

# London Tides

Book Club Kit

"Deliciously romantic and filled with tension,  
wonderful characters, and vivid scenery."

Katherine Reay, author of *Of Literature and Lattes*



# *Praise for London Tides*

"A delightfully romantic tale about the importance of finding home."

**Katie Ganshert,**  
Christy Award-winning author of *No One Ever Asked*

"An excellent follow-up to *Five Days in Skye*, *London Tides* tugs and churns every emotion . . . right up until the lovely, hope-buoying end."

**Serena Chase, author of *Intermission* and the Eyes of E'veria series**

"A beautiful reconciliation romance . . . The character of Grace Brennan, in spite of her unconventional life, speaks to all of us."

**Beth K. Vogt, award-winning author of  
the Thatcher Sisters series**

# How to Prep Easy Book Club Snacks

Tips from Carla Laureano

If you're looking for some inspiration on snacks to serve at your next *London Tides* book club gathering, read through this article by Carla for some ideas.

So you've decided to start a book club—or maybe you already belong to one, but it's your turn to host. What happens when your biggest culinary skill is calling for takeout? Never fear, these easy snacks will make you look like a hostess extraordinaire and no one will ever know about that time you burned water.

## 1.) Charcuterie Board

I recommend this every single time I talk about book club snacks because it's filling and easy to put together. Just try to pick mild, medium, and bold selections in every category. When in doubt, ask your deli manager for ideas!

- Cured meats like mortadella, a good Genoa salami, and prosciutto (3+)
- Cheeses like fresh mozzarella balls, goat cheese, Stilton, or Gorgonzola (3+)

- Sweet options such as fruit chutney and fresh whole honeycomb (1-2)
- Tart condiments like whole grain mustard (1-2)
- Savory add-ons like smoked or roasted almonds and cured green olives (1-2)
- Fresh fruit such as grapes, sliced apples, blueberries, or segmented mandarin oranges (1-2)
- Something to eat the condiments on like toast points, baguette rounds, water crackers, or seeded crackers—don't forget the gluten-free options! (3-4)

Arrange it on a pretty marble cheese board or wooden cutting board, add a couple of cheese knives and spoons, and you've got an impressive spread that looks far more difficult than it actually is.



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## 2.) Bakery Buffet

Bigger grocery and natural foods stores provide an amazing bounty of petite sweets, and they tend to be good quality as well! Try five or six varieties of pastries like bite-size brownies, two-bite scones, mini cinnamon rolls, mini sugar cookies, tiny Danishes, rugelach, small éclairs, and cream puffs. Display on pretty plates and serve with coffee and a variety of teas and you've got an instant book club/tea party.

## 3.) Coffee and Chocolate Pairing

What two flavors go together better than chocolate and coffee? Make your book club meeting into an impromptu tasting by selecting a variety of different chocolates and coffees.

One idea would be to choose by region: chocolates from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana along with Ethiopian Yirgacheffe and Kenya AA. Another would be to select coffees and chocolate from mild to bold: white, milk, dark, and extra dark chocolates along with blonde, medium, and dark roast coffee. If you need a little variety, you can also add in a selection of nuts and dried fruit.

When in doubt, think variety over time in the kitchen. After all, the point of a book club is to enjoy fellowship and discuss literature; the food just makes the time together all that much sweeter.

# A Note from Carla Laureano

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*London Tides* was first released in summer of 2015, but it was a slightly different version from the story you're about to read. Novels are often shaped by individuals other than their authors: editors, publishing executives, retailers. At the time, certain elements of my original story were deemed too edgy for the market and I was asked to revise the last quarter of the book. And while I was proud of the finished project, I always felt that Grace's character arc had somewhat suffered from the changes.

The series was then acquired by Tyndale House Publishers, who graciously agreed to take a look at the first version of the book—and liked it as much as I did. What you have here is a combination of the best of both versions—a true collaborative effort—with some brand-new material worked in. And despite the amount of hair-pulling required to get to this version, this story remains the one that is nearest to my heart. I hope you love it as much as I do.

Carla Laureano





## *London Tides*

*She may have known God was with her, in the vaguest sense of the word, but this felt like His very hand pulling her back from the precipice. He was saving her life just as he'd done before on the streets of Damascus. She wiped her face with the back of her sleeve, a new, unfamiliar feeling growing in her chest amid the cold.*

*Hope*

# Discussion Questions

1. Grace has a hard time leaving behind her career because of her deep need to draw attention to the overlooked and oppressed. Ian tells her he feels he has an obligation to those who haven't had his opportunities. What kind of responsibility do we have as both world citizens and people of faith to recognize and meet the needs of others?
2. The search for home and safety are two central themes in *London Tides*. How are those two related in Grace's mind? How does the idea of purpose intersect with those themes?
3. How are the ideas of unveiling and revealing used symbolically throughout the book?
4. Why do you think Grace relates so strongly to the oppressed, displaced, and forgotten?
5. Grace quotes Nietzsche when she talks about why she is leaving her career: she fears the darkness she has witnessed is changing her. What do you think she's running from?
6. Grace's identity is wrapped up so tightly in her career, and then later in her relationship with Ian, that she feels hopeless when it seems like she's lost both. What is the danger in placing our self-worth in the changeable? In what other things should we find our value?
7. At the beginning of the story, Grace hides her tattoos from Ian because they're a reminder of all the things she wants to forget but can't allow herself to forget. Near the end, she chooses a wedding dress that shows every last tattoo. How might this be symbolic of their relationship?

# Discussion Questions

7. At the beginning of the story, Grace hides her tattoos from Ian because they're a reminder of all the things she wants to forget but can't allow herself to forget. Near the end, she chooses a wedding dress that shows every last tattoo. How might this be symbolic of their relationship?
8. Both Ian and Grace come away changed from their short reunion without knowing if they will get a chance at forever. Can you think of instances when other people have been used as instruments of change in your life, even if you didn't see the reason behind it at the time?
9. Ian realizes that he'd loved Grace with a fervor that surpassed his passion for God. What happens to our priorities and our relationships when we allow things—even good things like love—to become idols?

10. *London Tides* uses the familiar “traumatized veteran” story as a framework for a romance, but in this story, the woman is the returning hero and the man has been waiting for her at home. How does flipping the gender roles in the story affect how you view the characters and the trope itself?

## My Book Group Questions

Jot down some questions you want to ask your group:

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