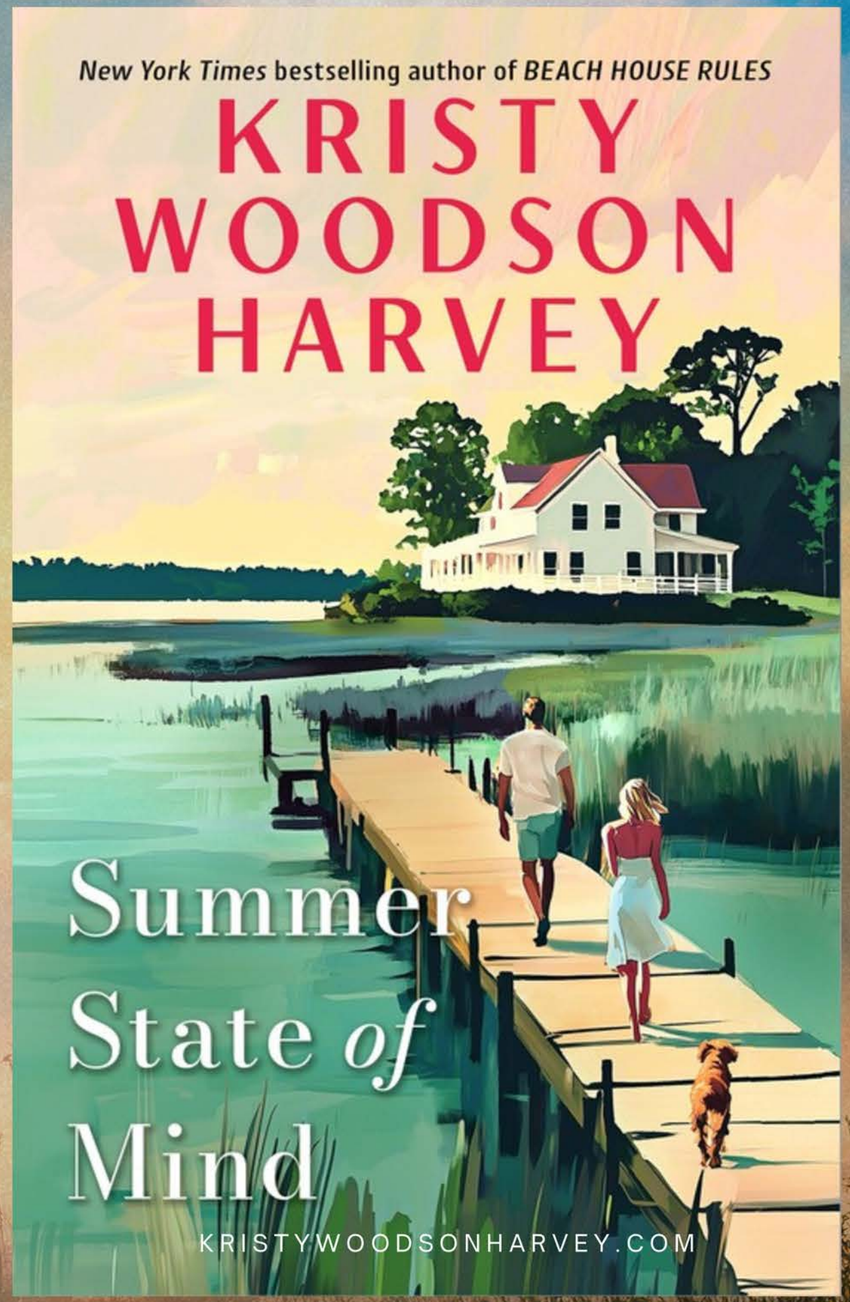
KRISTY
WOODSON
HARVEY

READING GUIDE

SUMMER STATE OF MIND







DEAR READER,

Sixteen years ago, I got a wild, crazy idea: I was going to write a book. I never thought I'd be published. I never imagined I'd be an *author*. I just wanted to see if I could.

Eleven years ago, on May 5, 2015, my debut novel released. And now, SUMMER STATE OF MIND, my thirteenth novel, is out in the world! Feels kind of like fate, right?

Y'all, I'm going to be real: This isn't an easy business. You spend a year pouring your heart and soul into a story and there is rejection. And people can be mean. And you get within an inch of that award or accolade you want so, so much and they pick someone else. This business has broken my heart a million times in a million ways. And yet...

There is nothing in all the world like hearing that something in one of my books made you laugh or cry, helped you feel something you had been avoiding, made you think about your own experience in a new way. That's it. That's everything. That's my "why." YOU are the person who, before this book has even come out in the world, gives me the confidence to get up in front of readers and talk about it. You are the one who spreads the word and sends me all the love and makes me want to keep going, even when it's hard.

So, I hope you'll read SUMMER STATE OF MIND. I hope it will make you smile and feel all the feels. I hope it will make you even half as happy as all your book love makes me!

