



Phyllis Piano, author



BOOK CLUB KIT

Discover additional materials from Phyllis inside this kit to help make your book club a success!

questions

Dear Book Clubs,

How do people react when the worst thing happens? Do their lives take an entirely new direction? How does the truth from the past hold clues to the future? While those affected by life-altering events resulting in the loss of a loved one will never forget the person no longer in their lives, can they forgive those they hold responsible? I explore these questions in my writing, along with all the grey areas implied. I was inspired to write *Love Reconsidered* by the many displays of flowers and items of remembrance placed next to roads to mark the passing of loved ones in vehicle accidents. I have seen these symbols all over the United States and around the world. One day, I saw a bunch of red roses tied to a tree with the petals falling like tears, and I knew I must write this book.

As this particular display was near our home, I glanced at the spot every time I drove by, seeing fresh flowers and candles early on. I could tell the person who was killed at this spot was deeply loved and missed. The flowers inspired me to write a story of love, betrayal, grief, family, and forgiveness. While none of the characters are real people, they became very real to me. These fictional characters aren't perfect and all did things they would come to regret. Some of their mistakes led to a chain of events ending in tragedy. As grief and pain consumed the characters and relationships shattered, I wondered if they could find happiness again. I did think it was possible, but only through honest soul-searching and forgiveness.

In *Love Reconsidered*, Aleen Riddick's marriage falls apart when her daughter, eighteen-year-old Sunny, loses her beloved boyfriend in a tragic accident. Struggling with how to cope, mother and daughter look to the dead boy's father, grief-stricken Ted Hammand, to help them heal and redefine life. With Ted, they begin to deal with their loss through friendship and the routine things in life, including football Sundays watching the Green Bay Packers and love for two affectionate corgi dogs. When shocking developments force them to confront those who have deceived them, Aleen, Ted, and Sunny must decide if forgiveness will drive them back to the pain of the past or forward to a future of possibilities.

In my first novel, *Hostile Takeover: A Love Story*, the main character, lawyer Molly Parr, loses herself in her job as a top corporate attorney after the sudden loss of her husband to pancreatic cancer. Her all-consuming job is to take over other companies, but when her first love, a man who she feels betrayed her, appears out of nowhere to try to acquire her business, long-hidden passions and secrets are exposed. Molly must confront past heartbreak to make the life-altering decisions that will shape her future. Along the way, she reconnects with an old friend, leans on her wonderful and efficient executive assistant, visits her parents back in Wisconsin for guidance and support and learns a number of lessons about herself along the way.

Please let me know if your book club is interested in reading *Love Reconsidered* or *Hostile Takeover: A Love Story*. I would be honored if you would like to include me in your discussion. Connecting with readers is fun and enjoyable for me, and I would love the chance to participate in your book club.

All the best,

Phyllis Piano

Love Reconsidered

When Aleen Riddick's marriage falls apart after her eighteen-year-old daughter, Sunny, loses her beloved boyfriend in a tragic accident, they look to the dead boy's father, grief-stricken Ted Hammand, to help them heal and redefine life. When shocking developments force them to confront those who deceived them, Aleen, Ted, and Sunny must decide if forgiveness will drive them back to the pain of the past or forward to a future of possibilities.

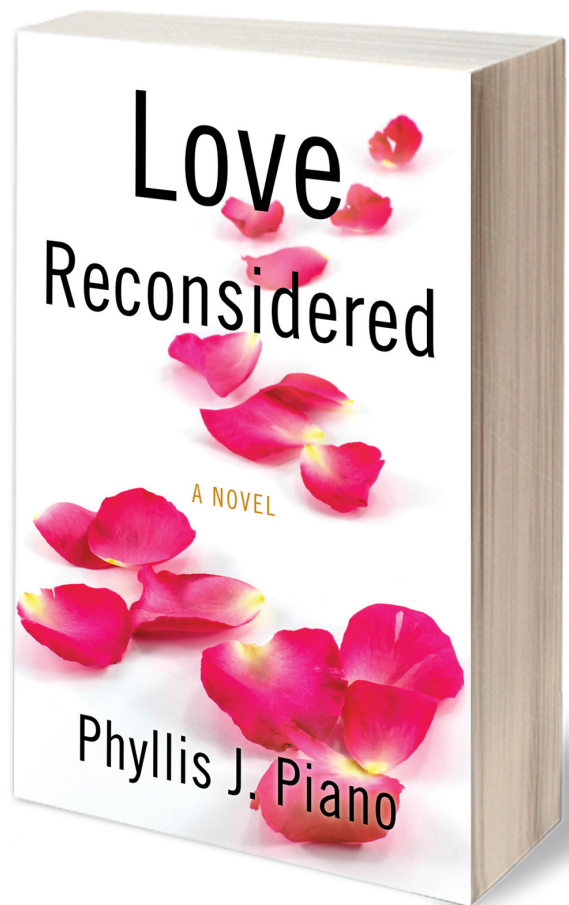
***Love Reconsidered* is about families—their grief, guilt, compassion, love, forgiveness, and hope.**

“Grief, loss, and second chances are illuminated in *Love, Reconsidered*, and its surprising and heartwarming twists offer insights into the true meaning of love.”

