

ADRIENNE YOUNG
THE UNMAKING OF
JUNE FARROW

BOOK CLUB KIT

A LETTER FROM ADRIENNE

Dear Reader,

A few years ago I moved across the country from California to Western North Carolina. Ahead of our move, I went on a solo scouting trip to get the lay of the land and one day I was walking downtown when I saw something odd. At the bottom of a brick wall, a series of little doors no taller than my ankle were fixed like a little village against the brick. They stopped me in my tracks and, for the rest of the day, my mind was spinning with a question: What if, when I opened one of those doors, they took me someplace else?

This was the first seed of an idea that would eventually become *The Unmaking of June Farrow*, a book about coming apart so that you can find yourself again. In this story, I was able to explore a lot of themes that are deeply personal to my own life experience, including the fact that as we age we live multiple lives. Our future selves must live with the choices that our present/past selves make. In some ways, it feels like inheriting a life we didn't make. The real magic of growth is when we can see where those various versions of ourselves are connected.

The Unmaking of June Farrow took me on quite an unexpected journey as a writer. As you read, I hope you find yourself swept into the mystical beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains the way I did, and that you find your own twists and turns along the way.

Love,
Adrienne Young

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss June as a character. What were your first impressions of her? How did she change over the course of the novel? What would you have done differently in her position?
2. What did you think of the time travel aspect of the story? If you were to walk through a door in time, where would you hope to be transported?
3. Feminism and motherhood are major themes throughout the novel. The women at the heart of the story sacrifice so much for each other and for their family. Discuss the different women in this book—June, Susanna, Margaret, Birdie, and others—and their roles in the narrative. How is June's life shaped by these women? What lengths would you go to for the women in your life?
4. Eamon is the main love interest in *The Unmaking of June Farrow*. What do you think of his reaction to June's return? Would you be able to forgive her?
5. What did you think about Caleb as a character? Did learning about his childhood make you sympathize more with him at the end of the story?
6. *The Unmaking of June Farrow* is set in Jasper, North Carolina—a fictional small town in the South. How does that setting impact the events of the story?
7. At its core, *The Unmaking of June Farrow* is about legacy and the lasting power of family history. How did this novel make you think about your own family history?
8. What did you think of the story's ending? Were you surprised, or did you expect it? Was it what you'd hoped for?
9. Were there any readers in the group who wanted June to stay in 1951? Who wanted her to return to her life in 2023? What were the reasons you rooted for June to choose either life?
10. Who would you cast in the adaptation of the book?

GRAN'S BISCUIT RECIPE

Prep Time: 15 mins | Cook Time: 10 mins | Total Time: 25 mins | Servings: 12 | Yield: 1 dozen biscuits



Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- 1 egg
- ⅔ cup milk

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450°F (230°C).
2. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, cream of tartar, and salt into a bowl. Use a pastry cutter to chop vegetable shortening into the flour mixture until it resembles coarse crumbs. Whisk egg and milk together in a separate bowl and slowly add milk mixture to flour mixture, stirring as you pour, until dough is moistened and well-mixed. Drop dough by spoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until biscuits have risen and are golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes.

Note

You can place dough on a floured countertop and knead more flour into dough until it no longer sticks to your fingers. Pat out to desired thickness. Cut with a biscuit cutter and transfer biscuits to an ungreased cookie sheet.

PLAYLIST

LOST

Liza Anne

COME DOWN

Sylvan Esso

DARK, DARK, DARK

Gregory Alan Isakov

DON'T LET GO

Alice in Winter

LUNG

Vancouver Sleep Clinic

BIRD

Billie Marten

EXTA

Sebastian Plano

ELVIS

Annie Eve

MAKE IT HOLY

The Staves

ELEVATOR SONG

Keaton Henson, Ren Ford

EMPEROR

Wilsen

THE COLDER MONTHS

Liza Anne

IN YOUR EYES

Mree

WORK SONG

Hozier