

Mirror Image BOOK CLUB KIT

KAY
BROOKS



ABOUT KAY



I've always believed that some people are born readers. I was born a reader and storyteller, I just needed the world to catch up.

My love affair with books began in childhood, where stories weren't just entertainment, they were companions, windows into lives I hadn't yet lived. While I enjoyed playing outside, I would also get lost between pages, building a quiet but unshakeable reverence for the power of the written word. Books weren't an escape for me. They were home.

That reverence only deepened as I grew. As a teenager, I organized my uncle's prized collection of first editions, learning early that books are not just objects, but legacies. It felt less like a chore and more like being trusted with something sacred. By the time I chose Library Science as my college major, it felt less like a decision and more like calling. I wasn't just studying books. I was learning how to honor them.

Then came the moment that changed everything.

After settling in Caroline County with my husband and family, a friend handed me a box of romance novels. What started as casual reading turned into something I hadn't expected, a quiet revolution happening inside me. Page after page, something stirred. "I can write one of these." It wasn't arrogance. It was recognition. A door had cracked open, and I walked through it.

Those early writing days were filled with equal parts excitement and vulnerability. I drafted stories, sealed envelopes, and made trips to the mailbox with my children in tow, waiting, hoping, believing. The rejections came, as they always do. But so did the words that kept me going: "Not quite what we're looking for — but you have great potential." I held onto that potential like a promise I'd made to myself.

Life, as it always does, kept moving. I raised three children, navigated hip surgeries, and built a fulfilling career in the library world, all while writing remained the constant thread woven through every chapter of my life. No matter how full the days became, the stories never stopped finding me.

Retirement didn't slow me down. It set me free.

I returned to old manuscripts with fresh eyes and a lifetime of experiences to pour into every page.

Today, I am the proud author of 12 romantic suspense/thriller novels, 2 non-fiction journals, and 4 biographies, a body of work that reflects both my range and my enduring passion for storytelling.

Along the way, I've been deeply humbled by the recognition my work has received. My novel Behind the White Beard earned Finalist honors from the American Writing Award, Author Shout Book Awards, Hearten Book Awards, and Outstanding Creator Awards. My novel Mirror Image, the book that brought us together in these pages, received recognition from the Literary Titan Book Award, the Indie Gold Awards, and multiple Outstanding Creator Award honors, including Honorable Mentions. Each acknowledgment means the world to me, but nothing compares to knowing that my stories have found their way into your hands and your heart.

Every book I write is a love letter, to literature, to the art of storytelling, and to every reader who has ever lost themselves in a story and found something true in the process.

Welcome to my world. I'm so glad you're here.



ICE BREAKERS

- What was the first book that made you fall in love with reading?
- If you could only read one genre for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- Where is your favorite reading spot?
- Physical book, eBook, or audiobook – what's your preference and why?
- What's the last book that made you laugh out loud?
- Which fictional character would you want as your best friend?
- If you could live in any book world, which would you choose?
- What's one book you think everyone should read in their lifetime?
- Which book has influenced your life the most?
- What book do you wish you could read again for the first time?
- If your life was a book, what would the title be?
- Which three fictional characters would you invite to a dinner party?
- If you could be the author of any book, which would you choose?
- What book would you save in a fire (assuming people and pets are safe)?
- What makes you abandon a book before finishing it?
- Do you read the end of a book first, or are you strictly chronological?
- What's your stance on dog-earing pages versus using bookmarks?
- How do you organize your personal library?
- What's the strangest place you've ever read a book?



White house

Q & A WITH KAY

EDMONDSVILLE, VIRGINIA FEELS LIKE A VIVID AND LIVING WORLD. IS THE TOWN BASED ON A REAL PLACE, AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE IT AS THE BACKDROP FOR BOTH THE BENNETT AUCTION SERIES AND THE ROW SERIES?

You write about what you're familiar with. *The Row Series* consisted of my first three books, and I found that as I was putting together my setting, special places in the town of Bowling Green came to mind. In fact, the firehouse was where I opened the original branch of the library that I set up for the town. We had moved to a larger facility when I started writing the book, but I recall thinking "what if something happened in that old firehouse that would devastate the town." One thing led to another, and Ginny, Brina, Marcie and Randi solved the mystery of Deborah Gibson's disappearance.

