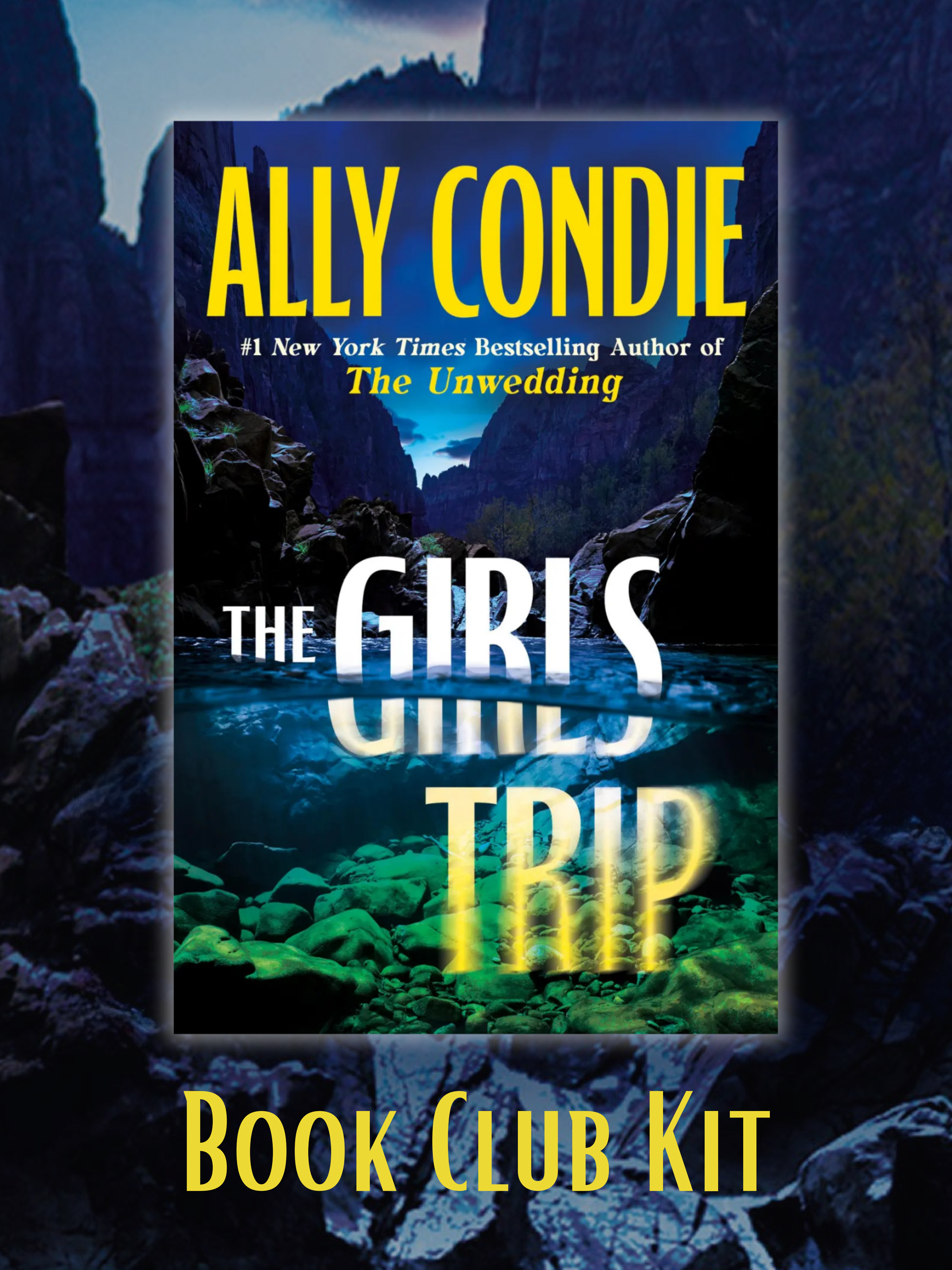




# ALLY CONDIE

#1 New York Times Bestselling Author of  
*The Unwedding*

## THE GIRLS SUMMER TRIP

# BOOK CLUB KIT

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## \*CONTAINS SPOILERS\*

1. The novel opens with the epigraph from Agatha Christie's *The Secret Adversary*: "Never tell all you know—not even to the person you know best." Why do you think the author chose to start the novel with this quote? Do you agree?
2. Hope, Ash, and Caro decide to meet in person for the first time by following in Agatha Christie's footsteps and disappearing (as much as they possibly can) from their real lives. Would you want to do this? Do you think you'd be able to follow through, or would you be more like Ash and still need some connection to the real world?
3. It is revealed early on that Ash is undergoing a tough time in her marriage, to the point where her husband and her husband both struggle to say, "I love you," on the phone, leaving Ash wondering "When did saying it first become so vulnerable?" Was this relatable to you? If so, were you able to navigate through this rough period in your relationship with this person?
4. Page, at one point, thinks, "When you grow up without having any money or power, you take it where you can." Describe how this idea rings true to her character throughout the story, as well as how it impacts those she interacts with. Do you think any other characters exhibited this philosophy?
5. Analyze the ways in which Hope, Ash, and Caro trust and distrust one another. Were there some characters more trusting than others? Is that good or bad? Do you think they were able to fully mend any damage that was done to their trust in one another by the end of the novel?
6. In chapter 45, Ally Condie writes "They've talked about this before with Hope—how if you're a friend or a parent or a wife or a sister or an employee or a boss or a caregiver or, really, a woman in the world at all, you feel like you're constantly failing everyone all the time." Discuss how this sentiment of responsibility and failing weighs on Hope, Ash, Caro, and Page throughout the novel. Do you relate to any of the three? If so, who?
7. In chapter 61, Page and Eve both wanted to choose to reside in Spring City, "And to choose it, you had to leave it first. You had to have other options and see other things and then come back." Do you relate to this sentiment of having to leave your home to choose it? If so, where did you leave to, and have you managed to make your way back home?
8. In Chapter 63 Caro thinks, "We have been the worst of caretakers," when referring to the history of the land that she has grown up visiting and is currently staying in as a guest. Analyze the ways in which new settlers and tourism have affected Spring City and the locals that live there.
9. Stalking and having a stalker is a heavy theme throughout the novel. When Hope shares that her stalker is back, she says, "I couldn't tell you both everything, or you'd insist on coming with me, or calling the police, and that wasn't going to work. They never do anything in cases like this. They never do enough, anyway. Not in my experience." Do you agree with Hope? What do you think can be done to improve protection of those that are stalked to keep them safe from stalkers?
10. Who did you think was out to get Hope, Ash, and Caro? Did you suspect that it was Ty before it was revealed?
11. At the end of the novel, we find out that some of the shorter chapters were written from the perspective of Eve, Page's late sister. Analyze the ways in which Eve's character haunts the rest of the narrative, regardless of whether the characters were aware of her existence.