

“The perfect blend of magic and mystery.”
—RORY POWER, *New York Times* bestselling author

in the

SHADOW GARDEN

A Novel

LIZ PARKER

BOOK CLUB KIT



FOREVER

A NOTE FROM LIZ PARKER



Dear Reader,

I am so excited you've selected *In the Shadow Garden* for your next book club read! One of the central themes at the heart of this story is community, and it brings me joy knowing it is being read in community.

There is so much packed into this book. It's a love story, a small-town story, a family story (both the family you're born into and the family you choose). It's a mystery; it's magic. It's heartache and grief and loss. It's finding yourself and learning to love again. It's my heart, spilled across 326 pages.

These characters are complicated and messy and trying to do the right thing (yes, even our antagonist). The Haywoods are so full of love for each other while still needing to grow and learn and occasionally admit they're wrong. I hope that you fall in love with each and every person in this story, the way I did writing them. Even the Bonners (okay, maybe not all of the Bonners).

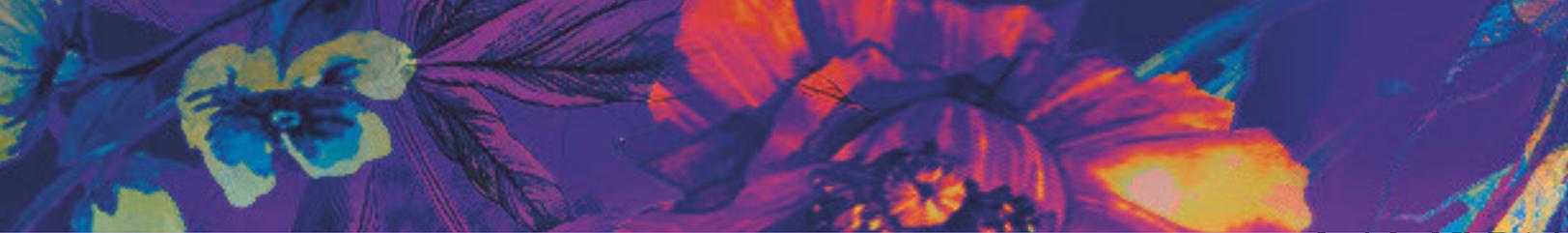
As a gardener and an herbalist, I spend a lot of my time with plants, and I sought to bring that experience to life in this book. Nothing eases my fears and anxiety and trauma quite like the feeling of plunging my hands into soil freshly warmed by the sun except maybe taking from the plants growing in that soil (with gratitude) and using them in a cup of tea. I truly believe there is magic in those moments, and I hope that feeling comes to life on the page for you.

At its heart, *In the Shadow Garden* is a book about healing. Writing it—putting trauma, and love, and family on paper—was such a healing experience for me, and my hope is that reading it is a balm to your heart as well.

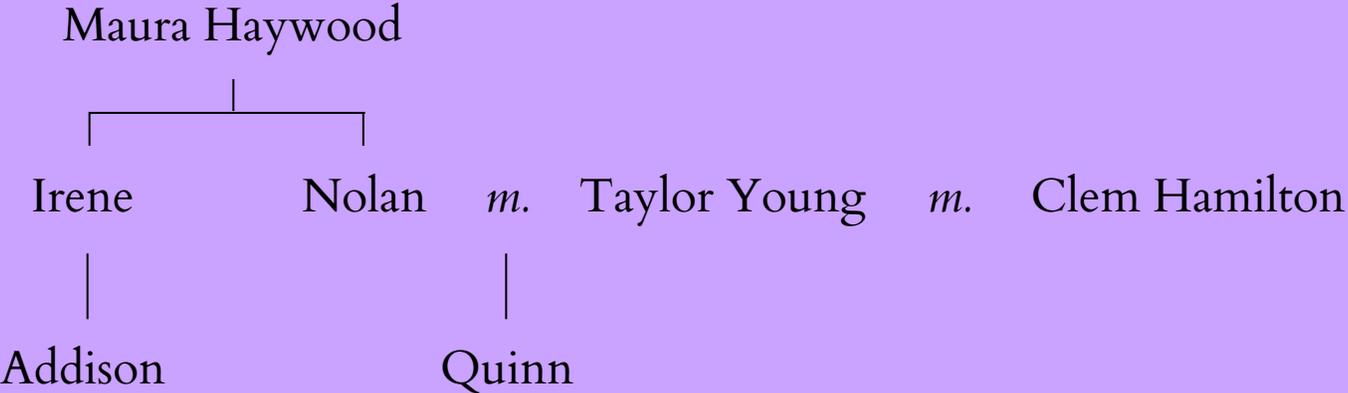
My wish is that you find healing wherever you need it.

