

# Book Club Kit



**“This book was so much fun!”**

—RACHEL MAGEE

Author of *What Not To Do On Vacation*



## Meet Becca

Becca Kinzer lives in Springfield, Illinois where she works as a critical care nurse. When she's not busy taking care of sick patients or using up all the storage on her phone with pictures of her dog, she enjoys making up lighthearted stories with serious laughs. She is the author of multiple titles including *Dear Henry*, *Love Edith* which won the 2024 Carol Award for debut novel.



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# Hi Friends,



If you enjoy a fun romance with lots of banter and lovable side characters (and more Harrys than you can count), you're in the right place. These characters hit the ground running with chaos and kisses from the very first page. (My editors will occasionally warn me I'm going a little over the top at times in my stories. I always try to explain to my editors how it's my characters' fault, not mine. These characters have a mind of their own!)

I hope you have a blast keeping up with them in *Not What We Pictured*. And I hope you get some good laughs and conversations out of their shenanigans. Thank you SO MUCH for spending your time with McKenna, Nate, and all the townspeople of Bugle, TN.

Becca 





# Meet McKenna & Nate



Based on the  
Enneagram Personality Test



# McKenna Boston

## Enneagram 2: The Helper

### Positive Traits

### Challenges



Empathetic

Supportive

Loyal

Self-sacrificing

People-pleasing

Fear of rejection

Difficulty saying no

Burnout

“I wasn’t meddling. I wasn’t. I was helping . . .”

—McKenna Boston

# Nate Lambert

## Enneagram 4: The Individualist

### Positive Traits

### Challenges



Authentic

Tendency to withdraw

Creative

Feeling incomplete

Intuitive

Self-criticism

Introspective

Over romanticizing

“If I wasn’t good enough for him back when I was a kid, why should I be good enough for him now?”

–Nate Lambert



# Q & A with Becca Kinzer



## What inspired Not What We Pictured?

Back in 2022 a Nashville singer/songwriter named Dave Barnes announced on Facebook that he was going to do a special tour in which he took bids to perform concerts in people's backyards. When one of my good friends saw his post, she made a bid for him to perform a backyard concert at her house in Tremont, Illinois. Much to her shock and delight, he accepted the offer.

Sadly, I couldn't make it to the BIG EVENT in person due to a prior family commitment, but oh, how I absolutely loved watching this friend plan and prepare for the BIG EVENT. What is it about a celebrity that makes us all go a little crazy—whether we even know who the celebrity is or not? I knew afterward this scenario was simply too much fun not to work into a story somehow.

## What themes do you focus on in this book?

This story, like most of my previous stories, is essentially a comedy of errors. But interwoven in the chaos are themes of forgiveness and learning where our true sense of identity comes from, especially when complicated family dynamics are involved.

## What inspired the town of Bugle?

A lovely bookstore in Cookeville, TN reached out to me after my debut novel released to see if I would do an author event with them. My husband and I had a great time visiting the area. Since my first few stories took place in Illinois, I was ready for a change of scenery while keeping the smalltown vibes. So I thought of this area around Cookeville and created the town of Bugle.



## What will readers love about this story?

I'm hoping fans of romance will love the chemistry and banter McKenna and Nate have from the moment they meet. Their love story was so fun to write! I think romance readers will find plenty of reasons to laugh and swoon while cheering McKenna and Nate onto their happily ever after.



Q&A with  
Becca Kinzer

## What do you enjoy about forced-proximity romances?

I love how a forced proximity romance can bring two characters with clashing personalities together, but more than anything, I just love seeing the two characters together as much as possible—whether they like it or not.

## Your story weaves in career moves, adoption, and family challenges. What inspired you to explore these aspects of life in the novel?

I'd say these aspects were all more of a discovery than an inspiration. When I'm working my way through a new story, especially that first draft, I'm mostly asking my characters "Why?" Why are you living in New York, Nate? Why are you on your way to Tennessee now? Why are you so desperate to see your little sister get engaged, McKenna? Why haven't you moved out of your tiny hometown in Nebraska if you find it so boring? As I get to know my characters better, that's when those aspects like career changes, adoption, and family challenges start revealing themselves.

## What do you hope your audience learns from this story?

I hope they learn never to trust airline workers with their valuables. Just kidding! (Mostly.) Honestly, I hope readers have a blast reading this story and are reminded that God absolutely treasures them no matter what their background or upbringing looks like.



# Discussion Questions



- 1.) When we first meet McKenna, she's working hard to help stage the perfect proposal experience for her little sister. If you're married, what was your proposal experience like? If you're not married, do you have any expectations for what you'd like such an experience to look like?
- 2.) Why do you think McKenna has such a hard time stepping away from the role of caregiver to her little sister? Did you see McKenna as more of a helper or a meddler at the beginning?
- 3.) Part of the reason the engagement ring is so valuable to McKenna is because of the sentimental value it carries. Is there any item or belonging that holds extra sentimental value to you? How far would you be willing to go to get it back?
- 4.) Which side character in the story did you enjoy the most?
- 5.) Nate clearly doesn't have smooth sailing when it comes to airports. Do you have any memorable encounters or experiences that involve airports?
- 6.) If you could invite any celebrity to visit your house, who would you invite?
- 7.) At the beginning of the story McKenna is desperate for a new job situation while Nate is already looking forward to starting his dream job in the fall. What sort of situation would you describe as a dream job scenario for yourself? How hard would it be for you to walk away from that?

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8.) How do you think Nate's experience with his dad and McKenna's experience as an adopted child helped them connect on a deeper emotional level?

9.) In one of the scenes McKenna and her sister Bobbi talk about the difficulties of maintaining a long-distance relationship. How much of a barrier do you think long distance is in a relationship? Did Bobbi's ultimate decision regarding her relationship to Oliver make sense to you?

10.) As the title of the book suggests, things don't quite go the way McKenna and Nate pictured. Were there any parts of the story that especially took you by surprise?



## For the record . . .

Jot down thoughts here that you want to discuss with your book club.

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# My Book Club Notes

A series of ten horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.

Thanks for choosing



for your book club!

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the next romcom by  
**Becca Kinzer**

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