



Hi friends,

Thank you so much for choosing to read *Blind Spot* with your book club. I adore chatting with fellow readers and would be honored to chat with your book club via phone or Facetime or Skype. Just email me the details to me at [danipettrey@gmail.com](mailto:danipettrey@gmail.com) and let's set something up (schedule permitting).

In the meantime, I've put together a *Welcome to The Plate* themed dinner and discussion for your club meeting. Feel free to use any or all of the suggestions. Included you'll find yummy recipes based off a Mexican feast the gang shares at Kate's office one night, and a delicious refresher Griffin and Finley share during a retreat hosted by their financial advisor, Haywood Grant.

However, the gang's history with Haywood goes back to when the guys first started playing Little League and were added to Coach Grant's roster for the Chesapeake Pirates—a nickname that has stuck with the guys all these years. They guys, minus Luke who disappeared seven years ago, have been friends ever since. They've suffered their ups and downs, but have walked through them together. Much as many of you have done with your lifelong friends.

I chose *Welcome to The Plate* as the theme for two reasons. First, as a metaphorical nod to the Pirates' Little League years, and, secondly, welcoming your club to join around the table and enjoy a Blind Spot-inspired Mexican feast.

I hope you enjoy the recipes (the dessert is a homemade Pettrey family favorite), chatting over the discussion questions, fun activities and the quiz I included.

Enjoy an evening full of fun, food and fiction!

Blessings,

Dani

## *Blind Spot Discussion Questions*

- 1) Tanner Shaw works as a crisis counselor now with the FBI. Prior to that she worked to help women who had been sex trafficked through an aftercare program. Tanner loves and lives for helping others? Do you know anyone like this? Is there a particular area or charity that you are especially passionate about? Why?
- 2) Declan Grey work fills most the hours in the day until Tanner enters his life. Then his priorities begin to shift. He's at work during work hours, but slowly learns to enjoy life too. How do you find time to enjoy life? What is your favorite way to spend a day off?
- 3) Declan and Tanner are both stubborn and they easily bump heads. How do you see their relationship begin to change and develop over the course of the story? Was there a specific instance that precipitated that change?
- 4) Declan and Tanner both enjoy outdoors sports. Anything from rock-climbing to snowboarding to kayaking. Do you enjoy any outdoors sports? If so, what is your favorite outdoor activity?
- 5) Tanner struggles with her past and with the separation from her family. Do you feel she finds some semblance of healing in *Blind Spot* or what type of resolution do you think she hopes to find with her parents? Do you practice a different faith than the one you were raised in?
- 6) The guys' little league coach's death hits them all hard. Playing on Haywood's team, the *Pirates*, bonded them as brothers for life. So many of their memories are wrapped up in their coach and first mentor. Have you ever had a mentor in your life? Do you remember any of your coaches or teachers? How have they impacted your life?
- 7) The gang shares a Mexican feast at Kate's office one night. What's your favorite kind of food for a party or family gathering?
- 8) Which of the moments in the book had sitting on the edge of your seat in suspense? Any moments that completely surprised you?
- 9) Declan reaches a point where he knows he needs the Lord's strength and grace to get through a very difficult time. Have you ever reached that point? How did God come through for you?
- 10) What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
- 11) Where do you see Declan and Tanner a year from now?

## Quiz

- 1) What year was the Little League organization established?
- 2) What country is Tanner from?
- 3) What historic Baltimore neighborhood does Declan live in?
- 4) What is the name or initials of Kate Maxwell's investigation firm? Bonus points if you can name the waterfront neighborhood it's in?
- 5) What city do Declan and Tanner fly to?
- 6) What yummy snack does Kate snag at the retreat that all the guys want to steal from her?
- 7) Name one of Haywood Grant's partners?
- 8) What college did Tanner attend?

## *Quiz Answers:*

- 1) 1939 in Williamsport, PA
- 2) Israel
- 3) Little Italy
- 4) Charm City Investigations or CCI and the bonus—Fells Point
- 5) Houston
- 6) Caramel Popcorn
- 7) Lowell Brentwood or Emmitt Powell
- 8) UMBC—University of Maryland, Baltimore County

## Mexican Feast

# Chicken Tacos

### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb of Boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1/4 cup Diced onions  
2 TBSP Oil  
2 TBSP Taco Seasoning  
2 TBSP Ground red chili  
1 teaspoon Cumin  
1 teaspoon Garlic powder  
1 teaspoon Lime juice  
Soft or Hard Taco Shells  
Toppings (any of the following combinations):  
Shredded cheese, lettuce, diced onions, diced fresh tomatoes, salsa, avocado slices, guacamole and sour cream.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Boil chicken. Shred and set aside.
2. Heat oil in fry pan over medium heat. Once warm, add ¼ cup of diced onions and caramelize.
3. Add shredded chicken to frying pan.
4. Mix seasoning ingredients in a bowl and pour mixture into fry pan.
5. Heat on medium for 5 minutes.
6. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.
7. Spoon into taco shells.
8. Top with your favorite toppings.