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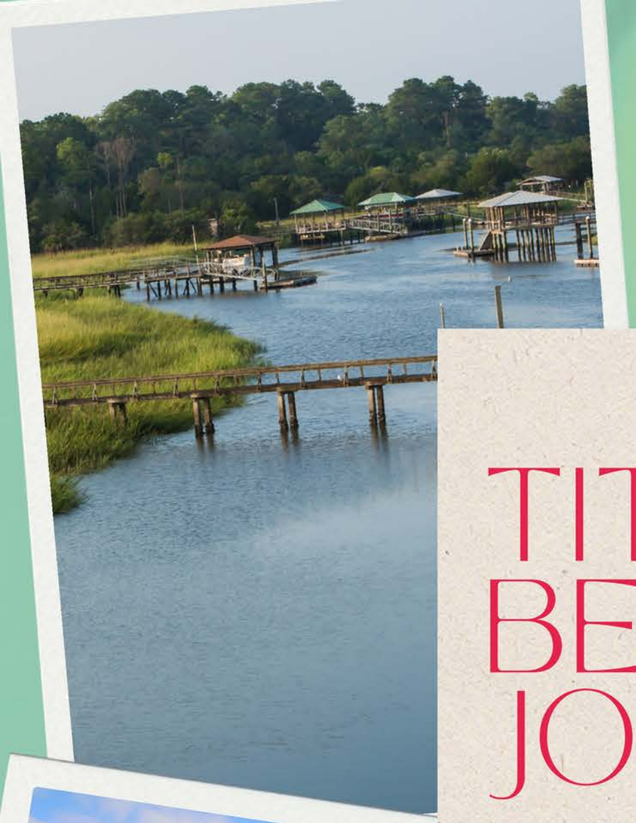
And so, I want to thank you for reading these books, for sharing them with your friends and book clubs and followers, for showing up to events, for sending messages and kind notes and for making this whole dream possible. I never take a single bit of it for granted. I never forget that I'm here for you and because of you.

There is something so special about a new launch, about knowing that a story that lived quietly on my laptop is now finding its way into your hands, and, with any luck, your heart too. So, again, thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I hope this reader's guide adds to your enjoyment of the book and gives you some behind-the-scenes insight into my inspiration. Happy reading! And, of course, here's to sunshine, blue skies, and a SUMMER STATE OF MIND!

Much love,

Kristy Woodson Harvey



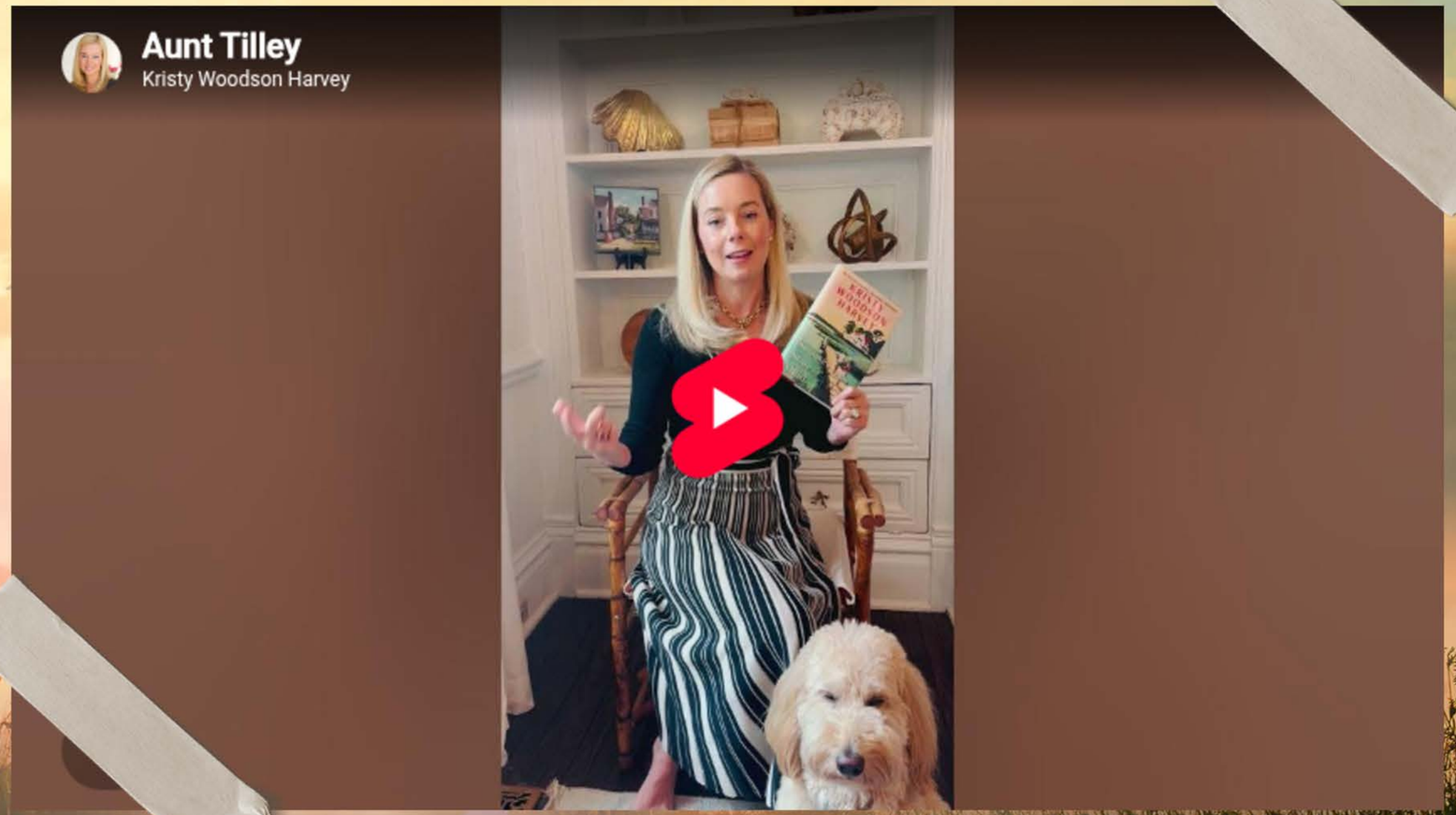


TITLES CAN BE A JOURNEY!

