

Book Club Reading Guide

A companion guide for *Wish I Wasn't*



Included:

- Facts & Tidbits
- Holiday Recipe
- Discussion Questions

Facts & Tidbits

Want to listen to the playlist?

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0wDHLTk6ye0fkGDTwo4uux?si=pEYw5L5BTaKQHurJE3eZ1Q&utm_source=copy-link&pi=JH6wlqLfRsmSW

The original title was supposed to be *Wish I Wasn't Home for the Holidays*. By the time the idea made it out of book-idea purgatory in my notes app, I decided the title was too long.

Saint was a first for me as a writer—until then, most of my main male characters were much more intense. I wanted him to be the poster boy for cinnamon roll / golden retriever MMCs.

When I started writing WIW, I planned it as a standalone novella. Eventually, it grew longer, the characters developed further, and more stories called to me—leading me to expand my plans into a series.

The vibes: When I came up with WIW's concept, I wanted it to feel like a Hallmark movie with spice. Some of the moments I wrote to match that feel a little cheesy, but they add to the feel-good, silly mood. Example: The 'boating' vs. 'shipping' joke Winter's father makes at the hospital.



Recommended Holiday Recipe

This is a recipe I make every year with my kids, and I think it would pair well with this book.

Ingredients

- Pretzels - choose rods, sticks, or twists; your choice
- Chocolate Chips - I prefer white chocolate, but pick whatever kind you prefer
- Soft peppermint candies - I prefer the Brach's brand



Steps

1. Lay out your pretzels on a cookie sheet or plate.
2. Unwrap peppermint candies and fill a Ziploc bag with the desired amount; use a rolling pin to crush into small bits.
3. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave. I recommend putting them in a microwave-safe mug and heating for short intervals, stirring in between.
4. Once the chocolate is melted, use a spoon to drizzle it over the pretzels.
5. While the chocolate is still wet, sprinkle with peppermint bits.

Tips

- For easier cleanup, put a baking sheet under the pretzels during step 1
- If you're eager to eat the treats, you can put your finished pretzels in the fridge or freezer for a few minutes to solidify the chocolate

Discussion Questions

- Would you want to live in Yule?
- Which character would you want to be best friends with? Why?
- In the opening chapter, Winter is confronted by an angry reader. Have you ever been disappointed by the newest book of your favorite author? How did you handle it? (Hopefully in a more productive way, rather than throwing coffee at an author and tearing the book apart)
- After Mr. Evergreen's accident, the kids are tasked with taking care of the farm and the upcoming holiday events. If you were in that situation, what would you do first?
- Mr. & Mrs. Evergreen have a clear theme for naming their kids: Winter, Cypress, and Douglas. If they had another kid, what name would you recommend to keep the theme?
