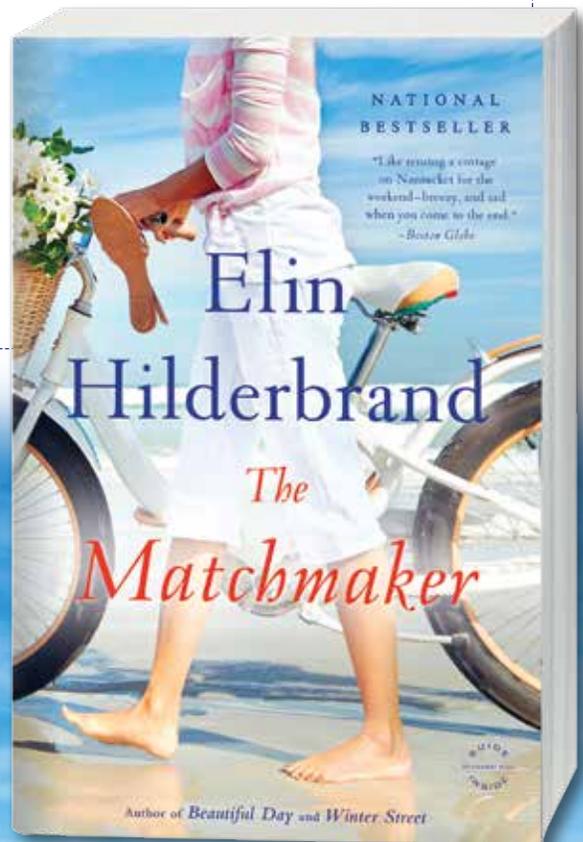


Host a “Matchmaker” Night

Are you having your book club over for a discussion of **THE MATCHMAKER**? Want to spice it up a little bit? Here are some ideas to make your night more fun.



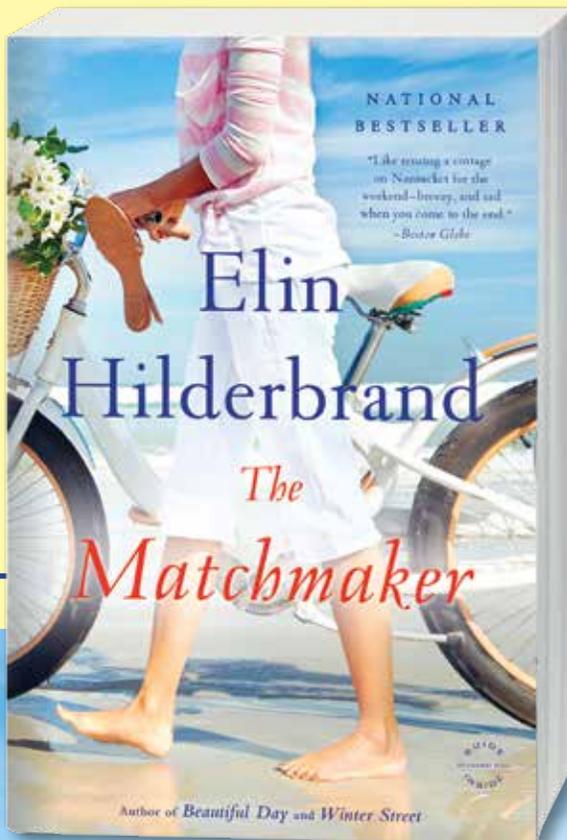
Before the meeting: ask each attendee to think about someone they set up or someone who set them up. Google that person and find a photo of him/her. Bring it to the meeting. Be ready to tell stories!



Elin Hilderbrand's *Matchmaker* Cocktail

This recipe for a Raspberry Mojito (a.k.a. Serenity Mojito) comes from Danny McCauley, the Serenity Pool Bartender at the Four Seasons Resort, Maui at Wailea. The recipe makes one mojito—get ready to triple and quadruple! Use a shot glass for measuring and a cocktail shaker for shaking, if available.

- Fresh mint leaves (6–7 each)
- Fresh raspberries (8–10 each)
- 1 oz. raspberry syrup (Monin)
- Crushed ice (If you don't have an ice machine, crush ice in a Ziploc bag with the back of a wooden spoon.)
- 1.5 oz. raspberry vodka (Fris or Smirnoff)
- 1 oz. fresh lime juice
- Club soda



Muddle mint, raspberries, and raspberry syrup with a muddler or the clean bottom of something blunt, like a screwdriver. Fill glass with crushed ice. Add 1.5 oz. raspberry vodka, 1 oz. lime juice, and fill with club soda. Shake thoroughly (if you don't have a cocktail shaker, just stir with a long spoon or knife). Serve. Garnish with extra raspberries,



Elin Hilderbrand's

Love Dip

This warm dip is wildly popular and we will call it the Love Dip because it's a lovely pink color and it's so quick to prepare that it leaves time for other things!