Check out this video to hear about that the things SUMMER STATE OF MIND was almost called!



AUNT TILLEY WAS ONE OF READERS' FAVORITE CHARACTERS IN UNDER THE SOUTHERN SKY! CHECK OUT HOW SHE MADE IT INTO SUMMER STATE OF MIND!



THIS IS THE CAPE LOOKOUT LIGHTHOUSE THAT TILLEY HAS VIEWS OF FROM THE WIDOWS WALK. FUN FACT: YOU CAN SEE THIS LIGHTHOUSE FROM THE WIDOWS WALK AT OUR HOUSE ON CLEAR DAYS!







AFTER THE HURRICANE

After a hurricane, we moved temporarily to the peninsula that inspired the location of Cape Carolina. This egret visited us every single morning - just like the one that visits Tilley in the book!





MASON WAS A SECONDARY CHARACTER IN MY NOVEL UNDER THE SOUTHERN SKY. WATCH TO FIND OUT HOW HE FOUND HIS WAY INTO SUMMER STATE OF MIND!





AVID FISHERMEN

coastal bonding!

My husband son are absolutely avid offshore fishermen. When I started writing about coaching, I watched a Masterclass on it, and one of the first things the coaches said is that they try to take the players on bonding outings that have nothing to do with their sport. He mentioned fishing! And I couldn't think of a better coastal bonding outing for these players. My husband and son helped me with this chapter!

TAR HEELS!

Unlike the book, no one had to do anyone else any favors to get these floor seats! But a friend gifted them to us, and it was amazing to watch our Tar Heels that close up – even if I was a little terrified I'd get pummelled by one of those seven-foot-tall players!



