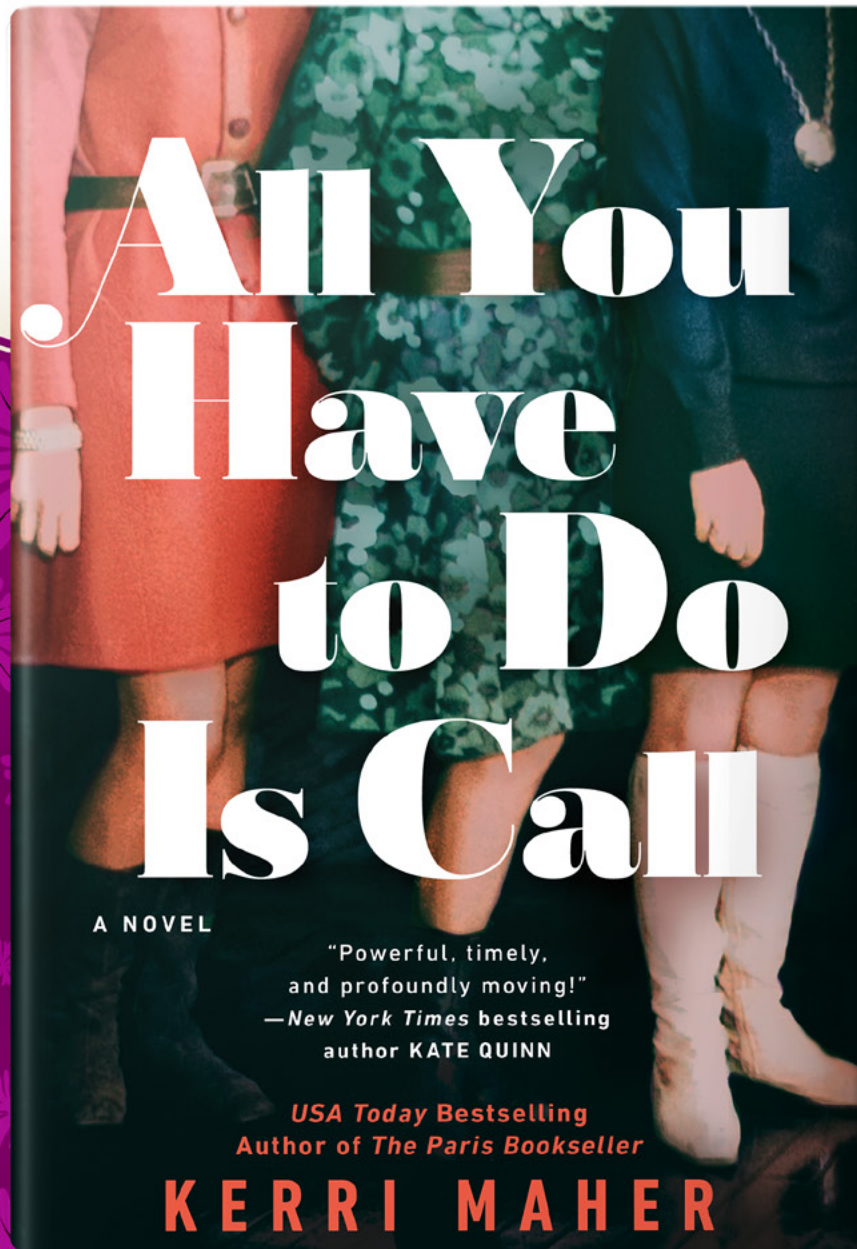


BERKLEY

Book Club Kit



Dear Readers,

Thank you for choosing *All You Have to Do Is Call* for your book club!

Your support for this novel—and the other novels you choose, all year—ensures that great books continue to get published, and for that I am extremely grateful. Book clubs also foster the kinds of friendships that enrich our lives, and I am honored that you've invited my characters into your circle. I hope that by discussing their choices and relationships, your own will become deeper and stronger as well. After all, the women of the real-life Jane Collective started as friends.

I'll never forget when I first learned of Jane in 2018. As I drove to meet a friend for a movie, I listened to NPR and heard the most remarkable piece about a group of women in Chicago before Roe who operated an illegal women's health clinic and were arrested in 1972. I was amazed and inspired, and immediately the lightbulb went on in my chest (it's always in my chest, not over my head); I had to write about these women who risked so much to help other women. A novel began to take shape in my mind.

Five years ago, I never could have imagined that novel would be published into a moment in the history of reproductive rights so eerily like the one in 1971-72 it represents. But as a writer of historical fiction, I find solidarity in, and draw inspiration from, the stories of those who have gone before me—in researching the women of the Jane Collective, I felt both electrified and comforted by the heroism of women who took matters into their own hands, and for whom the political was intimately personal. From the start, their story felt relevant and important, and I hope readers will feel moved by their activism as well as their profound belief in the strength of people to endure as they work tirelessly for change and a better tomorrow.

If you'd like to set the mood for your meeting, my wonderful publisher Berkley has a Spotify playlist with all the songs mentioned in the novel, starting with Carole King's "You've Got a Friend," from which the book's title was inspired. My editor and I also came up with some juicy discussion questions, but do feel free to go beyond them!

Thank you once again for inviting *All You Have to Do Is Call* into your club.

**Warmly,
Kerri**

Discussion Questions

1

The women of Jane have a very positive view of abortion. How does their view compare to views you've absorbed in your lifetime?

2

The marriage of Gabe and Siobhan is an "offstage" story, but if you had to describe what happened between them, what story would you tell based on what unfolds in the novel?

3

Patty changes her mind about a number of major issues in the course of the book. What are the moments that contribute to these changes? Have you ever changed your mind about a major issue or a person in your life?

4

Did these women's lives feel like they could unfold today?

5

What is the role of female friendship in the novel?

6

Veronica had a D&C after a miscarriage but has never had an abortion. Why, then, does she become the leader of an illegal abortion clinic? Why is she so passionate about continuing during her own pregnancy? Do you think you'd make the same choice?

7

Veronica has complicated feelings about having a second child. What are they, and can you relate?

8

Early in the novel, Margaret wonders if “perhaps love was antithetical to meaningful work.” Do you think she would agree by the end of the novel? How have you balanced work and love/family in your life?

9

The Comprehensive Child Development Act was a bill that passed both the Senate (63–17) and the House (211–187), and was vetoed by President Nixon on December 9, 1971. Had it passed, it would have created, among other aids to families, a national day care system. What is the effect of that bill not passing on the families in this book? What’s been the effect of it not passing on *your* life and the lives of the women you know?

10

The Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution would guarantee equal rights for all citizens in the US regardless of sex. It was first introduced in 1923 and was brought to Congress every year for forty-nine years until finally, in 1972, it was ratified by both houses and sent to the states for ratification. It took until 2020 for the required thirty-eight states to ratify it, and for some complex legal reasons, the Equal Rights Amendment remains in limbo. How would swifter passage of this amendment have changed the lives of the people in this novel? How would it have changed your life?

11

In this book the personal is incredibly political. In what way is the personal political for you in your own life?

Scan and listen
to the Spotify playlist while you discuss!

