

Reading Group Guide

Suggested Discussion Questions for

Welcome to Groove House

About the Book

When rock's former biggest rebel loses everything, he's forced to call in favors from all the rock star royalty whom he'd burned his entire career.

With a trashed comeback tour, creditors on his ass, no record deal, a health issue he doesn't even know how to spell, and nothing but a few bucks from the sale of his last guitar, Mike Mays is destitute for the first time in his rock star life. He's forced to crash his estranged, uptight daughter's tidy world, and when she kicks him out, to couch-surf halfway around the world at a ragtag farmhouse in Tuscany called *Groove House*—home to a pack of aging ex-rock stars, who aren't thrilled to see him.

Mike creates chaos at every turn, bulldozing everyone in his path. His raunchy offstage antics snagged headlines back in the '70s and '80s, but can the aging bad boy bluff his way out of his worst bungle yet and actually stage a comeback?

Enhance Your Reading Group

1. Create a fun '80s rock playlist for background music. There are many “classic rock” songs and bands mentioned in the novel. To set the mood, play those and add some of your own favorites.
2. Pair the novel with a wine tasting! Try some of the wines—or the varietals—mentioned in the story. And don't forget the chocolate! Add a nice dark chocolate with sea salt and dream of Giulia's *La Principessa Cioccolato* chocolates.
3. Plan your book club meeting at a wine bar or an Italian restaurant. Or . . .
4. If your book club meets privately, create an Italian theme, with Italian foods and wine—there are many delicious items mentioned in the novel. Or be creative and conjure up your own Italian dishes and wine pairings to enjoy during your discussion of *Welcome to Groove House*.

Suggested Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any sympathy for Mike Mays? What about for Mike's daughter, Lydia?
2. Have you experienced an absentee father, as a child or as a spouse?
3. What attracts Mike to bond with his grandson? And why is Brayden so drawn to his newly discovered grandfather?
4. Have you ever experienced a family member or friend who was completely reckless with his or her life?
5. How do you feel about Lydia's choices in dealing with her irresponsible father?
6. Are you familiar with the real bands and songs mentioned in the novel? Which are your favorites?
7. If you were Velvet, would you have continued to trust Mike? Why do you think she did?
8. Groove House and the old vineyard both play a critical role in the story. Why do you think they were so important to Velvet's husband, Vin?
9. Recently Robin Thicke's *Blurred Lines* was in the news when Marvin Gaye's estate charged him with pilfering Marvin Gaye's classic *Got to Give It Up*. When George Harrison released *My Sweet Lord*, he was accused of stealing the melody from the Chiffons hit, *He's So Fine*. How easy do you think it is for musicians to subconsciously and unintentionally nab another artist's material?
10. How did you feel when you discovered Mike's fate?
11. How does the author balance poignant scenes with irreverent humor? What are the novel's most comic moments? Which aspects of the story line were the most moving?
12. If Harley has such a profound love for Mike, why does she reject him?
13. Have you ever experienced a deep love for someone, yet you knew that relationship wasn't a smart choice?
14. What was your reaction to learning that the author is a woman who manages a popular rock band that tours the world each year?
15. Have you ever heard of the wines in this story? If so, what is your experience with them?
16. Have you ever been to Italy? What are your favorite towns? What were your favorite foods and wines there?
17. What do you predict for Velvet's and Vin's future?

*If you are in the San Francisco Bay Area, the author would be delighted to join your book club discussion of **Welcome to Groove House**. If you are farther away, she would be happy to join your book club discussion via Skype.*

The author is often on tour with the band that she manages, but will do her best to accommodate with her schedule. To check availability, send your request to admin@jillmeniketti.com.