With love and a little bit of magic,

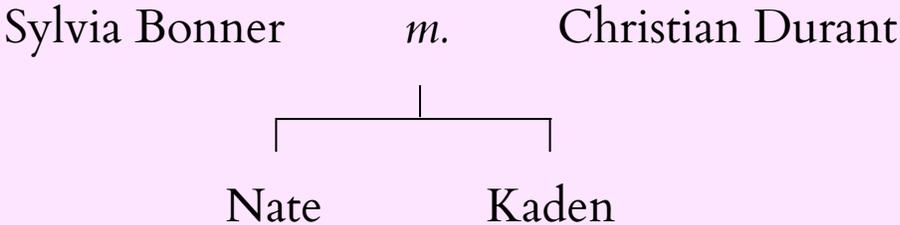




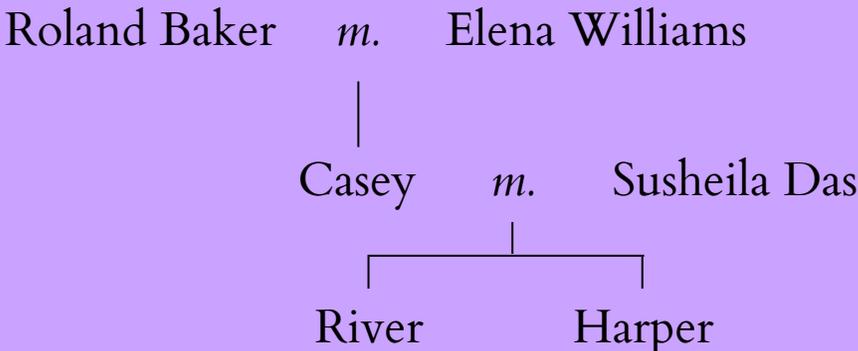
The Haywoods



The Bonners



The Bakers



CHARACTER GUIDE

Irene Haywood

Big 3

Sun: Pisces
Moon: Scorpio
Rising: Aries

On rotation: *One Foot in Front of the Other*, Griff

Currently reading: *The Hurting Kind*, Ada Limón

Favorite tea: Lavender and lemon balm



Addison Haywood

Big 3

Sun: Aquarius
Moon: Cancer
Rising: Capricorn

On rotation: *Nothing New (Taylor's Version)*, Taylor Swift

Currently reading: *Nona the Ninth*, Tamsyn Muir

Favorite tea: Irene's "For courage" blend (green tea, thyme, fennel, Saint-John's-wort, and lemon balm)

Maura Haywood

Big 3

Sun: Capricorn
Moon: Pisces
Rising: Scorpio

On rotation: *This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things*, Taylor Swift

