

JUST FOR THE Season



READING GROUP GUIDE

Introduction

Lady Charlotte Louisa Aveton knows all of London's rules, and better yet, knows how to break them. But when she takes it too far and stumbles into a serious scandal, she knows only one thing will save her—marriage, as soon as possible.

With only one summer to pick a husband, Charlotte invites England's most eligible bachelors to an extravagant summer retreat at a country manor house. There's a brooding artist, a wickedly handsome Russian prince, and one of the wealthiest men in all of Europe...so why do her eyes keep sliding over to the Duke of Warrick, a man who once came dangerously close to breaking her heart?

It's a summer of love...and perhaps second chances.

Discussion Questions

- 1) *Just for the Season* is set in England in the Regency era, a time of strict societal rules. The book starts with the line, "Lady Charlotte Louisa Aveton knew all the rules, and better yet, she knew how to break them." What rules does she break, and does she get away with it? Throughout the novel, how successful is she in challenging the system?
- 2) In Chapter 6, Charlotte jumps out of bed to select her outfit, which she describes as her "armor for the day." Do you agree that clothing can be armor? What do you reach for in your closet when you need protection? What do you reach for when you need joy?
- 3) In Chapter 10, the Dowager mulls over the idea that the sins of the fathers are visited on the sons. She concludes that "God didn't punish—he stood by weeping as parents did the work, laying their miseries down upon their children, handing over burdens heavy enough to warp the young bones carrying them." What emotional burdens does Charlotte inherit from her parents? How does her family history shape her response to being forced to marry?
- 4) Wolfgang, the Duke of Warrick, describes Charlotte as "damn brazen, as if half her pleasure was in doing exactly what she pleased and the other half was rubbing everyone's noses in it." But what insecurities does Charlotte have?
- 5) When Charlotte first meets Wolfgang, he says, "Lady Charlotte, I suspect even your ribbons are formidable." Why might that statement be particularly pleasing to her? Have you ever been given a compliment that stayed with you?

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- 6) In Chapter 17, the Dowager says, “Jewelry is security tucked into a box,” and encourages the young women around her to accept expensive gifts. Why might she give this advice?
- 7) In Chapter 18, Viscount Darlington seems surprised at Charlotte’s talent. Charlotte reflects that “Men so often seemed to feel as if they sat behind an invisible gate, and were astonished to find that women could also open it.” Have you encountered gatekeeping in your life? If so, how did you navigate it?
- 8) Over dinner in Chapter 22, the guests at Charlotte’s house party discuss Regency England’s strict gender roles. Lysander, Wolfgang’s younger brother, argues that the roles are also harmful to men. Do you agree with him? What about gender roles today—do they harm men?
- 9) The Dowager takes every opportunity to meddle in the romance between Charlotte and Wolfgang, as do the guests at Charlotte’s house. Is their meddling helpful? Should friends meddle, or should meddling be confined to romance novels?
- 10) “No one wants a man who’s buried himself in his brother’s grave.” This statement comes from Lysander, Wolfgang’s younger brother. Do you think it’s a fair assessment of Wolfgang? Why or why not?
- 11) Charlotte has five main suitors in the book: an artist, a Russian prince, a rake, a wealthy German aristocrat, and eventually her brother’s best friend. Which suitor would you choose for her?
- 12) In Chapter 37, after dancing with Wolfgang, Charlotte confesses that, “Sometimes love feels like a chain.” Why might she feel this way? Why might love be scary for her?
- 13) Charlotte’s mother, Lady Margot, is a difficult presence throughout the novel. Charlotte reflects towards the end that, “Lady Margot wasn’t going to change and Charlotte would love her anyway, and some would say that was a gift and others would call it a tragedy, but either way it was enough.” What do you think—is loving someone difficult a gift or a tragedy?
- 14) Chapter 44 and Chapter 45 together form one long spicy scene. Is spice important to a romance novel? How does the spice in this novel further the emotional connection between the characters?
- 15) In the epilogue, Charlotte reflects that, “She and Wolfgang both seemed to be expanding, as if every day together made them stronger.” Do you agree that Charlotte and Warrick expand over the course of the book? If so, how?