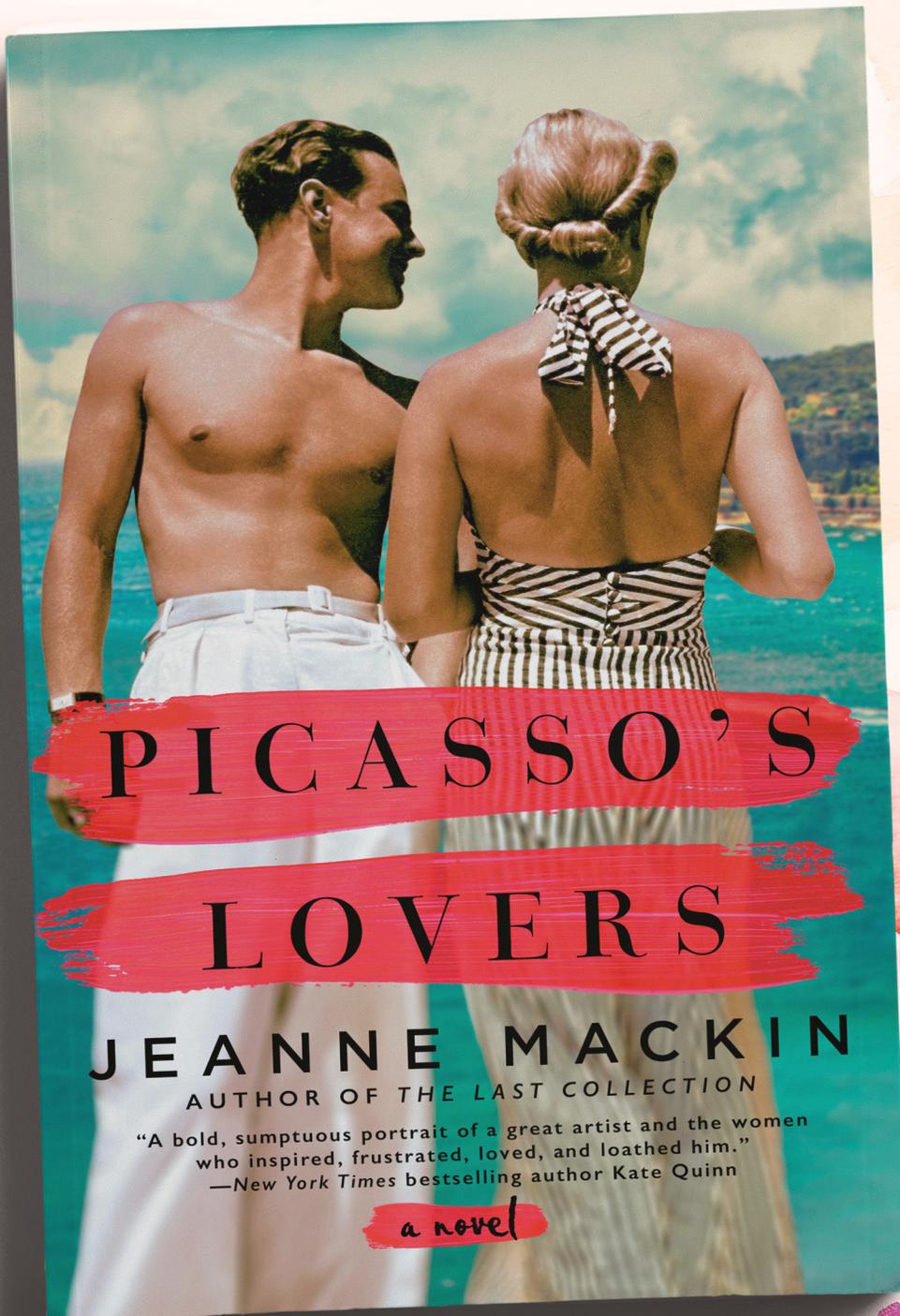


# Book Club Kit



BERKLEY



# Dear Book Club Members,

**There are few things that I, as an author, find more satisfying than meeting with book clubs.** Getting to speak with you and your fellow readers is always fascinating and enlightening. I like to hear your reactions, your take on the story. This is a partnership between author and reader!

There aren't many things that bind us together, that turn strangers into friends, like the experience of reading and discussing a book. Books are magical, aren't they? We walk into someone else's life, in another country, another century. We share their experiences. We exult or weep with them. And by sharing that experience with fellow readers, we engage and enlarge our understanding of the story, and of each other.

I know how many wonderful books there are out there, waiting to be read. I know how little time we have to get to all those books! I am so grateful when a book group chooses one of my novels. I hope that this newest novel, *Picasso's Lovers*, will spark a discussion about so many things: mothers and daughters and the secrets they keep; the men who inspire us and too often try to dominate through love; the difficulties for women in the workplace and those glass ceilings. Finding what matters most to us—a mother's history, a job that brings joy, a love that brings fulfillment—that's what I put into the heart of this novel.

If your book group would like to meet after reading this novel, please do let me know. It would be my pleasure and privilege!

Very best wishes,

*Jeanne Mackin*



# Discussion Questions

1. Which woman did you most identify with in this novel: Alana, her mother, Sara Murphy, or Irène?
2. Picasso could be cruel to his lovers. Have you known men like him? Were they ever happy in their relationships, and how did their partners respond to them?
3. Have you ever wanted or needed to meet a very famous person? Who, and were you able to?
4. What do you think of the relationship between Alana and her mother? Were there secrets in your family, and how did you finally discover them?
5. Of the various men in this novel, which did you find most and least appealing in terms of their ability to form a happy and loyal relationship?
6. McCarthyism, in this novel, is portrayed as an enemy of civil rights, including freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate peacefully. Have you ever participated in a demonstration for what you felt was a good cause? Did you feel any fear when doing so?
7. Sara feels guilty for years because she felt she betrayed Anna and caused her dismissal from the hotel. Do you think she was justified?
8. What is your favorite painting? Why does it move you? What does it make you think of or dream about?

