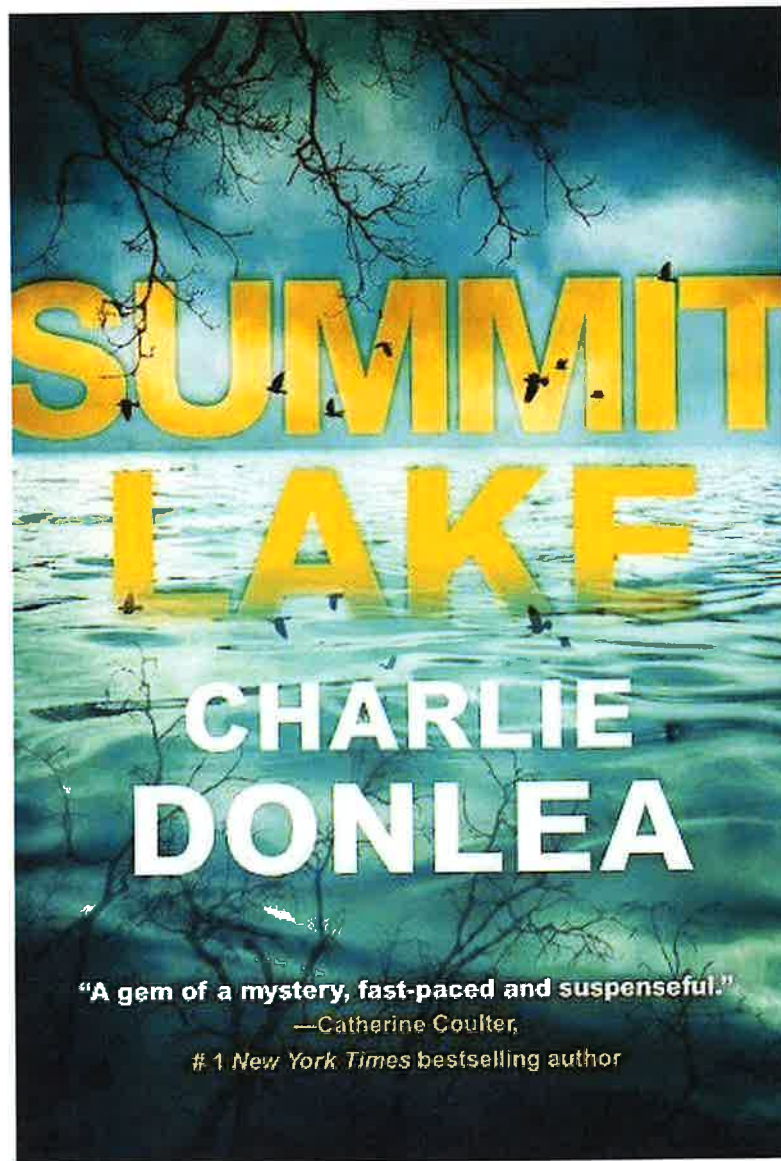


# ADULT BOOK CLUB 2025

## MARCH BOOK:

*"Summit Lake"* by Charlie Donlea



## March

Book: "*Summit Lake*" by Charlie Donlea

1. What did you think of the book?
2. The story reveals layers of hidden truths within a small town. How do these secrets shape the characters' actions and relationships?
3. What does the novel suggest about the lengths people will go to protect their reputations or loved ones?
4. Both Kelsey and Becca grapple with personal trauma. How does the novel portray their respective journeys of resilience and recovery? Do you see parallels between the ways they confront their struggles?
5. The pursuit of justice is central to the plot. How does the story challenge conventional notions of right and wrong? Were there any moral dilemmas that left you questioning what you would do in a similar situation?
6. How does Kelsey's background and personal experience influence her investigation into Becca's death? Do you think her emotional connection to the case helped or hindered her ability to uncover the truth?
7. Through flashbacks, we get a glimpse of Becca's life. How does the novel humanize her beyond being a victim of a crime?
8. What do you think were Becca's greatest strengths and vulnerabilities?

9. The townspeople of Summit Lake all play a role in the unfolding mystery.

Were there any secondary characters whose actions or secrets surprised you?

How does the dynamic among these characters contribute to the sense of tension and suspicion in the story?

10. The setting of Summit Lake is almost a character itself. How does the author use the town's geography, isolation, and community dynamics to enhance the mystery? Could this story have worked as effectively in a different setting?

11. The novel balances suspense with moments of introspection. How does the tone shift throughout the story, and how did it impact your reading experience?

12. Were there specific scenes where the atmosphere heightened the tension or revealed important insights?

13. The narrative alternates between Kelsey's investigation and Becca's life leading up to her death. How does this structure enhance the storytelling? Were there moments where the interplay of timelines surprised or misled you?

14. How does Donlea maintain suspense throughout the novel? Were there moments where you felt the pacing was particularly effective – or less so? Why or why not?

15. The book provides subtle clues while also leading the reader astray. Were there any twists you predicted or completely missed? If so, what were they?
16. How did the author's use of red herrings effect your experience of the mystery?
17. Becca's story touches on issues of power dynamics, especially in her relationships. How does the novel address these themes, and do they resonate with contemporary societal issues? What lessons can be drawn about recognizing and confronting abuses of power?
18. Kelsey's career as a journalist plays a key role in the story. How does the novel comment on the ethics of reporting on personal tragedies?
19. Does Kelsey's approach to uncovering the truth strike the right balance between professional duty and personal compassion?
20. How did the resolution of the mystery impact your overall view of the story? Were you satisfied with the ending, or were there elements you wished had been explored further? If so, what are they and why?
21. Were there aspects of Kelsey's or Becca's stories that you found particularly relatable or moving?
22. How did Kelsey and Becca's struggles or triumphs affect your emotional connection to the novel?

23. What is it about a small-town setting that makes mysteries like *Summit Lake* so compelling?

24. Does *Summit Lake* challenge or reinforce stereotypes about small-town life?

## Answers