—Kris Radish, best-selling author of *The Year of Necessary Lies*

For fans of:

- *What We Find* by Robyn Carr
- *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty
- *When All the Girls Have Gone* by Jayne Ann Krentz
- *Hannah's List* by Debbie Macomber
- *The Obsession* by Nora Roberts



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Suggested Discussion Questions for *Love Reconsidered*

Spoiler Alert: Some questions give away certain plot elements.

1. In *Love Reconsidered*, a betrayal and a tragic accident breaks two families apart. Are some acts unforgivable in your view?
2. How does the definition of family change throughout the book?
3. Describe Aleen at the beginning of the book and the end. How is she different, both personally and professionally?
4. Aleen and Ted and Sunny and Ted find something special in each other and form unique relationships. What do they see in each other?
5. Vincent is an intriguing character that enters the lives of the main characters in dramatic fashion. Are you surprised by Ted's reaction to him? Sunny's?
6. It's easy to make judgments about people when they do something wrong, but as more facts become available, opinions can alter. What was your opinion of Gerrie early in the book? At the end?
7. Durk betrays his family and regrets it. What did he do to regain trust?
8. What are the early signs that the main characters may consider forgiving Durk and Gerrie?
9. Describe the role of football and the corgis in the lives of the main characters.
10. Name three things Sunny, Ted and Aleen do to move forward in their lives, helping them deal with their grief and loss.

hostile takeover

Where love and business collide

Long-lost love, a hostile corporate takeover, and the death of her beloved husband turn attorney Molly Parr's life into a tailspin that threatens to ruin everything she has worked for and loved. Molly's all-consuming job is to take over other companies—but when her first love, a man who she feels betrayed her, appears out of nowhere to try and acquire her business, long-hidden passions and secrets are exposed.

Can Molly trust the man who broke her heart years ago, and who may be manipulating her now to get what he wants? Further complicating matters is the reemergence of her lost love's brother, who was a dear friend and knows the shocking truth about their past. As Molly painfully revisits the old betrayal, she partners with her boss and mentor to fight the takeover at all costs—and the chaos that ensues forces Molly to chart a dramatic new direction for her life. She must decide: does she have the courage to follow her heart and expose her painful past—a decision that may cost her everything?

FOR FANS OF

- *True Blue* by Luanne Rice
- *The Best Medicine* by Tracy Brogan



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hostile takeover

“Piano has done a great job of marrying the corporate world with the complicated world of the heart. Love and business collide in this novel where the intricate dealings of business intersect with one woman’s past and change everything about her future. Fun and entertaining, *Hostile Takeover* will definitely make you a believer in true love.”

- Kris Radish, bestselling author of *The Year of Necessary Lies*

“*Hostile Takeover* is touching story about love lost and found. Piano’s heroine, Molly Parr, is unsinkable as she navigates stormy romances and the murky waters of the corporate world. Smart and sassy, Molly rides the waves of life, living by her motto, ‘you have to love with your head and your heart.’”

- Judith Hennessy, author of *First Rodeo* and co-owner of White Raven Productions

“A brilliant ode to the bravery it takes to follow your heart and mind in sync, *Hostile Takeover* is like warm literary caramel for every soul this fall.”

– *Working Mother*

“An entertaining cocktail of first love and business acquisitions...gorgeously entertaining, expertly crafted and wildly addictive.” – *Redbook*

“A warm and cozy love story set in the corporate world, *Hostile Takeover* will make your Sunday morning spent in bed fly by.” – *Buzzfeed*

“A fun, fast read...*Hostile Takeover* is an enjoyable book for those yearning for simpler times and a love story with heart.” – *Foreword Reviews*

Suggested Discussion Questions for *Hostile Takeover*

Spoiler Alert: Some questions give away certain plot elements.

1. What did you see as major themes/messages in the book around the intersection of work and life?
2. What role does Tunney play in the book? Describe the strong connection Tam and Molly feel to him.
3. Molly and Tam learn quite a bit about themselves after they see each other for the first time in years and go through the hostile takeover process. How have Molly and Tam changed throughout the book?
4. Cissy and Tunney are an unlikely match. What do you think they see in each other? What do they have in common?
5. Molly's boss Ken has been a mentor to her in her career. What do they get from each other in their relationship? Have you had a mentor like Ken or been one? What are the characteristics of a good mentor that Ken exhibits?
6. What would have happened if Molly saw Tam the day she had the picnic with Jim in Chicago? How do you think their love story would have played out?
7. The book examines lessons learned over time. Does the ending and Molly's vows to herself and Tam make you think of things you've learned in your life? If so, what are they?
8. Are you surprised that Molly decides to step away from her career at the end of the book? If so, why?

PHYLLIS J. PIANO



Phyllis J. Piano spent more than thirty years as an award-winning corporate communications expert for some of the world's largest companies. She has somehow managed to maintain her sense of humor, love of writing, and passion for life and the people she loves and cares about throughout it all. A world traveler, Piano has since left the corporate world and fallen back into the arms of her own first love: writing. She and her husband divide their time between California, England, and the Midwest. Her first novel, *Hostile*

Takeover: A Love Story, was published in October 2016. When she is not packing a bag, making artisan sourdough bread, or cooking with lots of garlic, Piano is working on her next novel.

PHYLLIS WOULD LOVE TO JOIN YOUR BOOK CLUB! INVITE PHYLLIS AT:

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