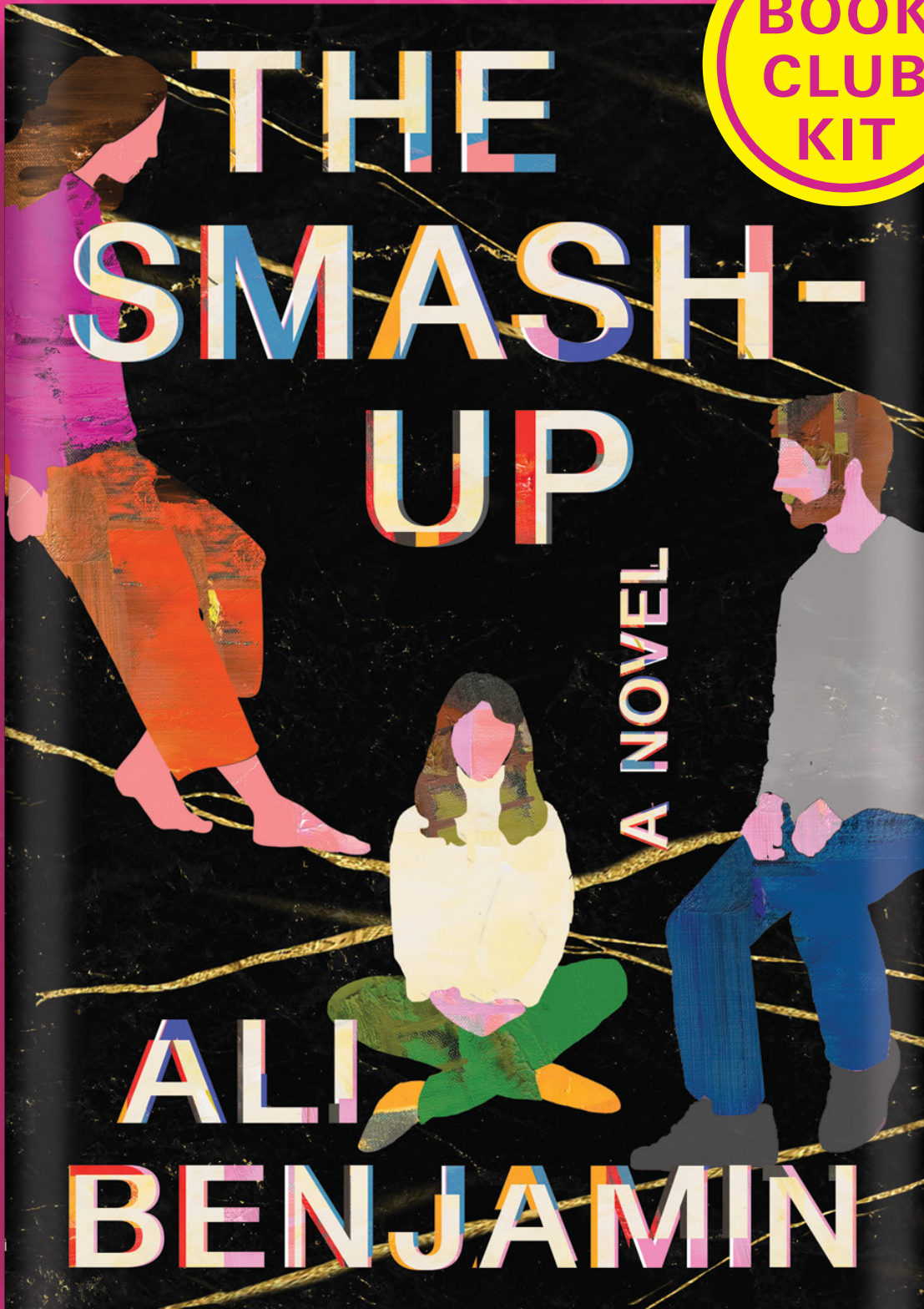


BOOK
CLUB
KIT

THE SMASH- UP

A NOVEL

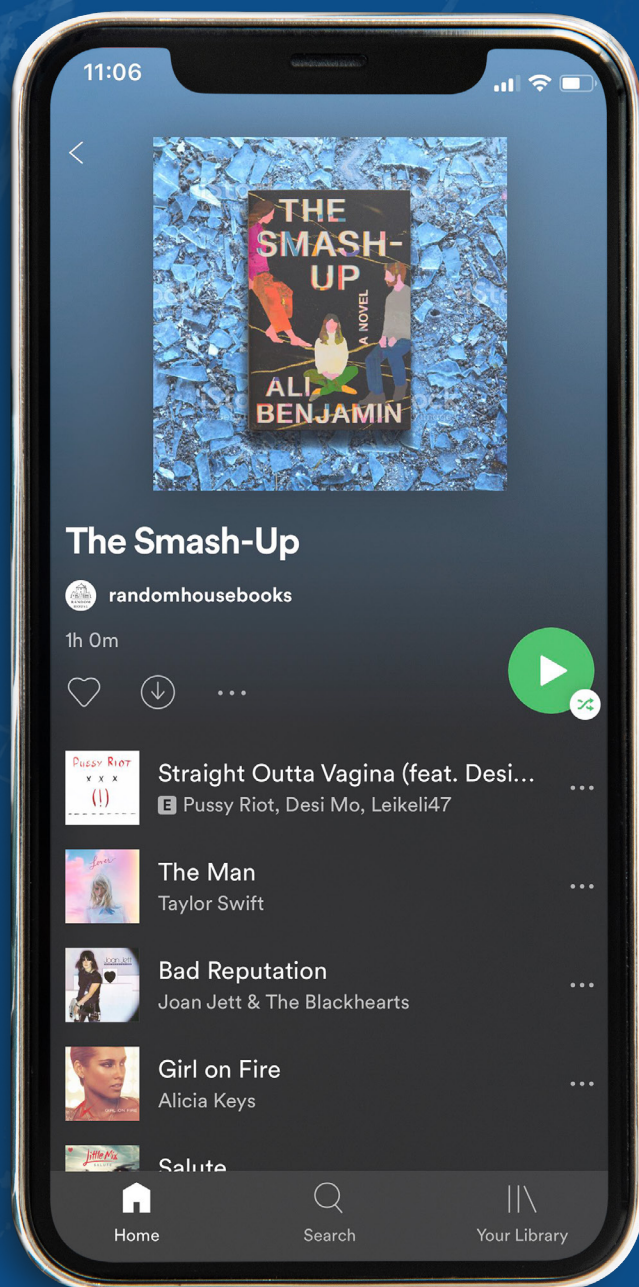
ALI
BENJAMIN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think of the title of this book? What does it mean?
2. Which character did you most relate to or empathize with? Did your perception of the characters change at all as you read and, if so, how?
3. Ethan considers himself “one of the good guys” (81). Do you agree? How does this perception of himself affect his behavior? Are there ways his idea of morality differs from Zo’s? How might a woman who behaved similarly to Ethan be judged or treated differently?
4. Were you surprised by the reveal of the narrator at the end of the novel? How does the book play with perspective and point-of-view throughout?
5. How does *The Smash-Up* reflect the state of our country in 2016 and beyond? Are there elements you recognize from your own life?
6. How are aging, regret, second chances, and generational divides dealt with in the novel?
7. Ethan criticizes Zo for making her interaction with the police all about her. How do this and other instances in the book offer a critique of white feminism and white liberals?
8. What did you think of Maddy and her job with Ten-Spot? How does her perspective on the world differ from Ethan’s and (especially) Zo’s, and why do you think Ethan is so drawn to her?
9. Maddy, Zo, Alex, Evie, and Audrey Munson are very different people; is there anything that unites their disparate experiences? How do these individuals add dimension to each other’s stories?
10. Ethan reflects that he “doesn’t want to live in a world where everyone’s busy flashing symbols for others to decode, like some strange new language that he’ll have to learn and then relearn,” (156). How does this book explore themes of symbolism, context, truth, and authenticity?
