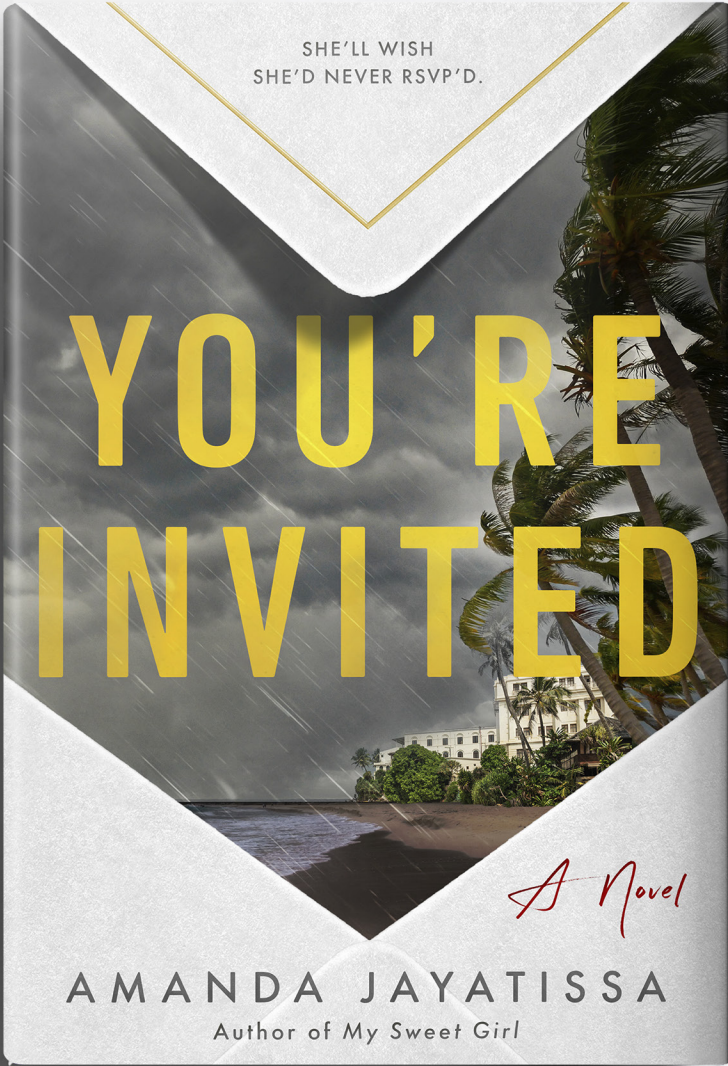


BOOK CLUB KIT



SHE'LL WISH  
SHE'D NEVER RSVP'D.





# Dear Reader,

It's very difficult to avoid weddings when you live in Sri Lanka. Walk into any park or scenic location and you'll see a *Vogue*-level bridal photoshoot taking place. Most hotels have their ballrooms booked years in advance for wedding receptions, and the number of bridal fashion shows and wedding magazines seems oddly disproportionate for a relatively small society.

Funnily enough, I've never been a huge fan of weddings myself, and when I married my husband, we thought we'd do something revolutionary and have a \*gasp\* small event. Twenty people small, not the standard 150 people (which is what is considered to be small in SL). It created quite the scandal at the time. The hotel manager asked if we were eloping. A "concerned" family friend inquired if it was a shotgun wedding. There's a relative who still won't speak to us because they weren't invited.

My husband and I were smug. We knew this would all blow over soon. We thought we had outsmarted everyone.

But it was not to be. Both sets of parents descended on us a few months later.

"What about a beach venue?"

"We were thinking of sending invites to the cousins in Australia. I doubt they'll come, but it's rude not to invite them, no?"

"So, dress or sari?"

We were confused. "What's this for?"

"Your wedding reception, of course."

"Reception?"



"Yes, otherwise how will our friends know you both are married? They'll just think you are living together or something, and we can't have that."

And so, there we were, planning a real Sri Lankan wedding a year after we'd already been married. The only aspect we could all agree on was that it would be held at the stunning Mount Lavinia Hotel in Colombo.

I won't go into the pains of wedding planning because many of us have been there, and if you haven't, consider yourself lucky. And perhaps it was my initial disenchantment with the fanfare (and the expenses!), but it didn't take me very long to see cracks in the visage of what was supposed to be a happily ever after. Disagreements on varying tastes, expectations, and opinions come to a boiling point when doing something as simple as choosing decor or deciding on a cake.

Factor in the societal pressure in Colombo, and you've got yourself quite the tinderbox.

Don't get me wrong—despite me being a total wedding Grinch, our wedding reception (or "fake wedding," as we now fondly refer to it) was a blast. It would be impossible to gather that many people who are beautifully dressed and primed to party in one place and expect it to be anything less.

But still, I'm a thriller writer at heart, and I couldn't help but muse back then that a wedding would be the perfect setting for a murder.

So here we are, many weddings (and thankfully no murders) later, and I'm beyond honored you've selected *You're Invited* for your book club. I hope you have as much fun reading it as I did writing it. And I do hope you get the chance to attend a Sri Lankan wedding one day—they are truly spectacular!

*Amanda Jayatissa*





"Fake" Wedding



Real Wedding



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Amaya must deal with rumors and misunderstandings from various wedding guests over the course of the story. What kind of effects do you think this had on her psyche and her plans as she navigated this wedding? Can you apply that same thinking to Kaavi and her much better reputation?
2. What did you make of the way Spencer made Amaya feel during the times they interacted? Were you confused by those feelings or did you understand her?
3. In relation to the previous question, what do you think the author was trying to say about these kinds of relationships and their lasting effects on someone?
4. Although Amaya has not spoken to Kaavi in such a long time, she still goes to her wedding with a plan to stop the nuptials. Do you agree with the way she went about this? Would you have done things differently?
5. Amaya has quite a poor reputation. Did you ever find yourself agreeing with others or doubting your belief in her? Did you ever believe in her? Why or why not?



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. One of Amaya's biggest dissenters is Kaavi's sister, Tehani. Why do you think Tehani was so hard on Amaya? Do you sense that there is some deeper feeling there?
7. Why do you think the author chose the setting of a high-society wedding for this novel? What part did all the gossip play in the story?
8. What do you think the author was trying to say about women's reputations—good or bad—and how they can impact women's lives? Think about Spencer's reputation in comparison—what do you think were some purposes of making him a golden boy?
9. What are your thoughts on the ending? Was it a shock to you? And what do you think this means for Amaya's journey?
10. What do you make of Kaavi and Amaya's relationship given what you know now? Do you think they were ever truly friends?

*The End*