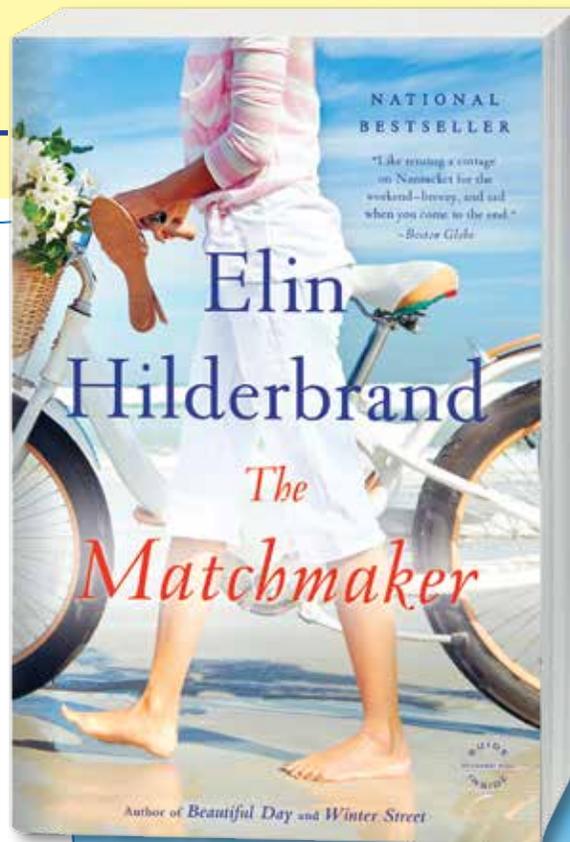
- 1 lb. sweet Italian sausage
- One jar mild salsa
- One 8-oz. package cream cheese
- Frito scoops

Crumble and brown the sausage until cooked through, then drain. Over medium heat add the salsa and cream cheese and stir with a wooden spoon until thoroughly combined. Serve warm with Fritos.

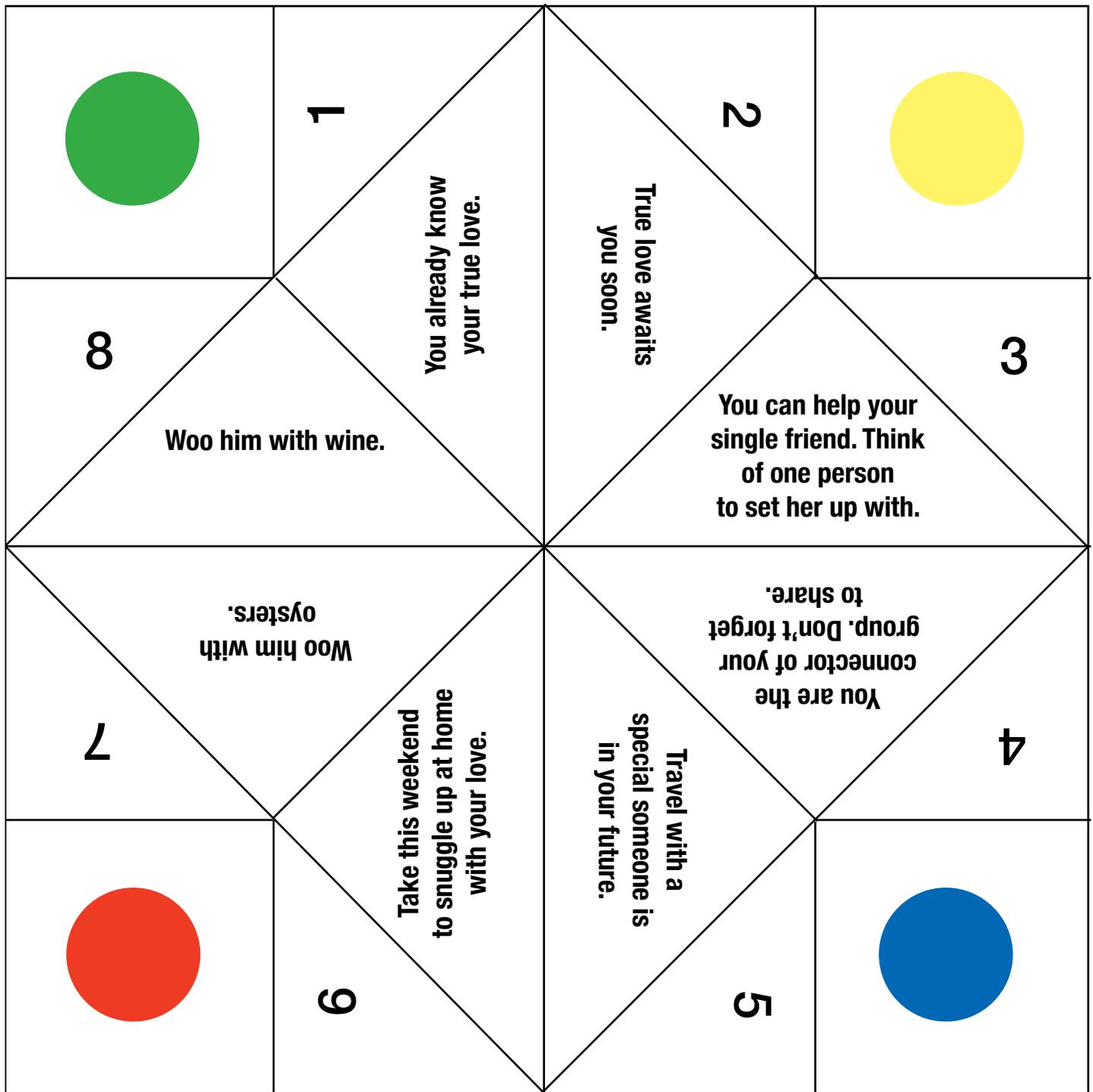
Had your cocktail? It's gossip time! Who do you know who needs to be set up? Describe him/her. Who in the group has someone for this single soul? Call him/her to tell them about your exciting news!

