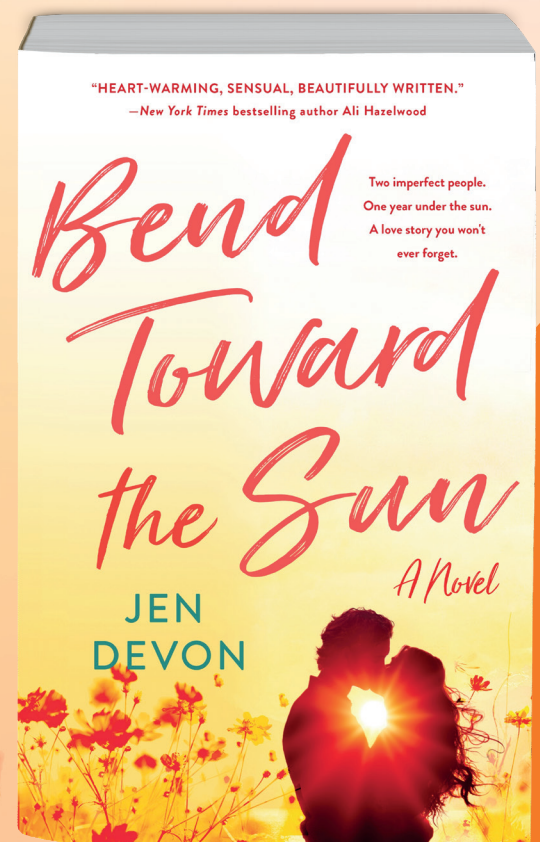


Bend Toward the Sun

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do Rowan's past formative relationships—with her mother, and with Noah—inform her ideas about love? Why do you think Edie was able to impart her love for plants to Rowan, but not the ability to trust other people?
2. Explore the theme of grief in this novel. What is Harry grieving when the book begins? What is Rowan? As the novel goes on, do their reasons for grief change?
3. Put yourself in Rowan's shoes. What kind of relationship would you have chosen to have with Harry? Is there a point at which you would have shown him more trust? Less?
4. Rowan and Harry both experienced traumas and failed relationships that they are running from. Why do you think Rowan has a hard time trusting feelings of love, while Harry still believes in them?
5. Do you think Harry was justified in not telling Rowan about Nicola? Was Rowan justified in not telling Harry about Noah?
6. Family plays a big part in this novel. Having been neglected by her mother affects Rowan's adult relationships. How does having a big, supportive family affect Harry's role in his conflicts with Rowan? In what way does coming from a loving family make things challenging for him?



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7. The natural world features strongly in *Bend Toward the Sun*. How important is the setting to this novel? How do Rowan and Harry both work with things that grow, and how do their approaches toward their work reflect their personalities?
8. Cloud Tide Winery is a place new to Rowan and Harry at the beginning of the novel. What does it mean for their future that they both have a hand in restoring the place where they fell in love?
9. At any point while reading the novel did you predict the ending? In what ways did the ending affirm that prediction? In what ways did the ending surprise you?
10. *Bend Toward the Sun* is about the powerful nature of love, and the healing effect it can have. Have you ever felt healed by being in a close relationship, romantic or otherwise?