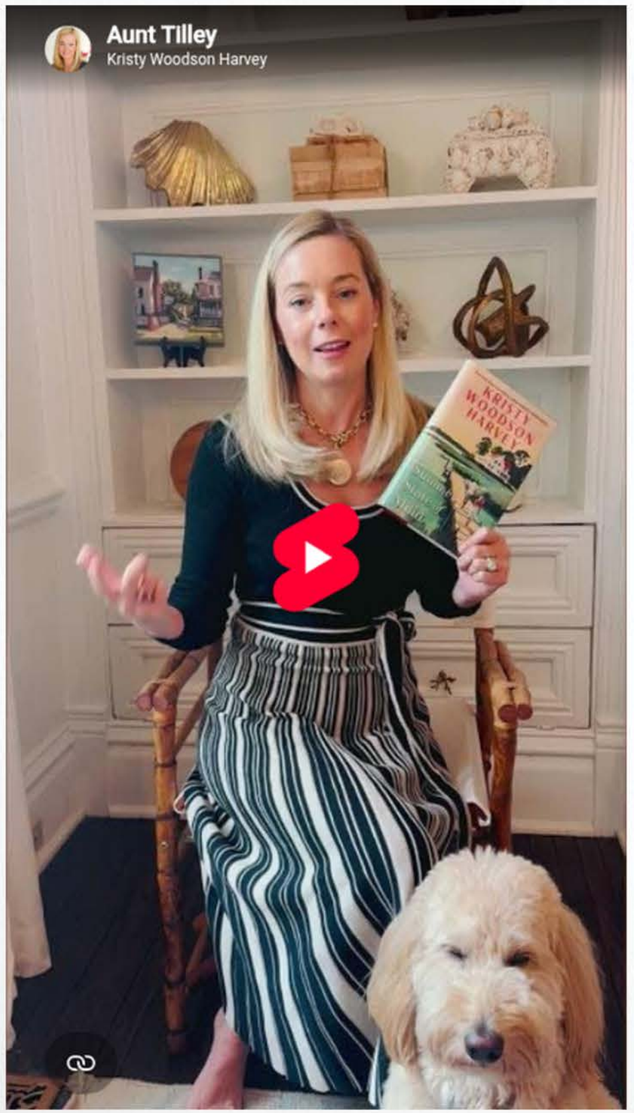




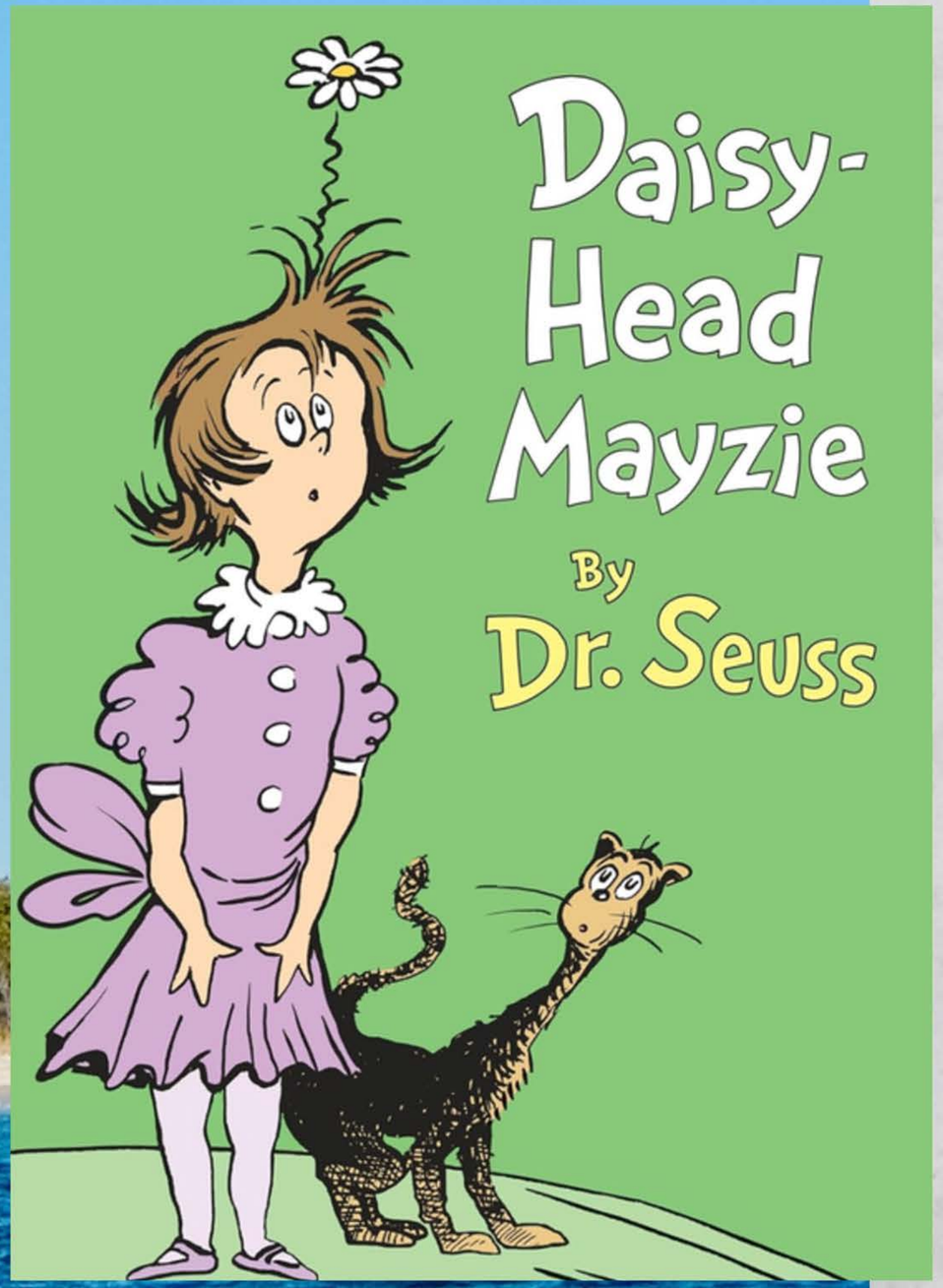
Parker and Amelia were my protagonists from UNDER THE SOUTHERN SKY, and I loved getting to catch up with them in SUMMER STATE OF MIND! Watch for more about their journey in this novel.

protagonists









DAISY-HEAD MAYZIE

I wanted to keep the spelling to reflect Mason + Daisy for my Maisy, but I love this name, and anything related to Dr. Seuss is so fun!







FULL HOUSE

Full House was my favorite show growing up. Listen here to see how the show affected this novel!

my favorite!







MY SON'S FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMAL WHEN HE WAS LITTLE WAS CLOUD THE CAT FROM A COMPANY CALLED BLABLA. WE WERE VERY ATTACHED TO CLOUD, SO WE HAD CLOUD'S EVERYWHERE INCLUDING A FEW EXTRAS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!



THE NEWSROOM

My love of writing started in the newsroom during high school. Listen to hear more about my first internship and how I'll always love the smell of newsprint!

the smell of newsprint



HELLO DOLLY

The Hello, Dolly story line wasn't something I planned. It just popped into my head, and I added it into a later draft. Listen in to hear about the similarities between Tilley and Dolly's stories!

your daily glow essential





AL'S NIGHTHAWK

Al's Night Hawk was a restaurant in my hometown of Salisbury, NC that was absolutely critical to my childhood. I described it to the best of my memory! I'll never forget the pinball machines or the legendary cheese steaks!



