



## Summary

Ellery Wainwright is alone at the edge of the world.

She and her husband, Luke, were supposed to spend their twentieth wedding anniversary together at the luxurious Resort at Broken Point in Big Sur, California. Where better to celebrate a marriage, a family, and a life together than at one of the most stunning places on earth? But now she's traveling solo.

To add insult to injury, there's a wedding at Broken Point scheduled during her stay. Ellery remembers how it felt to be on the cusp of everything new and wonderful, with a loved and certain future glimmering just ahead. Now, she isn't certain of anything except for her love for her kids and her growing realization that this place, though beautiful, is unsettling.

When Ellery discovers the body of the groom floating in the pool in the rain, she realizes that she is not the only one whose future is no longer guaranteed. Before the police can reach Broken Point, a mudslide takes out the road to the resort, leaving the guests trapped. When another guest dies, it's clear something horrible is brewing.

Everyone at Broken Point has a secret. And everyone has a shadow. Including Ellery.



## About the Author

Ally Braithwaite Condie is the author of the # 1 New York Times bestselling *Matched* series and the Edgar Award Finalist *Summerlost*, among other novels, and of several picture books, including *Here*. A former English teacher, Ally resides outside of Salt Lake City with her family, including her four children. She has an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the founder and director of the nonprofit WriteOut Foundation.

Courtesy of authors website  
<https://www.allycondie.com/>

## Discussion Questions

- How do you think Ellery's experience with survivor's guilt affects her ability to build new relationships at The Resort, and could facing such trauma make these connections stronger or more strained?
- When The Resort's luxury façade crumbles during the storm, should the staff be seen as victims breaking free from their roles, or do they have a responsibility to maintain calm for the guests despite the chaos?
- Ellery's friendship with Abby proves more significant than her marriage to Luke. In real life, how can friendships sometimes offer more stability and support than romantic relationships, especially in times of crisis?
- Can the depiction of class tensions at The Resort serve as a broader commentary on societal structures, or is it merely a backdrop for the unfolding mystery? How do these class divides parallel real-world scenarios?
- Ellery describes her grief as an ongoing, physical presence. Do you think this portrayal helps paint a more accurate picture of dealing with trauma, or could it shift the focus away from other ways of healing and moving forward?
- Ellery's investigation skills stem from her unique emotional state. How do you think Ellery's intense grief and isolation might have helped her notice details others missed, and do you believe these emotions could hinder or help solving real-life mysteries?
- Olivia's world turns upside down after Ben's murder. Do you agree with the shift in Olivia's emotions from grief to anger? Is there a 'right' way to process such shocking experiences, or does every response hold validity?
- Catherine acts out of overwhelming emotion leading to unintended consequences. Can intense feelings such as anger or grief ever justify drastic actions, or are they merely excuses for dangerous behavior?
- Mystery novels often thrive on the trope of characters being geographically trapped, creating tension and driving plots forward; How does the group's confinement at the resort contribute to the unfolding of the story? Which character seemed most affected by the seclusion, and why?

## Book reviews

“A gorgeous murder mystery that explores what it means to be human—the pain and the love.”—Kirkus

“This is an engrossing story with an interesting take on grief and forgiveness, with pieces of art found at the resort adding a fun element. Edgar Award-winning YA author Condie’s adult debut is an unpredictable locked-room mystery for Agatha Christie fans and all readers looking for an intelligent read.”—Booklist