



BOOK
CLUB
KIT


LATE BLOOMERS

a novel

DEEPA
VARADARAJAN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which character did you relate to most, and why?
 2. What does each character truly want? How does each person come to define happiness for themselves?
 3. Like the characters in her novel, Deepa Varadarajan considers herself a “late bloomer,” publishing her first novel in her 40s after a career in law and academia. In what areas do you consider yourself a late bloomer? What are the downsides—and upsides—to being a late bloomer?
 4. Compare and contrast the relationships the characters in this family have with each other. How do they define themselves against each other? How do they bring out each other’s strengths and weaknesses?
 5. What does this novel have to say about the joys and challenges of marriage and romantic relationships?
 6. What other themes emerged as you read?
 7. What do the main characters gain from their relationships with secondary characters, like Deanna, that they can’t get from their family members or significant others?
 8. *Late Bloomers* is a novel about second chances. What second chances have you been given in your own life?
 9. What scene from the novel has stayed with you most? Why?
 10. Discuss the choices the characters made throughout the story. Where would you have chosen something different?
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RECIPE

Priya's Manhattan


Ingredients

- 2 oz. rye whiskey
- 1 oz. sweet vermouth
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters
- Garnish: brandied cherry (or lemon twist, if preferred)

Instructions

1. Add the rye whiskey, sweet vermouth, and bitters into a mixing glass with ice and stir until well-chilled.
2. Strain into a chilled Nick & Nora or coupe glass.
3. Garnish with a brandied cherry (or a lemon twist, if preferred)

Source: [liquor.com/recipes/manhattan-2/](https://www.liquor.com/recipes/manhattan-2/)





PLAYLIST

Listen to a playlist inspired by *Late Bloomers*—and curated by the author!

“(Sweet Sweet Baby) Since You’ve Been Gone” by Aretha Franklin

“Little Lies” by Fleetwood Mac

“Your Cheatin’ Heart” by Patsy Cline

“Tell Mama” by Etta James

“Always on My Mind” by Willie Nelson

“We Can Work It Out” by The Beatles

“What A Little Moonlight Can Do” by Billie Holiday

“Start Over” by Beyoncé

“Cheek to Cheek” by Ella Fitzgerald

“For Once in My Life” by Stevie Wonder

“Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall in Love)” by Dinah Washington

“Make You Feel My Love” by Adele

“Feeling Good” by Nina Simone

