



# WITH MALICE

by Eileen Cook

## Book Club Questions

1. Jill is an unreliable narrator. As a reader do you believe her story? Do you think she believes what she says? How does she compare to other unreliable narrators such as Amy in *Gone Girl* and Rachel in *The Girl on the Train*?
2. The story of *WITH MALICE* combines chapters told from Jill's point of view as well as chapters from other characters, news stories and police reports. How did these different viewpoints shape your opinion of what happened in the book?
3. Jill and Simone have been friends since elementary school and each of them have a set role. Jill says that Simone is Batman, she's Robin, Simone is Sherlock and she's Watson, etc. In your friendships does everyone have a role to play and if so, what happens when that role changes?
4. Jill is very excited to go to Italy believing that the experience will change her life. What is it about travel that changes people? Have you ever taken a trip that impacted your life? If you could take a trip- where would you go?
5. Why does Simone want to go on the trip and how does her decision to go impact Jill?
6. Jill worries that when she goes away to college she will lose her friendship with Simone. Do you have anyone in your life that used to be a very close friend, who you have grown apart from? Would you change that if you could? Do friendships have a time limit?
7. Do you believe that Jill's parents believe she is innocent? Why or why not?
8. Would you consider Jill and Simone to be friends? What role does envy play in friendships? Have you ever had a friendship that wasn't healthy- how did it resolve itself?
9. Once the story of Simone's death hits the press, many people in the public decide that Jill is guilty. Do you think media coverage influences the justice system? How? Do you find you have strong opinions on people in the news?

## WITH MALICE - Book Club Questions - continued

10. Anna tells Jill that even if she wasn't tough before the experience of being in the rehab hospital will make her tough. How do you think this experience changes Jill?
11. How did you feel about the character of Nico? He is only a couple of years older than Jill, but he is a leader in the school program, do you think he took advantage of her?
12. Do you believe Jill's brain injury prevents her from remembering the accident, or is it that she doesn't want to face what really happened?
13. Jill was bothered by an online troll when she wrote her blog. Do you think online bullying is better or worse than being bullied in person? Why? Have you ever had a negative experience online? Have you ever said something you later regretted?
14. There are some who feel teens share too much online. Do you agree? Have you ever shared something you later wished you hadn't?
15. At the end of the book Jill discovers that Simone was her online troll and has either or dream or memory where Simone tells her why she did it. Why do you think Simone left those comments? Is there any justification for what Simone did- why or why not?
16. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Or have you ever discovered something about a friend that made you see them in a very different way?
17. Because of her brain injury, Jill is vulnerable to having false memories. Do you believe at the end of the book that what she experiences is a dream or a memory? If it is a memory- is Jill justified in deciding to say nothing?



Eileen Cook is a multi-published author with her novels appearing in eight different languages. Her books have been optioned for film and TV. She spent most of her teen years wishing she were someone else or somewhere else, which is great training for a writer. Her newest book, *WITH MALICE*, will be out in June 2016.

You can read more about Eileen, her books, and the things that strike her as funny at [www.eileencook.com](http://www.eileencook.com). Eileen lives in Vancouver with her husband and two very naughty dogs and no longer wishes to be anyone or anywhere else.