



Kill your husbands :

Some people would kill for a weekend away

By Jack, Heath

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Genre and Subject

Couples — Fiction
Group Sex — Fiction
Australian fiction

Friendship — Fiction
Vacations — fiction

Synopsis

Three couples, friends since high school, rent a luxurious house in the mountains for an unplugged weekend of drinking and bushwalking. No internet, no phones, no stress. On the first night, the topic of partner-swapping comes up. It's a joke - at first.

Not everyone is keen, but an agreement is made. The lights will be turned out. The three women will go into the three bedrooms. The three men will each pick a room at random. It won't be awkward later, because they won't know who they've slept with - or can pretend they don't.

But when the lights come back on, one of the men is dead. No one will admit to being his partner. The phones still don't work, and now the car key is missing. They're stranded. And the killer is just getting started ...

Author Biography

Jack Heath is the award-winning author of more than forty books for children and adults. He was born in Sydney in 1986 and has lived in Canberra since 1996. He wrote his first novel in high school and sold it to a publisher at age 18. In 2018 his first crime novel for adults, *Hangman*, was a smash-hit in Australia and has since been translated into French, German, Russian and Serbian. His 2021 book, *Kill Your Brother*, was shortlisted for best crime novel at the Ned Kelly Awards. (The name of the dog in the picture is Chica; she is not mine, but I wish she were. Love to Chandra Wicke for the photo, and to Barbara for introducing me to my new bestie.)

Discussion Starters

1. What was your favourite part of the book?
2. What was your least favourite?
3. What did you think of the voice of the narrator, Misery. Did you enjoy her dark humour and sarcasm?
4. How did you respond to the novel's balancing of romantic, mystery/thriller, and paranormal fantasy elements? Did one aspect work better than others for you?
5. Misery experiences prejudice from humans – both those who do and who don't know she's a Vampyre – werewolves who hate Vampyres, and even her own Vampyre people. How did this shape her identity?
6. Misery has a very strained and dysfunctional relationship with her powerful Vampyre father. How did his treatment of her, including using her as a political pawn, shape Misery's view of herself?
7. Lowe is portrayed as the classic brooding, stoic alpha male hero common in romances. Did you find his character a refreshing or tired take on this archetype?
8. Discuss the power dynamics and political tensions at play between the Vampyres, werewolves, and humans. Did you feel you understood this world enough or would you have liked more world building?
9. The romance between Misery and Lowe develops slowly over the course of the book. At what point did you become invested in their relationship?
10. The book employs the classic romance trope of a marriage of convenience. Did you find Misery and Lowe's forced proximity scenario believable or contrived? Did you pick up on any other romance tropes? What did you think of how Hazelwood executed them?
11. Discuss the relationship between Misery and her human foster sister, Serena and the theme of found family.
12. For those familiar with Ali Hazelwood's previous contemporary "STEMinist" romance novels, how did *Bride* depart from or stay true to her established strengths and quirks as an author?

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