Currently reading: *The Wisteria Society of Lady Scoundrels*, India Holton

Favorite tea: Stinging Nettle

CHARACTER GUIDE

Quinn Haywood

On rotation: Remembering My Dreams, Griff

Currently reading: The Last House on Needless Street, Catriona Ward

Favorite tea: Red clove and burdock root

Big 3

Sun: Leo

Moon: Virgo

Rising: Gemini

Kaden Bonner

Big 3

Sun: Taurus

Moon: Scorpio

Rising: Libra

On rotation: Lease on Life, Andy Grammer

Currently reading: What My Bones Know, Stefanie Foo

Favorite tea: Oatstraw



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

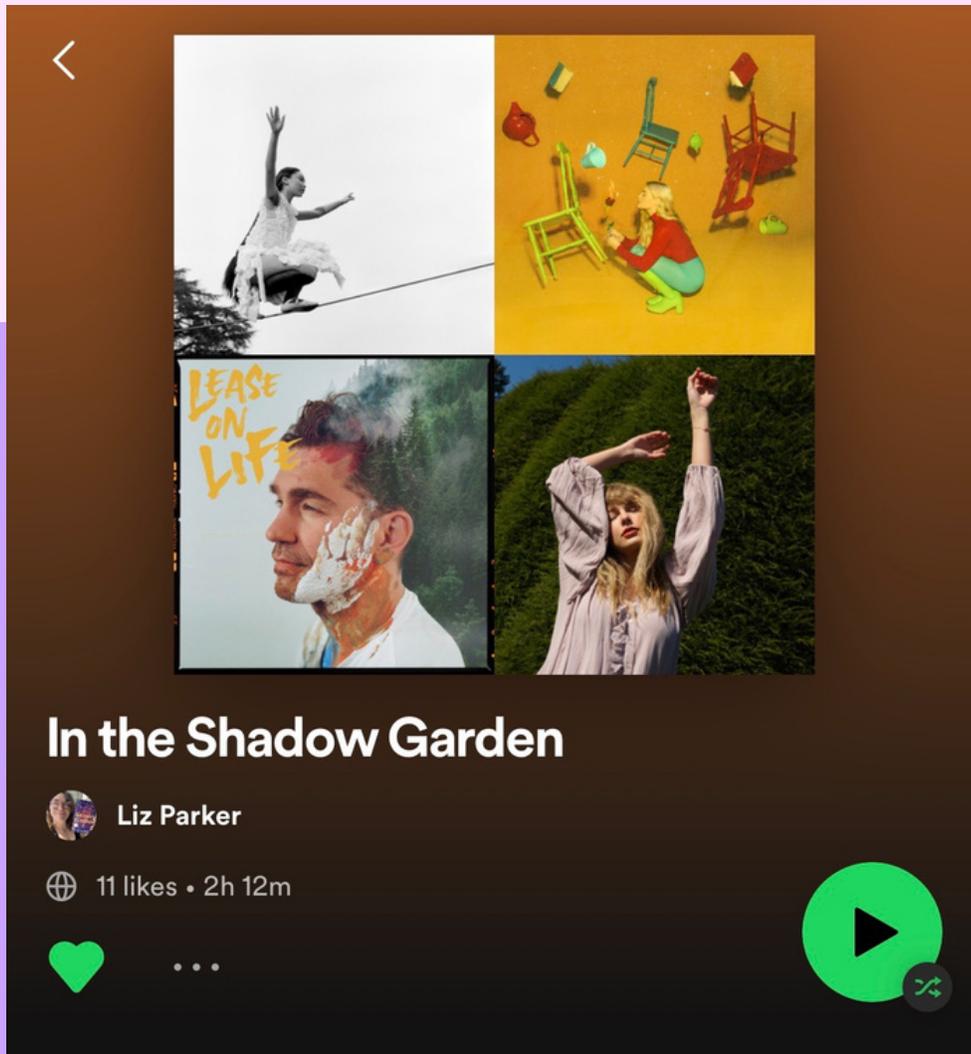
- Addison's tea-leaf reading appears several times throughout the book - the ear of corn, a sprig of rosemary, a ladybug, and a fern. The characters offer a number of interpretations as the story unfolds. What do you think the reading represents?
- Each of the Haywood's happiness draws a different creature from Yarrow - Addison and the ladybugs, Irene and the butterflies, Quinn and the dragonflies, even Maura and the honeybees. When they're angry, cicadas come calling. Similarly, the fireflies aren't drawn to the gloom, but to the garden. What do you think this says about the shadow garden and how it relates to the Haywoods?
- As a parent of an adult child, Irene wants to protect Addison but also has to come to terms with the fact that she must let Addison make her own choices, all while falling in love herself. How does she balance Addison's needs with her own?
- When Addison goes in search of what she took from River, the shadow garden gives it up even though it is starving. How does this speak to the garden's role as a character in the novel? What do you think this could be a metaphor for?
- Quinn viewed her immunity as an absence of magic, something that set her apart from the rest of the Haywoods, but in the end it was that immunity that allowed her to find her family's memories in the bourbon. What role do you think this played in her own healing from the loss of her father?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Kaden left Yarrow to escape his family, and even when he returned, he found his place among the Haywoods, not the Bonners. When do you think it is okay to break up with family?
- The Haywoods and the Bonners each have their own legacy. Addison finds her magic is both and neither, something all her own. How does this speak to finding ourselves both within and outside of our families of origin?
- Because of their history with memory magic, the entire town chose to accept they gave up a summer of their own free will. How might this be a metaphor for trust and the cycle of abuse?
- Sylvia was a victim of abuse herself, but in the end, she didn't break the cycle of abuse for her children. Could there have been redemption for her character after what she'd done in the summer of '97 and then to Addison? If so, what might that have looked like?
- Kaden used to think the memory harvest wasn't all that different from the Haywood's healing magic. If you could give up any memory, what would it be? Do you think that would help you heal?



The official playlist for In the Shadow Garden



Includes music from:

Maggie Rogers, Taylor Swift, Griff, Andy Grammer, Phoebe Bridgers, Haim, Alanis Morissette, and more!