

book club kit

# Patricia Wants to Cuddle

Samantha  
Allen



A Novel



# A note from Samantha Allen

Welcome, reader, to beautiful Otters Island!

I'll be honest. This Pacific Northwest destination has seen better days. Tourism has been on the decline ever since those hikers went missing. The shops and cafés have lost their foot traffic. The hotel always has vacancy. But that shouldn't stop you from exploring the island's verdant woods and its stunning mountain paths.

Luckily, you're arriving just in time to see the filming of *The Catch*, the country's most-watched reality dating show. Four women – Renee, Amanda, Vanessa, and Lilah-Mae – are competing to get engaged to Jeremy Blackstone, a tech investor whose hair is as greasy as his personality. If you're lucky, you might catch the production shooting at the Davies B&B or on top of Mount Resilience, our chief natural attraction. You may have heard rumors about a mysterious creature lurking near the peak, but don't pay them any mind. The view from the top is breathtaking.

The locals are eager to welcome you. The lesbians who came to Otters seeking acceptance and community want you to feel right at home. Just ignore the conspiracy theories about them. Eat a scone. Buy a straw hat. Relax. Once you get past the sinking feeling in your stomach that something is deeply wrong here, you'll find your own reason for being here. Amanda is excited to take sunrise pictures for her popular Glamstapix account. Vanessa wants to share a romantic moment with the *Catch* himself. Lilah-Mae is seeking some divine inspiration.

But maybe you're more like Renee, who finds herself strangely drawn to the island's many mysteries and shadowy secrets. Maybe you want to meet that creature on the mountaintop. And maybe you've always known the reason you belong here even if you've never said it out loud. Whatever brings you to Otters Island, I hope you enjoy your stay. I can't guarantee you'll go home unscathed – in fact, you may not go home at all – but I can promise you'll never forget your trip.

Warmly,  
Samantha

# Discussion Questions

Which of the contestants did you relate to the most? Did any remind you of any real life influencers or reality television stars? Which one do you think would end up winning a real season of a reality dating show? Why?

What qualities made Renee the perfect “final girl?” Also, Why do you think Renee decides to stay on Otters Island? Do you agree with her choice?

Inside the book, Samantha Allen includes a chat forum, blog posts, and love letters. In your reading experience, which of these elements lent the most to the main story?

What do you think Samantha Allen was trying to say about contemporary dating shows? Did the book change how you think about past and current seasons of reality television? How?

Why is it significant that Otters Island is an LGBTQ Getaway?

What’s your theory on where Patricia came from? Similarly, would you cuddle Patricia?

How did the behind-the-scenes feature complicate and/or change your perspective about the Otters Island residents? Would you join their cohort?

# Horror movie recs from Samantha herself

The Descent (2005) – Women. Spelunking. Cave-dwelling creatures. What else could you want from a movie? Neil Marshall's (literally) underground film suggests that sometimes we should fear our friends more than the darkness.

Willow Creek (2013) – Compared to media about other mythical creatures, there are relatively few Bigfoot horror films. Bobcat Goldthwait's found footage approach should appeal to anyone who likes the archival elements of Patricia.

Jennifer's Body (2009) – Few movies have been as deserving of critical reevaluation of Jennifer's Body. Casting Megan Fox as a bisexual succubus was a truly inspired choice. If you like your satire with a side of gore, look no further than this cult classic.

The Haunting (1963) – I'm a big Shirley Jackson fan, and this 1963 adaptation of The Haunting of Hill House is one of my favorite movies ever made. The queer themes may have been muted by the censorious Hays Code, but they're very evident nonetheless.

Ginger Snaps (2000) – The basic formula for Patricia was horror, humor, and a furry creature. This beloved werewolf coming-of-age film checks all those boxes. It was a major inspiration for me when writing. Plus, it has fabulous practical effects.

Knife + Heart (2019) – Referenced in the dedication of Patricia, this French take on the giallo was the last movie I watched with a late friend. Gialli are essentially stylized slasher movies, and this one showed me how much could be accomplished within an elimination-style story structure.

Black Christmas (1974) – In this Canadian slasher, sorority girls on winter break are being harassed by a prank caller with a penchant for murder. Not only is Black Christmas genuinely scary, its commentary on womanhood and bodily autonomy was ahead of its time.

New Year, New You (2018) – A horror comedy about influencer culture? Yes, please! This under-seen gem from director Sophia Takal is perfect for anyone who loved all the Glamstapix references in Patricia.

# Happy reading!



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PS: tag us!

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