Years later, when I began plotting the Bennett Auction Series, I remember staring at my inventory of books and deciding to let the business be an extension of Edmondsville. That allowed me to renew friendships with my characters and give readers more opportunities to visit the small town.

YOU ARE ALSO WEAVING EDMONDSVILLE AND SOME CHARACTERS FROM THE ROW SERIES INTO THE BENNETT AUCTION SERIES. CAN YOU GIVE READERS A LITTLE TEASER ABOUT HOW THESE TWO WORLDS MIGHT INTERSECT?

This question makes me smile because it's one of the favorite things I enjoy as a storyteller. For the readers who have already visited Edmondsville and spent time with the characters from *The Row*, this is a treat. And for those who are new to Edmondsville, well, you might find yourself wanting to take a little detour after finishing *Mirror Image*.

In *Mirror Image*, Ginny, Duane, Trevor and the twins make cameo appearances that feel natural and organic to the story. Like running into old friends when you least expect it. Their presence adds a layer of warmth and familiarity that I hope made you smile when you spotted them.

In *Broken Image*, Book Two of the Bennett Auction Series, Joe Grimes, Marcie and Pete will step into the light as their connections run a little deeper. I will leave it at that for now.

And then there is Duane. Loyal, wonderful, complicated Duane, who gets his own story. *False Image* will give him exactly that and I can't wait for you to see where his journey takes him.

These two worlds were always meant to find each other. I am the lucky one to be holding the pen when they do.

Q & A CONT.



White house

WHAT DO YOU MOST ADMIRE ABOUT ABBY AS A WOMAN AND AS YOUR PROTAGONIST? WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM ABBY'S JOURNEY IN MIRROR IMAGE?

What I admire most about Abby is her quiet but unshakeable strength. She is smart and fiercely independent. She is genuinely open to love, helping others and believing in things that most people would dismiss without a second thought. She leads with her heart without losing her head. Something I admire in any woman.

She has been in love with TJ since her teenage years, never letting that love make her desperate or compromise her values. When TJ finally turns his attention on her, she doesn't simply fall into his arms. She makes him work for it, not out of pride, but she knows her own worth.

And then there is Isabella. Abby's compassion for Isabella speaks to the very core of who she is as a person. She feels empathy. Recognizes a soul in need and makes it her mission to help Isabella find peace and cross over.

As for what I hope readers take away...I hope they see themselves in her. I hope every woman who reads Mirror Image closes that final page feeling a little more confident in her own worth, a little more open to unexpected love, and a little more willing to trust that small voice inside that says, "this matters. Do something about it."

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE IDEA OF A WOMAN CONFRONTING A PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER?

A "what-if" situation that occurred at an estate auction where framed family portraits were for sale. Firstly, I hated that the family had callously chosen not to keep the heirlooms, but as I studied the faces, I thought, "what would you do if you found a portrait that was the image of you?"

That reminded me of another instance when I saw a Cousin's Facebook post with a 1910 picture of a young woman that looked very familiar. I texted her and asked, "Is that Grandma?" to which she responded, "Yes, and she looks like you!" Well, that explained the skipped heartbeat when I saw the picture, but it also had me thinking, "what if a woman discovered a spitting-image portrait of herself from an earlier era."

The story started percolating then. One thing led to another, and once I had the image, I wanted Abby's reaction to be more than fear. I wanted her to feel a pull toward this woman, almost a responsibility to her. That compassion became the emotional heart of the story.



White house

Q & A CONT.

AT WHAT POINT IN THE WRITING PROCESS DID YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW ABBY AND TJ'S RELATIONSHIP WOULD EVOLVE? DID IT SURPRISE YOU AT ALL AS IT DEVELOPED ON THE PAGE?

I enjoy watching my characters fall in love organically and knew before I started the book that TJ would fall in love. But honestly, around the midpoint of the story, he surprised me.

When TJ suggested they take their friendship to the next level, he did so out of a little boredom but also genuine curiosity. I wanted him to worry a little because he's not used to having someone say "no" to him. The more he wooed her throughout the day, the more he realized that what started as a game had become something he truly wanted.

Abby, on the other hand, was already half-way in love with him but she also had her standards and wasn't about to simply give herself to him. Yet, the more he wooed her, she saw another side of him.

