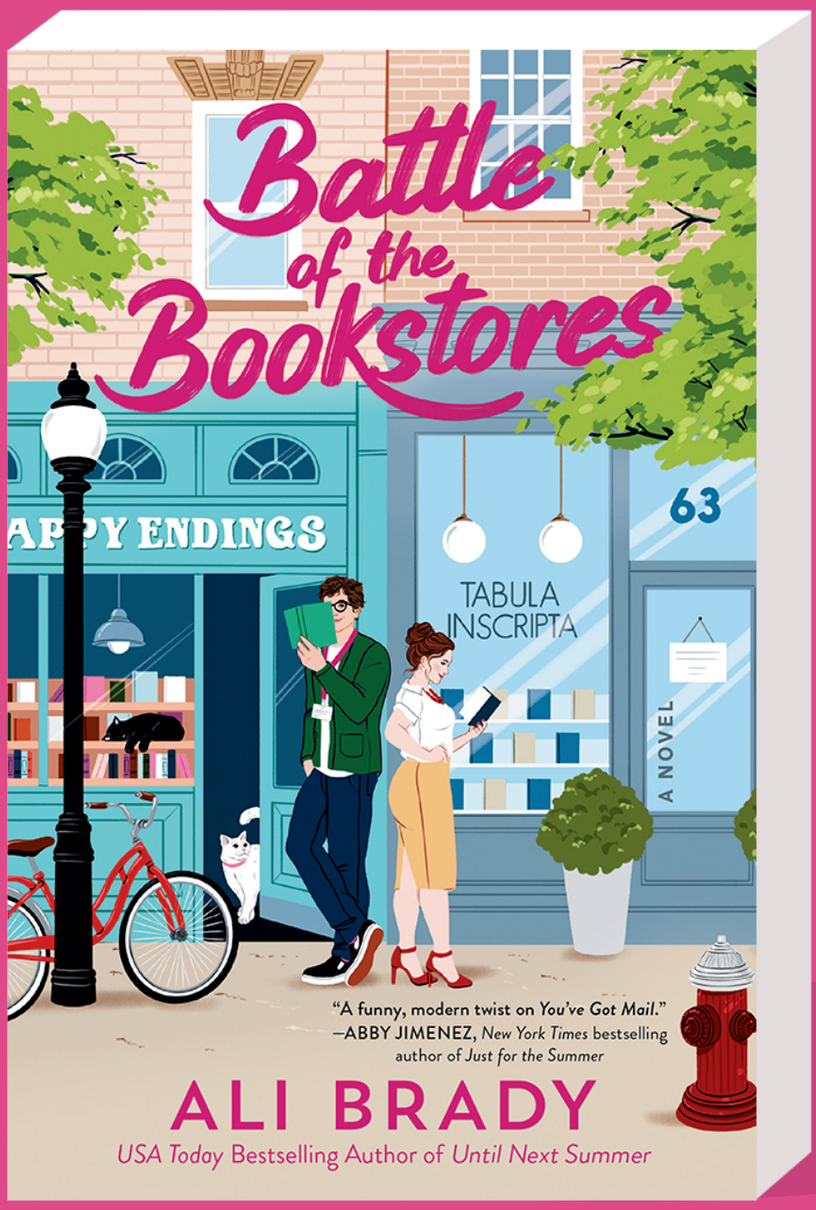
Book Club Kit



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Dear Reader,

This one's for you.

No, really. When we sat down to write *Battle of the Bookstores*, it felt like we were drafting a love letter to the romance readers, indie bookstores, and booksellers who mean so much to us. We channeled our love for this genre and our bookish community into every single page.

This book also marks a transition for us. While it still has the humor, heart, and a dash of the sisterhood readers have come to expect from an Ali Brady book, this one is a true romance. (And yes, that also means it's our spiciest book yet!)



Battle of the Bookstores tells the story of two bookstore managers who are thrust into a competition when the owner of their individual stores decides to combine them into one larger bookstore–with only one manager. Josie, our type A, super-organized heroine, runs Tabula Inscripta, a store focused on literary fiction, and Ryan, a chaotic cinnamon roll and the ultimate book boyfriend, runs Happy Endings, a romance-only bookstore. At the end of the summer, only one of them will still have a job.

Oh, and by the way–unbeknownst to them, the two rivals have also struck up an online friendship in an anonymous forum for booksellers. And as their competition intensifies in real life, their connection online grows. What could go wrong?

We like to think of it as *You've Got Mail* meets Sally Thorne's *The Hating Game*, and it's bursting with romance and spice and all the things book people will love, including a fiery discussion on bookish pet peeves, NSFW crochet figures, and bookstore date nights. The story also features a casually diverse cast of characters that reflect the world we live in, with Jewish representation, dyslexia, disability, and LGBTQ+ characters.

If this is your first Ali Brady book, here's a little bit about us: Alison lives in Chicago but works in Annapolis as a creative director at an advertising agency. She has no pets, plants or kids. Bradeigh lives in Salt Lake City with her husband, four kids, two dogs, and one cat, and works as a doctor. We love connecting with readers, so follow us on Instagram @AliBradyBooks and on Substack, or join The Ali Brady Bunch—our reader group on Facebook where we share sneak peeks and behind-the-scenes fun!

Enjoy the book, and here's to happy endings!

Alison and Bradeigh

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Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of the authors' decision to flip the gender stereotypes, having the man be the romance fan, and the woman be more into literary fiction?

2. If you could attend one of the literary events held at Happy Endings or Tabula Inscripta, which one would you go to?

3. Why do you think romance is sometimes looked down on as a genre? Do you enjoy reading genres other than romance?



4. Do you have a bookish pet peeve like the ones Josie and Ryan share?

5. Ryan and his staff have strong opinions about the third-act break up. What's your opinion on it, and did their discussion change your mind at all?

6. "Do audiobooks count as reading" is a big debate in the literary community–did hearing Ryan's experience with dyslexia and listening to books make you think about it differently?

7. How many books do you usually read at one time? Do you have purse, bathroom, kitchen, and bed books like Josie does?

8. What did you think of Ryan's decision to quit and sacrifice his job without talking to Josie about it first? And what did you think about Josie's decision to quit and go back to school?

9. Do you think Ryan should have told Josie who he was sooner?

10. Both Ryan's and Josie's views on love were influenced by their parents. (Josie is distrusting of love and Ryan believes when you know, you know.) Could you relate to either of their beliefs?

11. Could you be friends with someone who hates your favorite book?

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