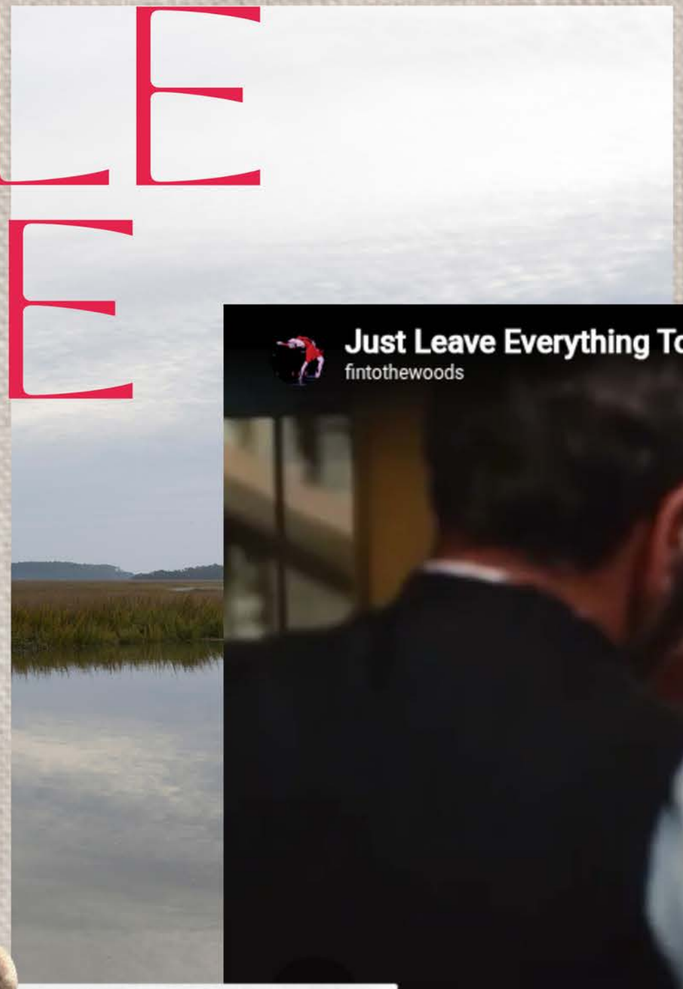
TARHEEL

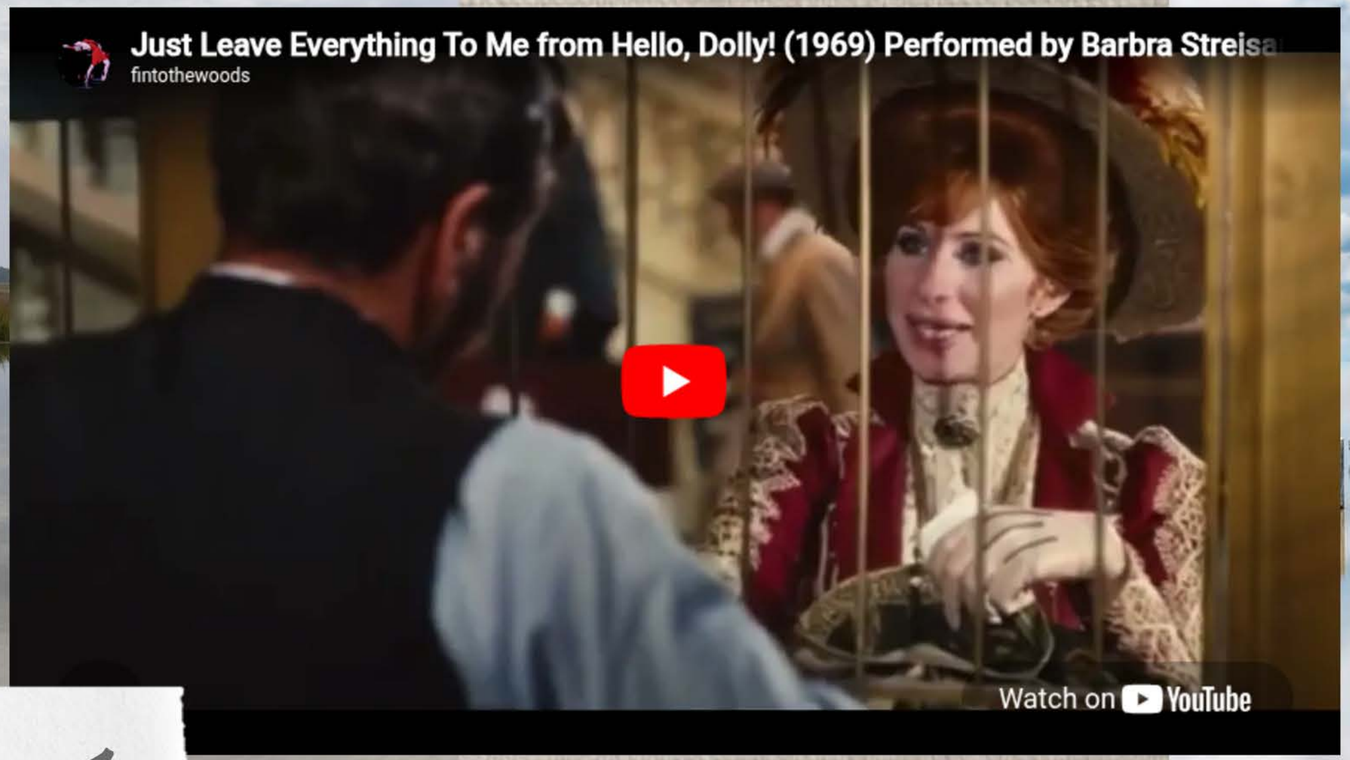
I am a fourth generation Tar Heel on my mom's side and a fifth generation on my dad's, so this particular part of the story was a little autobiographical! We indoctrinated my son pretty young too... Lots of fun football and basketball days!



LITTLE SMILE

"Just Leave Everything to Me" is such an important song in this book - and in Hello, Dolly! Listen in for a little smile!