By the time I reached the love scene, it was as though they took over the story. They were both committed. I simply gave them the hiccups, the backdrop and the surprises. And put the words on page.

I hope my readers feel every bit of that journey because I certainly felt every moment as I wrote it.

MIRROR IMAGE IS BOOK ONE OF THE BENNETT AUCTION SERIES. WHEN YOU WROTE IT, DID YOU ALREADY HAVE A ROADMAP FOR WHERE THE SERIES WAS HEADING OR DID THE SERIES CONCEPT GROW OUT OF THE STORY ITSELF?

As I started putting Abby's and TJ's story together, I knew I wanted a story for TJ's siblings – Jay, Mary Kate and GW. I set my timeline for the beginning and ending of the series, then each of the books. I needed to do that so that as I focus on each book, I have to have particular themes for each, clues that need to be sprinkled throughout each, backstories that needed to be embellished, mysteries that need to be solved.

So yes, the roadmap exists and the destinations are set. Now comes my favorite part – filling the pages with the characters, surprises and stories that will take us there together. Those sprinkled clues are already at work!

Q & A CONT.



White house

WHICH SCENE WAS THE MOST FUN OR EXCITING TO WRITE?

I have to say I enjoyed writing the scene with Duane and Isabella in Jason White's office near the end. It was a way of giving each a sense of humor.

MIRROR IMAGE WON 2ND PLACE IN BOTH MYSTERY AND SUPERNATURAL/PARANORMAL CATEGORIES AND EARNED SILVER FINALIST RECOGNITION WITH LITERARY TITANS AND THE INDIE GOLD AWARDS. WHAT DID THOSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY AS AN AUTHOR?

Credibility. That is the first word that comes to mind.

Being an author is hard, lonely, beautiful, frustrating, exhilarating work. Sometimes all in the same afternoon! Every story represents hours of research, creativity and rewriting, second-guessing and pushing past those moments when you wonder if it's good enough.

When Mirror Image earned the 2nd Place recognition, then went on to receive Silver Finalist recognition from Literary Titans and the Indie Gold Awards, something shifted inside me. It wasn't just validation. It was confirmation that the hours spent getting the details right mattered. That the characters I fell in love with were worth fighting for on the page. That the story I believed in was worthy of being believed in by others.

Awards don't write books, and they don't guarantee that every reader will love it. What they do is remind me, on the days when doubt creeps in, that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. They are more than a pat on the back. They are a torch I can carry into my next book.

With Broken Image, Book Two of the Bennett Auction Series, now released, I carry these acknowledgements with me into every new chapter I write. Along with a healthy dose of pride and, I'll admit, just a little intimidation. The bar has been set, and I intend to clear it for every single book in this series. But more than anything, knowing that somebody out there enjoyed Mirror Image and maybe eagerly awaiting what comes next? That's the greatest reward of all.

Thank you for spending this time with me. Now, let's get to the good stuff...your book club discussion starts here!

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Before reading *Mirror Image*, had you ever read a book that combined paranormal mystery with romance and suspense? How did *Mirror Image* compare to your expectations?
- If you walked into a historic home and discovered a ghost who looked exactly like you, what would your first reaction be? Would you run or would you stay and investigate?
- When Abby first encountered Isabella, she is described as feeling an inexplicable desire to uncover the truth. Do you think that pull was purely curiosity, or do you believe something deeper was drawing her in?
- How did Abby grow and change from the beginning of the story to the end? What moments marked her most significant turning points?
- The story describes TJ's attraction to Abby as impossible to ignore. At what point in the story did you feel that shift happening for TJ? Was there a specific moment that stood out for you?
- Do you think TJ handled his role as Abby's protector well, or did there come a point where you felt he overstepped or fell short?
- How would you describe TJ and Abby's dynamic as a couple? Did their relationship feel organic and earned, or did you want more development between them?
- As a ghostly presence, Isabella could have been written as frightening or threatening. How did Kay handle Isabella's character in a way that made her feel sympathetic rather than terrifying?
- What do you think Isabella represented thematically in the story? Was she simply a plot device or did she feel like a fully developed character in her own right?
- *Mirror Image* weaves together two separate mysteries spanning one hundred years. Did you find it easy or challenging to follow both timelines? Which mystery kept you more engaged and why?

