



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Be Ready When the Luck Happens by Ina Garten

1. How familiar were you with Ina Garten before reading this book? Have you watched her TV show or cooked from any of her cookbooks? If you were familiar with her, how did her self-depiction in this memoir align with or depart from your perception of her? What, if anything, from her life story surprised you?
2. Discuss the impact of Garten's childhood on her personality in adulthood. How did the relationship with her parents impact her choices in life?
3. Ina and Jeffrey go on a life-changing trip in Europe. How did travel change Ina? Have you ever gone on a trip that impacted your life?
4. Ina bought the Barefoot Contessa in the Hamptons sight unseen. What made her take on such a big risk? Would you ever take a similar risk? Why or why not?
5. Were you surprised to learn that Ina and Jeffery separated for a time? What drove them apart? What ultimately brought them back together? What lessons for marriage and partnership do you take from this recounting?
6. Explain the title of the book by identifying situations in which Garten was ready when her luck happened. Would you describe her as a particularly lucky person?
7. What sections of the book (or of Ina's life) were most interesting to you? What topics were not appealing for a memoir?
8. Why does Ina save Jeffery's letters, and what significance do they hold for her?
9. What do you think of Garten's writing style? Discuss her authorial tone as well as the decision to not tell the story chronologically.

The above questions were taken from
<https://bookclubs.com/discussion-guides/be-ready-when-the-luck-happens-a-memoir>
to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Ina Garten is a *New York Times* bestselling author, the host of *Be My Guest* on Discovery+, and host of *Barefoot Contessa* on Food Network, for which she has won five Emmy Awards and a James Beard Award. She lives in East Hampton, New York, with her husband, Jeffrey.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/9751/ina-garten/>

Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar, and submit a request.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance.
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability.
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the service desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit.
- 6-week loan period.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any CLMA library location.
- Kit must be returned at the service desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All items are checked out to one person's card.
- The person who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
 - The distribution and return of all items to their group members; and
 - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
 - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.