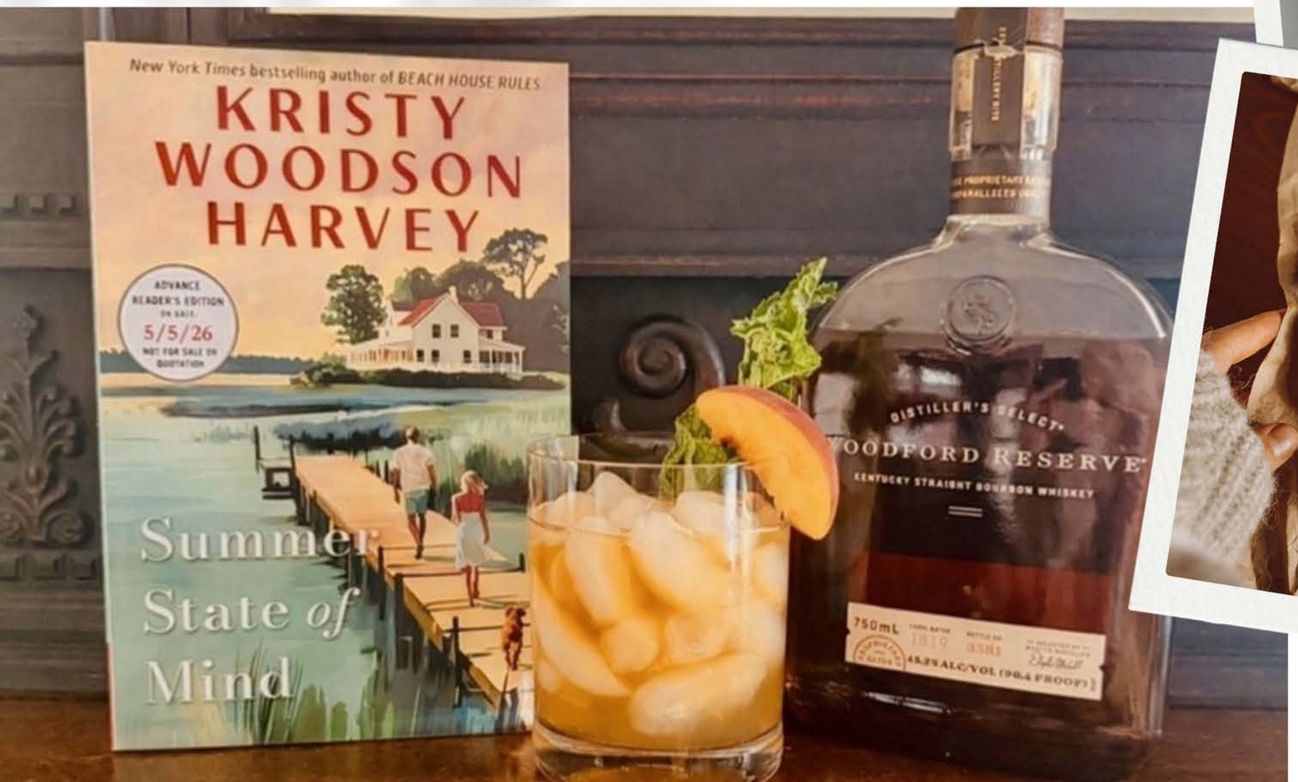






Hello Dolly

BOURBON SMASH







1 oz. Brown Sugar Simple Syrup (not below)
½ large ripe peach, diced
3-4 large mint leaves
2 oz. Bourbon
Splash of ginger beer
Fresh mint leaves and peach slice for garnish

Add diced peach, mint leaves and simple syrup to bottom of a cocktail shaker and muddle to release and combine the flavors.
Add bourbon, fill the shaker with ice and shake until chilled. Strain into rocks glass filled with ice. Top with ginger beer and garnish with new mint sprigs and peach slice.

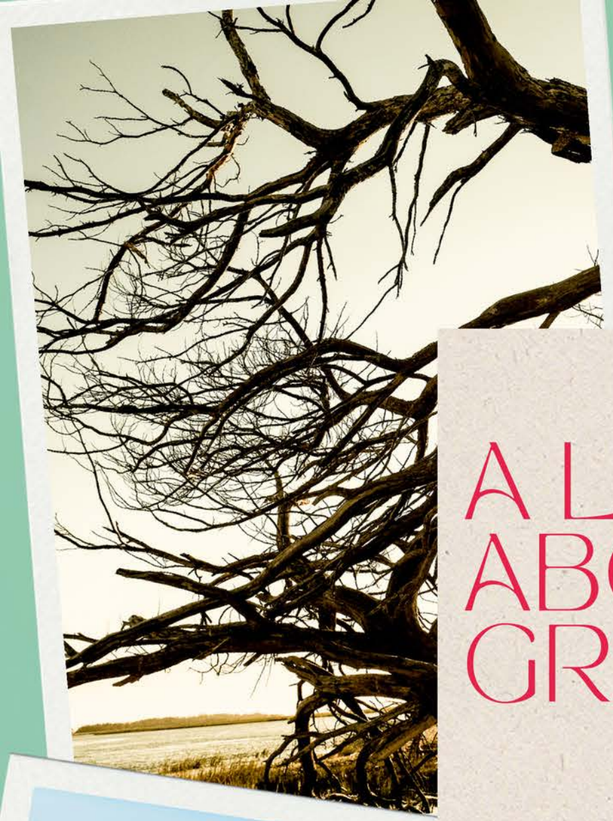
Brown Sugar Simple Syrup- combine equal parts brown sugar and water and heat until sugar dissolves- easy peasy!

My fabulous friend Ron Block concocted "Aunt Tilley's Peach Bourbon Smash" to sip while you read! It is delicious and the perfect cocktail for her in every way!

JUST PERFECT

This sweet song summed up so well what I thought Tilley and George might be feeling about their new love. It was just perfect!