Is someone in your group single? At your meeting, sign her up for an online dating service and write her profile for her. Maybe you can also take some super cute photos for her!

Make a love fortune teller. Use ours, or make your own.

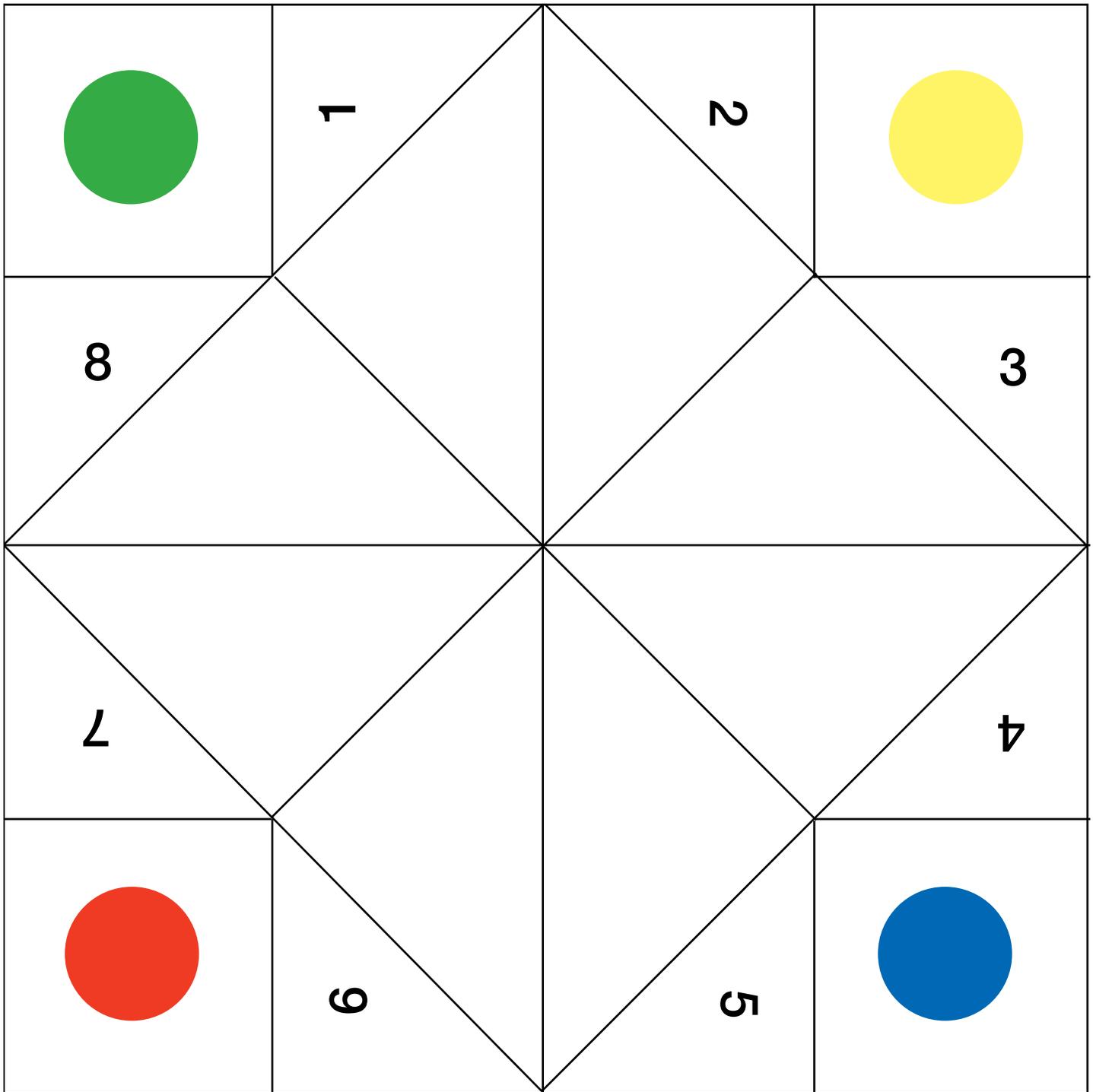


The Matchmaker Fortune Teller



1. Print and cut around outside of cootie-catcher.
2. Fold in half and half again.
3. Open out, turn over so top is blank, and fold each corner into the middle.
5. Turn over and repeat.
6. Slide your thumb and forefinger behind two of the pictures and press together so they bend round and touch.
7. Turn over and repeat with thumb and finger of the other hand for the other two pictures.
8. All the pictures should now be at the front with centers touching and you are ready to use your cootie-catcher.

Make your own Fortune Teller



1. Print and cut around outside of cootie-catcher.
2. Fold in half and half again.
3. Open out, turn over so top is blank, and fold each corner into the middle.
4. Turn over and repeat.
5. Turn over and repeat.
6. Slide your thumb and forefinger behind two of the pictures and press together so they bend round and touch.
7. Turn over and repeat with thumb and finger of the other hand for the other two pictures.
8. All the pictures should now be at the front with centers touching and you are ready to use your cootie-catcher.

Elin Hilderbrand

Discussion

Ready to discuss the book? Here are some questions about **THE MATCHMAKER** that will spark discussion:

1. **THE MATCHMAKER** is told from multiple points of view. How does seeing Dabney through other people's eyes change or enhance your view of her?
2. It's been thirty years since Dabney last saw Clendenin Hughes, and yet his sudden reappearance in her life provokes intense emotions. Have you ever had a similar experience? Does love ever completely disappear, even long after a relationship has ended?