11. Ethan flashes back to 1990s New York City, when the internet was new. How has its rise changed life since then? How does the book critique social media in particular?
12. The book ends with some ambiguity. What do you imagine the future looks like for Zo and Ethan?

ALL THEM WITCHES PLAYLIST



**CLICK HERE
TO PLAY**

Straight Outta Vagina/Pussy Riot
The Man/Taylor Swift
Bad Reputation/Joan Jett
Girl on Fire/Alicia Keys
Salute/Little Mix
Cherry Bomb/The Runaways
Confident/Demi Lovato
Bitch/Meredith Brooks
Defying Gravity/Kristen Chenoweth,
Idina Menzel
Better be Good to Me/Tina Turner
God is a Woman/Ariana Grande
Run the World (Girls)/Beyonce
That's Not My Name/The Ting Tings
Rhiannon/Fleetwood Mac
I'm Coming Out/Diana Ross

WITCHES BREW COCKTAIL

Ingredients

1 oz. vodka
½ oz. lime juice
2 oz. raspberry liqueur
2 oz. Sprite
1 drop purple food coloring

Instructions

- In a large bar shaker, add your liquors, food coloring, and lime juice.
- Shake to combine.
- Pour mixture into a glass.
- Top with Sprite

Source: myheavenlyrecipes.com/witches-brew-cocktail/

ELAINE'S BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Ingredients

24 oz. frozen shredded potatoes
Salt and pepper
12 eggs
2 cups half-and-half
1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1 ½ cup cheddar cheese grated
1 ½ cup pepper jack cheese grated
2 cups chopped ham OR your preferred meat, sausage would also be great

Instructions

- Grease a 9x13-inch pan. Add the frozen and shredded potatoes to the pan bottom. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- In a large bowl, whisk the eggs together. Then add half-and-half, seasoned salt, cheddar cheese, pepper jack, and chopped ham.
- Pour over the top of the frozen potatoes. Cover with foil and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight.
- Bake uncovered at 350°F for 90 minutes. Let rest for 10 minutes before serving.

Source: TK