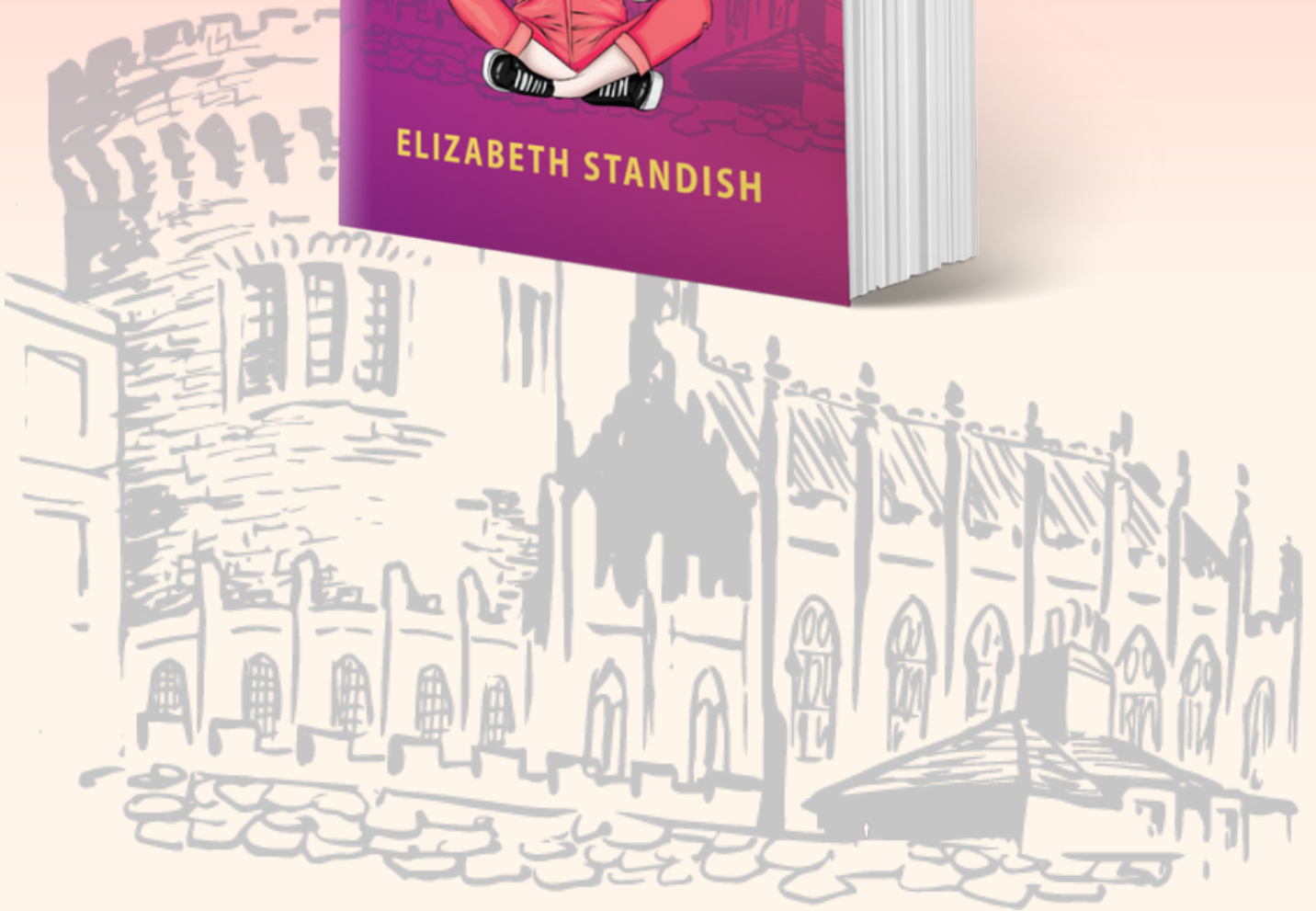


# Magnificent Mess

## Book Club Kit



# Magnificent Mess

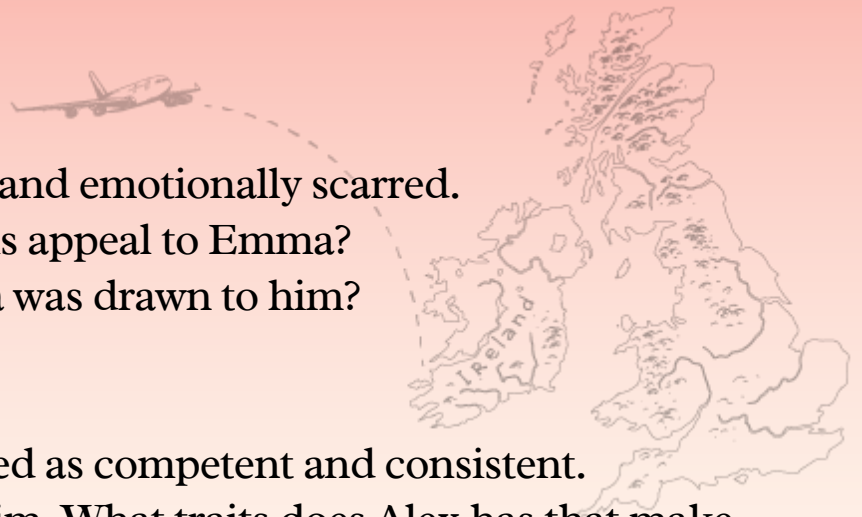
Elizabeth Standish

1. From the beginning of the book, we learn that Virginia has Emma's life planned out. How do you think that has shaped Emma's life up to the point we meet her? In what ways do you think it shapes her life going forward?
2. Society, and Virginia, seem to view the law as a black and white career. Does Emma agree? Do you?
3. Emma is afraid that if she leaves law school Virginia will not love her anymore. Do you agree with Emma's assessment? Have you ever felt similarly with a parent, sibling, mentor, or other important figure in your life?
4. After she doesn't pass the bar exam on the first try, Emma learns Virginia didn't either. How do you think learning this fact about her mother shifts Emma's view of Virginia? Of her own struggles?
5. Do you think that Emma's training as a lawyer helped or hindered her transition into adulthood? In what ways?

6. Patrick is portrayed as lost and emotionally scarred.

Do you think this is part of his appeal to Emma?

Why else do you think Emma was drawn to him?



7. Conversely, Alex is portrayed as competent and consistent.

Ultimately, Emma chooses him. What traits does Alex have that make Emma gravitate towards him? Does Emma change as a result of being in a relationship with Alex? Would she have become the person she is at the end of the book without him?

8. Do you believe that Emma's happy ending relies on having Alex in her life, or would she have been gotten to the same place on her own?

9. The way that Virginia behaves towards Emma could be viewed as abusive or likely to create PTSD. How do you think Emma is or isn't affected by that treatment? In light of your own life experiences, do you believe you would have been more or less affected than Emma?

10. If you could cast *Magnificent Mess* as a movie, who would you pick to play Emma? Patrick or Alex? What about Kim, Renee, and Virginia?

11. Have you listened to the book's playlist ([www.ElizabethStandish/books/](http://www.ElizabethStandish/books/))? What other songs would you add to it?