A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER

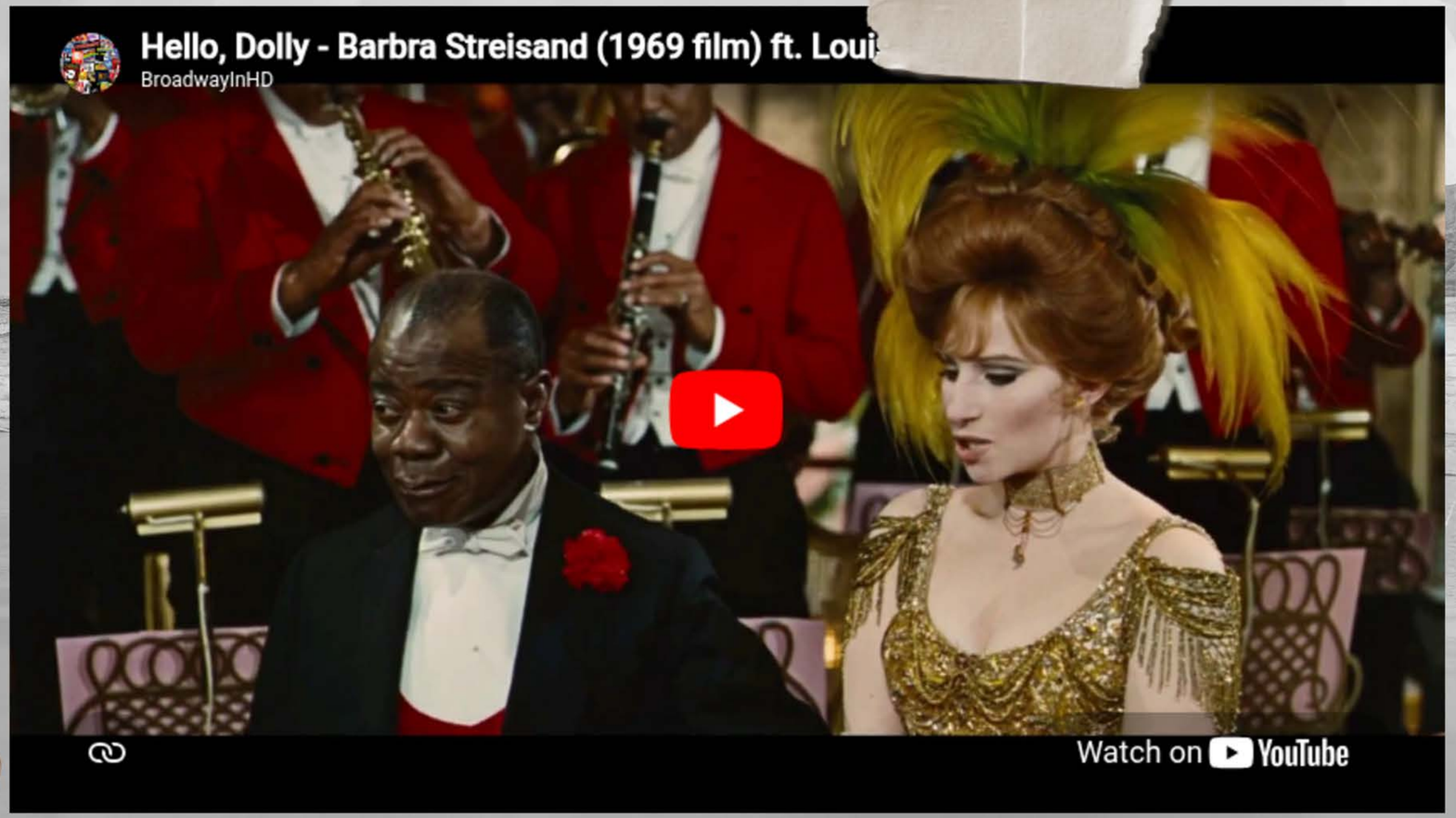




AND MY GRANDMOTHER!



I DARE YOU NOT TO SMILE WATCHING THIS!







TRAUMATIC

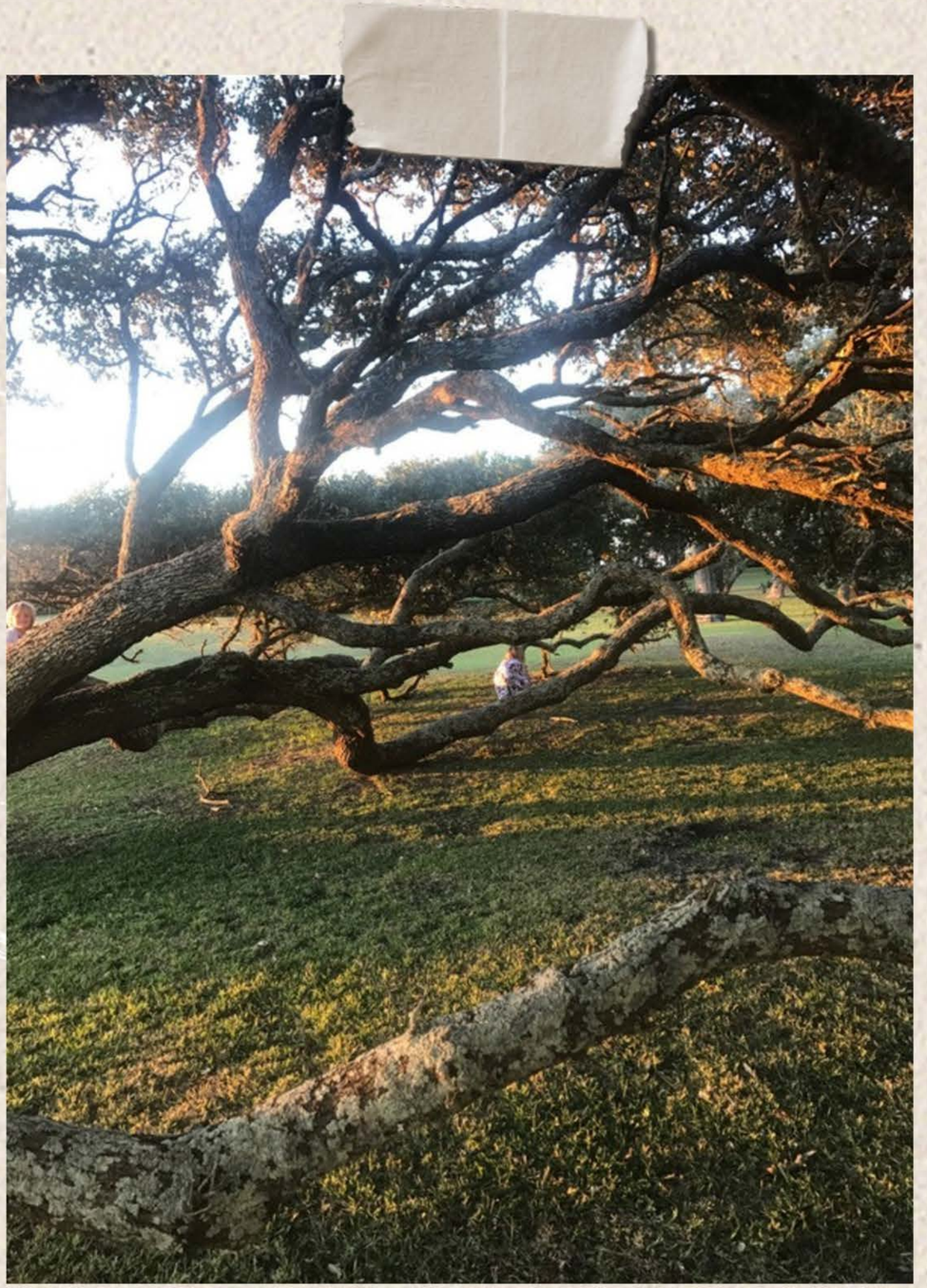
My first appearance on TV was, well, traumatic... And it inspired this scene in SUMMER STATE OF MIND!





