



It Starts with Us

By Colleen, Hoover

First published in 2022

Genre and Subject

Divorced mothers -- Fiction

Man-woman relationships -- Fiction

First loves -- Fiction

Romance fiction

Synopsis

Lily and her ex-husband, Ryle, have just settled into a civil coparenting rhythm when she suddenly bumps into her first love, Atlas, again. After nearly two years separated, she is elated that for once, time is on their side, and she immediately says yes when Atlas asks her on a date.

But her excitement is quickly hampered by the knowledge that, though they are no longer married, Ryle is still very much a part of her life—and Atlas Corrigan is the one man he will hate being in his ex-wife and daughter's life.

Switching between the perspectives of Lily and Atlas, *It Starts with Us* picks up right where the epilogue for the “gripping, pulse-pounding” (Sarah Pekkanen, author of *Perfect Neighbors*) bestselling phenomenon *It Ends with Us* left off. Revealing more about Atlas's past and following Lily as she embraces a second chance at true love while navigating a jealous ex-husband, it proves that “no one delivers an emotional read like Colleen Hoover” (Anna Todd, *New York Times* bestselling author).

Author Biography

Colleen Hoover is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty four novels and novellas. Hoover's novels fall into the New Adult and Young Adult contemporary romance categories, as well as psychological thriller.

Colleen Hoover is published by Atria Books, Grand Central Publishing, Montlake Romance, and HarperCollins Publishers.

Colleen founded The Bookworm Box, a charity bookstore and book signing event, with her family in 2015. The Bookworm Box hosts a book signing (Book Bonanza) each year which features over 200 authors as well as an annual auction to raise funds for food banks and other charities across the nation. To date, The Bookworm Box has donated over \$1,000,000 to help those in need.

Discussion Starters

1. Consider the two titles of the books in this series, **It Ends with Us** and **It Starts with Us**. What do you think is the significance of the title of the book in each case? What could have been another title for the sequel?
2. *It Starts with Us* picks up where we left off in the first book with our main character, Lily Bloom. How does the first chapter set the pace for the rest of the book?
3. What are the biggest turning points in the book for Lily? What about for Atlas? How does the rest of the book unfold from these turns?
4. Lily's relationship with Ryle, her jealous ex-husband, is made complicated because no matter what he will always be a part of her (and her daughter's) life because of the child they share. How do these difficult circumstances shape Lily's choices?
5. Atlas Corrigan, her first love, enters Lily's life again after a chance encounter, but we learn Atlas had always been preparing for Lily in the back of his mind. In what ways does he create a different world for Lily and her daughter?
6. Some of the first book's favorite characters, Alyssa and Marshall, return in this sequel. What influence do they have on the young woman Lily continues to grow into? How do they help her get a second chance at a new life?
7. How does the fact Lily has the support of her sister and brother-in-law force Ryle to face some naked truths? Do you believe anything will change for him after the intervention Lily, Alyssa, and Marshall hold?
8. The story is told by alternating between the perspectives of Lily and Atlas. How does that change the tempo, mood, and overall feel of the story?
9. Is there anything in the novel that came as a huge surprise? How about anything you expected to happen but that never did?
10. Atlas and Lily both strongly believe in the idea of true love. How does this belief help them get into a good place in their lives?
11. The story ends with Atlas rereading his wedding vows to Lily. If there was another novel, what do you imagine would go into the next book?
12. *It Starts with Us* was written because Colleen Hoover fans begged, pleaded, and petitioned for another installment to the series. In what ways do you think the fact Hoover never intended to write a sequel influenced the book she ultimately did write? Do you think she made the right decision by acquiescing to her fans? Why or why not?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *The good woman's guide to making better choices* by Liz, Foster.
- *Never ever forever* by Karina, May.

Author biography from <https://www.colleenhoover.com/pages/about-me>

Discussion starters from <https://justleafing.com/it-starts-with-us-book-club-questions/>