3. Dabney is never wrong about romance...except when it comes to her own relationships. What do you make of this paradox? Do you know anyone who reminds you of Dabney? Is Dabney's obsession with matchmaking a way of protecting herself? If so, from what?
4. Dabney lives and breathes Nantucket. Do you see her intense bond with the island as a source of strength, or weakness? Does it hold her back, or is it inextricable from who she is?
5. How does the author juxtapose Dabney's relationships with the two men in her life—Box and Clendenin? Are there parallels between the two relationships, and how do they differ? What does each man offer Dabney?
6. Do you find Dabney to be a sympathetic character? In what ways is she flawed? How would you behave if you were in her shoes? Which path—and which man—would you choose? What steps would you take for the future of those you love—a future that may not include you?
7. Do you think the author is condoning adultery? Should we forgive Dabney for her infidelity to Box? Why or why not?
8. **THE MATCHMAKER** is full of heartbreaking contradictions. How could Clendenin accept a life apart from his soul mate and their child? How could Dabney love one man, but marry another? What do such contradictions suggest about the nature of love? Do they ring true to your own experience?
9. Agnes's fiancé, CJ, is not an easy guy to like. What do you think draws Agnes to him?
10. Do you see any hope in the midst of the tragedy that ends this novel?
11. [ExtraCredit] Elin Hilderbrand's digital original short story "The Tailgate" depicts Clendenin and Dabney back when they were college sweethearts. What light does this story shed on their relationship and the direction their lives took?