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

- The White house functions almost as a character itself, holding secrets and driving the story forward. How did the setting contribute to the overall atmosphere of suspense and mystery?
- The paranormal and mystery elements are tightly interwoven in this story. Do you think the story works as a pure mystery without the supernatural layer, or is Isabella's presence absolutely essential to the plot?
- Isabella communicates through spectral whispers rather than dramatic supernatural events. Did you find that approach to the paranormal more or less effective than a more overt haunting would have been?
- If you could ask Isabella one question directly, what would it be?
- The romance between Abby and TJ develops against the backdrop of a murder investigation. Did the danger and tension around them make their relationship feel more intense and believable?
- Were there any moments between Abby and TJ that made you root for them especially hard? What made those scenes stand out?
- Mirror Image is Book One of the Bennett Auction Series. After finishing the book, are you eager to continue with the series? What questions or storylines are you most hoping to see explored?
- What new characters or storylines would you like to see introduced in future Bennett Auction books?
- Is there a single moment in Mirror Image that you will remember after closing the book? Why?
- How would you describe Mirror Image to a friend in just three words?

MIRROR IMAGE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

H E O V O Z D W S W O U S Q B E L A Q Z
P G V U K W O H X B L R W V P Y Y J J N
C R I W S E R I A L K I L L E R T I D T
F D O L H V L T J B E N N E T T H M U A
G X L M B I I H B Q U P I H K T R A A B
R M F K A E T C W V E Z W I V J I G N B
A D A B U N R E T H H B P S J A L E E Y
N U B R E K T T H I R C J A T Y L L I A
D L K K Y N P I S O M L C B R B E S R D
F A M L U K N X C J U N R E P E R T L A
A N A O Y P A E C T L S V L I N L A L M
T T N A Y U D T T S H M E L O N B L A S
H I U Z D V R Z E T M R Y A C E T K D Z
E Q S N A U C T I O N S I S D T F E R N
R U C W U A M Q M E H M O L T T V R O H
C E R Y L G L V J K Y P M G L E K Y L F
L S I H Q E A X T A W V Y H T E R F F S
O Z P R G L O W I N G B O O K S R Y T X
C J T P A R A N O R M A L S L Y G L V Z
K Y S Q A F M F A W D Q Y T G Q P I V L

RomanticThriller

SerialKiller

GlowingBooks

WhiteHouse

JayBennett

Paranormal

GrandfatherClock

Manuscript

AbbyAdams

TJBennett

Auctions

Thriller

Antiques

Bennett

MaryKate

Mystery

Isabella

Gilbert

LLADRO

Victim

Leona

Stalker

Ghost

Image

Duane



MIRROR IMAGE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ANSWERS

H E O V O Z D W S W O U S Q B E L A Q Z
P G V U K W O H X B L R W V P Y Y J J N
C R I W S E R I A L K I L L E R T I D T
F D O L H V L T J B E N N E T T H M U A
G X L M B I I H B Q U P I H K T R A A B
R M F K A E T C W V E Z W I V J I G N B
A D A B U N R E T H H B P S J A L E E Y
N U B R E K T T H I R C J A T Y L L I A
D L K K Y N P I S O M L C B R B E S R D
F A M L U K N X C J U N R E P E R T L A
A N A O Y P A E C T L S V L I N L A L M
T T N A Y U D T T S H M E L O N B L A S
H I U Z D V R Z E T M R Y A C E T K D Z
E Q S N A U C T I O N S I S D T F E R N
R U C W U A M Q M E H M O L T T V R O H
C E R Y L G L V J K Y P M G L E K Y L F
L S I H Q E A X T A W V Y H T E R F F S
O Z P R G L O W I N G B O O K S R Y T X
C J T P A R A N O R M A L S L Y G L V Z
K Y S Q A F M F A W D Q Y T G Q P I V L



Mirror Image is a ghost story that feels old, mysterious and alive.

History is not dead here. It is ambulatory, wounded, and occasionally mischievous.

~ Literary Titan



Uncork Mirror Image ~ A Character Wine Pairing Guide



TJ Bennett

"Opus One Cabernet Sauvignon" ~ Napa Valley, California

Bold, complex and commanding with deep notes of black cherry, dark chocolate, cedar and a hint of tobacco with a long powerful finish

Why TJ: This is one of the most prestigious wines in the world — strong, authoritative and immediately impressive but with layers of complexity that reveal themselves slowly over time, exactly like TJ. It is not a wine that gives everything away at once and neither is he.