Serves 4.



Enjoy a Mexican feast from *Blind Spot!*

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# Mexican Corn

### INGREDIENTS:

1 bag Frozen corn  
1/2 cup Diced mixed bell peppers (we like orange, red and yellow)  
1/3 cup Diced onion  
1 cup Diced tomatoes  
1 TBSP taco seasoning  
1 teaspoon cumin  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 TBSP oil  
1 cup Avocado for topping  
Sour cream for topping

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Steam corn according to the directions.
2. Heat oil over medium in a fry pan.
3. Add corn peppers, onions and tomatoes to frying pan.
4. Mix seasonings in bowl.
5. Sprinkle seasoning mix over corn mixture and stir it in.

6. Cook on medium until slightly browned.
7. Turn heat to low and simmer for 15 minutes.  
Top each serving with a dollop of sour cream and diced avocados.
8. Eat as a side dish along with tortilla chips.
8. Top with your favorite toppings.

Serves 4.



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# Sopapillas

## INGREDIENTS:

4 cups Flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
4 TBSP Vegetable Shortening  
1 1/3 cup warm water  
2 quarts oil for frying  
Powdered sugar for dusting  
Honey for drizzling over

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Stir together flour, baking powder, salt and shortening in a large mixing bowl. Stir in water until dough is smooth. Add more if needed. Cover and let stand for 20 minutes.  
2. Roll out dough on floured cupboard or cutting board until 1/4 inch thick. Cut into 4 inch squares.

3. Heat oil in deep-fryer to 375 degrees or in a large kettle.  
4. Fry dough pieces until they puff up and turn golden brown on both sides.  
5. Drain on paper towels.  
6. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and drizzle with honey.  
7. Enjoy while warm.

This is a *Pettrey family Favorite!*



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# Blackberry & Lime Refresher

## INGREDIENTS:

1/2 c. Blackberries  
Handful of fresh mint leaves  
Juice of 2 limes, plus slices for garnish  
2 tsp. Sugar  
Crushed ice or a cup of ice cubes  
Roughly 1 cup club soda

## DIRECTIONS:

1. In a small bowl, muddle or mash up blackberries. Set aside.  
2. Place mint leaves in bottom of glasses.  
3. Divide and spoon blackberry mixture on top.  
4. Divide and add sugar and lime juice to both glasses. Stir to combine.  
5. Top with crushed ice.  
6. Add club soda until glass is almost full.  
7. Garnish with lime slices and more blackberries.  
8. Enjoy!

Serves 2.

Hope you enjoy this refreshing drink from *Blind Spot.*



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## *Activities*

- Ask each member attending what sports they played, organization they belonged to, or hobby they participated in as a child. Ask them to bring a picture of it with them if they have one and take time to share about it.
- If members come from different ancestral or cultural backgrounds, ask each person to bring a dessert from their heritage to share. For example, I'm half Norwegian so I'd bring Lefsa—a thin potato pancake we like to eat with butter and cinnamon and sugar rolled up. Yum!

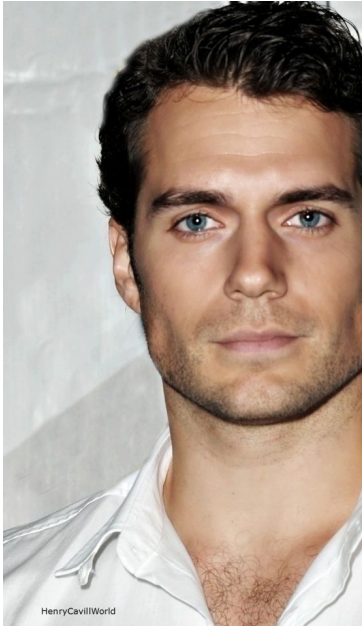


## *Fun Behind-the-Scenes Facts*

- At one point, Tanner was a ballerina from Russia
- Declan's middle name is Cal after the Oriole legend Cal Ripken, who holds the MLB record for the most consecutive played games at 2,632 consecutive games. Over more than 16 years is held by Cal Ripken, Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles. Ripken surpassed Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees, whose record of 2,130 consecutive games had stood for 56 years.
- Kate is from Annapolis and grew up sailing and participating in sailing regattas.
- Whenever Declan hears *Brown Eyed Girl* he thinks of Tanner.
- Whenever Tanner hears *Something Just Like This* she thinks of Declan.
- Both of the above songs are on Blind Spot's Story Playlist on my website, which you can enjoy as background music.
- Tanner's favorite holiday is Easter because of Christ's resurrection.
- Declan's favorite holiday is 4<sup>th</sup> of July because it represents the independence and freedoms he continues to work to protect for our country.

**How do you think my publisher did with the cover model?**

Who I envisioned for Declan



vs.

The cover model they hired



Which one reminds you more of Declan?