LIVE OAKS

The rental house where we lived after Hurricane Florence inspired the setting of this novel. And these gorgeous Live Oaks grew sideways toward the sea. I'd never seen anything like it! And they were perfect for climbing!



A WHOLE LIFE LONG

This is one of my very favorite songs in the Hello, Dolly musical, and contains the almost-title, “A Whole Life Long!”



CLEMATIS

Clematis is the fictional magazine where Amelia is working when Under the Southern Sky begins. It's her dream publication, owned by McCann Media. So it was fun to revisit this magazine for Aunt Tilley's review writing!

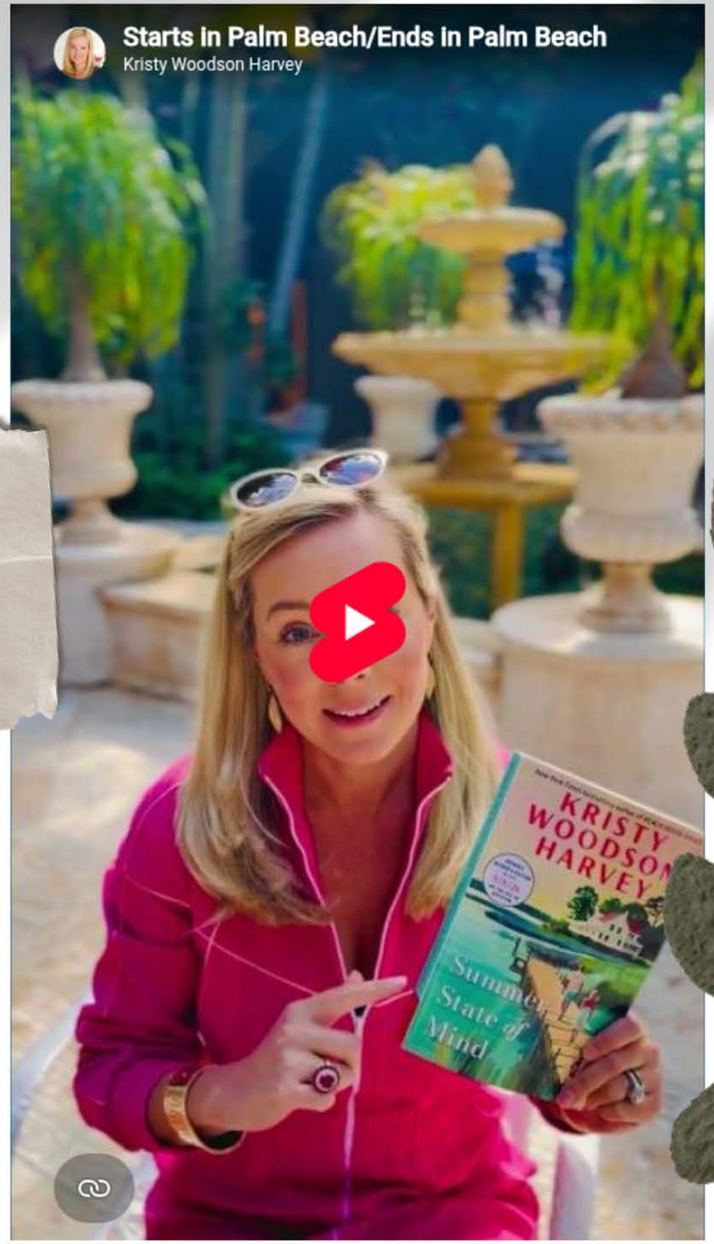






PALM BEACH

I didn't plan this at all, but Under the Southern Sky begins in Palm Beach. And Summer State of Mind ends there! Watch to hear more!





TILLEY'S REBIRTH

Tilley's rebirth was so important to me in this novel. Watch to find out why!




KWH
THANK YOU
FOR READING
Kristy Woodson Harvey
WWW.KRISTYWOODSONHARVEY.COM