Abby Adams

"Whispering Angel Rosé" ~ Provence, France

Delicate pale pink with notes of fresh strawberry, white peach, light citrus and a whisper of rose with a crisp clean finish

Why Abby: The name alone is perfect given Isabella's spectral whispers throughout the story. Whispering Angel is elegant and refined but surprisingly bold and complex underneath its delicate appearance — exactly like Abby. She walks into the White House expecting antiques and ends up solving a century old murder mystery



Jay Bennett

"Apothic Red Blend" ~ California

Smooth approachable and effortlessly enjoyable with notes of dark berry, vanilla, mocha and a touch of sweet spice

Why Jay: Apothic Red is the wine everyone loves immediately without pretension or complication. It is the life of the party wine — smooth, fun and genuinely likable from the very first sip. Jay is the Bennett brother who lightens every room he walks into and this wine does exactly the same thing



Mary Kate Bennett

"Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc" ~ Marlborough, New Zealand

Bright, vivacious and crisp with notes of fresh citrus, white peach, passionfruit and a beautifully clean mineral finish

Why Mary Kate: Kim Crawford is a wine with undeniable personality — bright and immediately charming but with a sharp precise edge that reminds you there is real substance underneath the sparkle. Mary Kate is the Bennett sister who keeps everyone in line with a smile on her face and a steel spine underneath.

Uncork Mirror Image ~ A Character Wine Pairing Guide Continued



Sheriff Duane Peterson

"Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay" ~ California

Straightforward, reliable and consistently excellent with notes of ripe apple, pear, vanilla and a hint of toasted oak

Why Duane: Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay is the most dependable wine on any list. It never surprises you, never lets you down and does exactly what it promises every single time. The Sheriff is the same — steady, trustworthy and the backbone of Edmondsville's safety. You may not always notice him but everything falls apart without him.



Isabella

"Château Pichon Baron 2000 Vintage" ~ Bordeaux, France

A wine from another era — hauntingly beautiful with notes of dried violets, dark cherries, aged leather, earth and a ghostly whisper of something you cannot quite name on the finish

Why Isabella: A vintage wine from over a century old vines carries the memory of the earth it came from in every sip. Isabella exists between centuries, between life and death, between her world and Abby's. A properly aged Bordeaux vintage does the same — it exists between what it once was and what it has become. Breathtakingly beautiful and impossible to forget.



The Serial Killer

"The Prisoner Red Blend" ~ Napa Valley, California

Dark, intense and complex with notes of dark cherry, blackberry, vanilla, mocha and a finish that lingers long after you think it is gone

Why The Killer: The name says everything. The Prisoner is one of the most dramatically presented wines on the market — the label features a figure bound in chains and the wine itself is dark, brooding and deceptively smooth. It goes down easily and then stays with you far longer than you expected — just like the killer's presence throughout Mirror Image



The Bennett Auctions House Wine

"Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon" ~ Napa Valley, California

Polished, refined and elegant with notes of dark plum, cassis, mocha and a silky smooth finish that speaks of old world craftsmanship meeting new world confidence

Why Bennett Auctions: Stag's Leap famously beat French wines in the legendary 1976 Paris Tasting — a moment when something new and unexpected proved itself worthy among established greatness. Bennett Auctions is exactly that — a business with deep roots and established prestige that continues to prove its worth in unexpected ways

My Book Club Notes

Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for your support and for reading Mirror Image! If you enjoyed the book, I could be incredibly grateful if you could take a few minutes to leave an honest review.

Reviews from readers like you help other book lovers discover new stories and are deeply meaningful to me as an author.

If you're able to post a review, please consider sharing:

- Your overall thoughts and feelings about the book
- What you enjoyed most or what resonated with you
- Who else you think would appreciate this book

You are welcome to email the review to:
kay@kaybrooksaauthor.com

Thank you again for being a part of my community! Your support means the world to me.

All the best,

Kay

KAY BROOKS

*Writing books with the perfect blend of
love and mystery...*



Thank you
FOR CHOOSING

