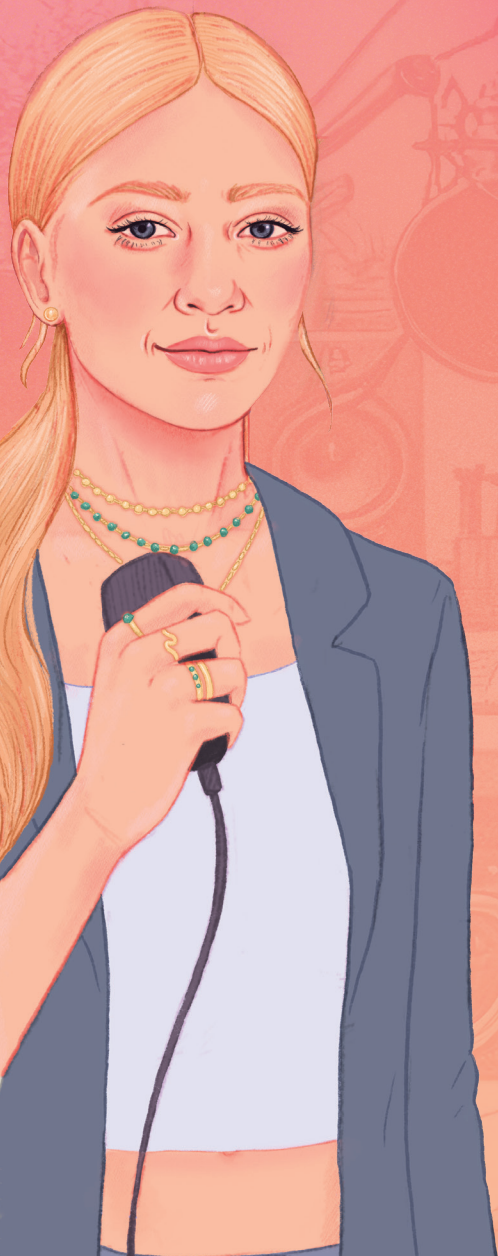


Book Club Kit

BIG NAME FAN

RUTHIE KNOX &
ANNIE MARE





Discussion questions for **BIG NAME FAN**

- 1** When Bex loses her parents, she gives up her Broadway career to take care of her two little sisters, Frankie and Vic. How did this new role change her relationship with her sisters?
- 2** Before reading *Big Name Fan*, what was your understanding of fan fiction? Have your feelings about fan fiction changed now that you've read it?
- 3** Some of the most significant events happen at our workplaces, but Bex and Sam were unaware of a lot of dynamics / drama behind the scenes of *Craven's Daughter* that affected their lives. What might they have done differently if they had known?
- 4** Have you ever found yourself in a position like Jen Arnot, writing fan fiction about your colleagues? What do you think about writing stories to process your feelings?
- 5** One of the recurring themes in *Big Name Fan* is how much fans invest their own imaginations into TV shows and movies they love. Have you ever wanted to rewrite the ending of a TV show, movie, or novel to fit what you thought should have happened?
- 6** In the same way the network avoided the chemistry between Bex and Sam's characters on *Craven's Daughter*, Sam and Bex also danced around how deeply they were falling for each other during their six years working together. Cora and Henri's fans finally get a satisfying Happily Ever After, and Sam and Bex find their way there too. What makes a second chance romance so emotional?
- 7** Why do you think it was so important for Vic, Bex's youngest sister, to be a part of the investigation?
- 8** Hollywood is a popular setting for novels of all kinds. Do you like Hollywood and celebrity stories? What appeals or doesn't appeal to you about the setting?
- 9** The cover of *Big Name Fan* features an illustration by Becki Gill in the style of fan art, which has become a popular way to show appreciation for favorite shows and bring stories to life. What do you think of the cover? Does fan art appeal to you?
- 10** Bex and Sam are not only reunited during the rewatch podcast for *Craven's Daughter*, but by the rewatch podcast. Do you have a show you rewatch? Have you ever listened to a podcast whose hosts are favorite actors or writers?



A Q&A WITH *BIG NAME FAN*'s AUTHORS RUTHIE KNOX and ANNIE MARE

How did you come up with the idea for a book about TV detectives who solve a crime?

