its core I like to think of it as a story about the slow drift that occurs as siblings grow older. As the eldest of three boys, I'm intrigued by how these initial bonds are often eclipsed by the ones we form in adulthood—husbands and wives and partners and children. These people who were such an integral part of our childhood, our closest confidantes, are now faces we see once a year around the holidays. With the novel, I wanted to acknowledge that distance while also inventing circumstances that would force my characters back together. I wanted to return them to their youth.

People sometimes ask me what I'd like readers to take away from the book and—while I hesitate to prescribe any kind of message—if nothing else I hope it might inspire you to call your brother or sister. I'm sure they'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Brady Hammes



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which sibling do you relate to the most—Samantha, Jonah, or Gavin? Why?
2. There are many different locations in the story. How does setting play into the overall narrative? Did you have a favorite?
3. Addiction can show up in many forms. What are the other kinds of addiction besides drugs in the novel? How do their dependencies affect each sibling's choices?
4. Discuss Sam's reluctance to go to rehab and openness to the ceremony Jonah suggested. Do you agree with her choice? Why or why not?
5. Ibogaine was readily available to her in clinics, but why might the spiritual element of the Bwiti have been more appealing as a means for Sam to overcome her addiction? In what ways can rituals help us?
6. Sam is told, "If the ceremony has worked you will never feel normal again. Normal was your old self." In what ways does each sibling leave behind their previous self?
7. What did you think of the relationship between the siblings? Do you see any similarities to your own familial relationships?
8. Which character do you like most? Why? Who was your least favorite? Why?
9. Did the ending surprise you? Why or why not?

SAM - SPICY MOSCOW MULE



Ingredients

- 2 ounces vodka
- 1 habanero seeded and sliced into wheels
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- Ginger beer

Instructions

1. Place one habanero wheel in a copper mug and muddle the habanero to release the oils.
2. Add ice, then pour in the vodka and lime juice.
3. Top with ginger beer, then stir well and serve.

Source www.pepperscale.com/spicy-moscow-mule/

GAVIN - RISING SUN



Ingredients

- 1 ½ oz. mezcal
- ¾ oz. fresh grapefruit juice
- ½ oz. fresh lime juice
- ½ oz. maraschino
- Pinch of salt

Instructions

1. Combine mezcal, juices, and maraschino in a cocktail shaker filled with ice; shake vigorously
2. Strain into a coupe glass
3. Garnish with lime wheel.

Source www.saveur.com/article/Recipes/rising-sun-mezcal-cocktail/

JONAH - AFRICAN SUNRISE



Ingredients

- 3 oz. Kenyan or Ethiopian coffee, hot
- 2 oz. grapefruit vodka
- 1 oz. sparkling water
- ½ oz. simple syrup
- Ice cubes, one large ice sphere, or whiskey stones

Instructions

1. Brew the coffee.
2. Mix the vodka, sparkling water and syrup, then pour the coffee into the drink warm.
3. Add ice cubes to the cup, and serve.

Source www.thespeckledpalate.com/african-sunrise/