Annie's agent, Tara Gelsomino, mused on social media about wanting a romance around a rewatch podcast. Annie thought it would be interesting to combine the rewatch podcast with a mystery that required the TV show's detectives to find clues in fan fiction. Ruthie then suggested exploring the dynamics between two women whose characters on TV were clearly in love with each other but not allowed to have a romantic character arc—and neither were the actors!

What were you most excited about when it came to writing this book?

We loved exploring the personal and professional dynamics of two young women starring in a network TV series with a veteran cast and crew. What was it like for Bex—who needed the stability of a regular paycheck to raise her younger sisters—and Sam, whose agency was compromised by the network's refusal to acknowledge the queer romance between their characters. It was exciting to navigate the challenges to their romance in that environment, and what it would take for them to resolve it five years later by claiming the relationship they deserved.

Was there anything about writing *BIG NAME FAN* that surprised you?

Getting to invent an entire television show! Writing an old-school network detective procedural with two female leads, and then writing fan fiction "clips" from scenes alongside it. We even got to script the finale that had never been filmed, which was unexpectedly fun. It's not every day that you write a novel where you fall in love with your characters and the characters they played on a fictional TV show.

This is your first published mystery. What made you want to write in this new genre?

We started writing a mystery together in 2019 of yet-to-be-published novels about a hypercompetent mom in Green Bay, Wisconsin. That series really gave us a chance to explore what it is about mysteries that we love and find a process for writing them together. It gave us such big, big love for the world we created that we jumped at the chance to try our hand at a different series with *BIG NAME FAN*.

What does the future hold for the TV Detectives series?

Book two in the series, *LOVE A COMEBACK*, comes out in 2026. This time Bex, Sam, and Bex's sisters get roped into investigating the disappearance of a troubled actress from the '90s who was just finding new fame on a streaming series when she fails to show up for filming. We'd love to write more, so we hope everyone enjoys getting to know this world and these characters as much as we do!

Ruthie Knox



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Annie Mare

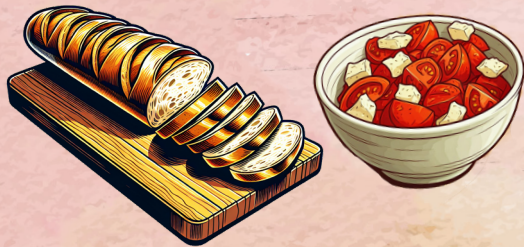


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Bex and Sam's Bruschetta Dip with Crostini

This snack is weirdly addictive and only requires toasting bread which works for Bex and Sam since they don't cook, opting mostly for takeout. It tastes like you did something fancy, but it is easy, and even people who are kind of iffy about tomatoes usually like it. Don't skip the Cavender's Greek Seasoning though, it's magic.

1 can petite diced tomatoes
1 block of feta cheese
some nice olive oil
Cavender's Greek Seasoning
1-2 skinny baguettes



You will need a platter to make and serve this recipe.

To make the bruschetta dip: drain the tomatoes and spread them on the platter. Crumble your feta on top of the tomatoes. Adorn with a few tablespoons of olive oil and sprinkle generously with Cavender's Greek Seasoning.

To make the crostini: thinly slice the baguette and brush it with olive oil. Bake at 400° F until golden and crispy for 10-12 minutes. When the crostini slices have cooled, arrange them around the outside of the platter or serve in a nearby bowl.

Scoop dip onto crostini and enjoy!

Bex and Sam's

COMPETING SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS

During your book club, turn on Sam and Bex's playlists using the QR codes below, then keep an ear out for both. How does each one describe or compare to their characters? Which one do you prefer?

listen to the playlists on Spotify!



Bex Simon's
Get Out Of My Head Playlist



Sam Farmer's
On-Set Playlist



For more information and updates about *BIG NAME FAN*,
visit KensingtonBooks.com or the authors' websites!
Ruthie Knox can be found at RuthieKnox.com
and Annie Mare can be reached at AnnieMare.com.

Did you love reading *BIG NAME FAN*? Tell us about it on
Between the Chapters, our online book club:

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Don't miss out on the
second installment of
the TV Detective series,
Love a Comeback, on sale
February 24, 2026!

