



Book Club Questions

Happy Wife by Meredith Lavender and Kendall Shores

1. Nora's transformation is central to the story. How did your perception of Nora evolve from the beginning of the book, when she's first introduced as the "trophy wife," to the end? What specific moments or revelations really shifted your view of her?
2. The novel is full of characters who put on a facade. Discuss the different ways characters like Nora, Fritz, and even some of the secondary figures (like the other wealthy wives) present themselves versus who they truly are. What do these facades reveal about the pressures of their society?
3. Fritz's character is quite complex. Did you find him a sympathetic character at any point, or was your opinion of him consistently negative (or positive)? How did the authors use his character to explore themes of power and manipulation?
4. Este's character offers a different perspective on the world Nora enters. Este's relationship with Nora is special; she is a true friend. Did you at any time doubt her loyalty to Nora? What did you like or dislike most about her and their relationship?
5. Constance, Will's ex-wife, is a formidable presence in the novel. How did Constance's history with Will and her interactions with Nora impact your understanding of Nora's place in Will's life? Did you find Constance to be a sympathetic character at all, or primarily an antagonist to Nora?
6. How would you describe the relationship between Mia (Will's daughter) and Nora? Did they form a genuine bond? Did her mother, Constance, approve of Nora having a relationship with Mia?
7. If you could ask one character a question about their motivations or their future after the book ends, who would it be, and what would you ask? Why do you feel their perspective is particularly important to understand the overall story?
8. Marcus and Nora have a unique relationship. Do you think that they had feelings for each other? What did Nora's relationship with Marcus show about her personality? Compare Nora's relationship with Will to her relationship with Marcus.
9. What did you think of Gianna's character and her relationship with Fritz? Was she a suspect in Will's disappearance at any time for you?
10. "Happy Wife" is designed to be a suspenseful read. How would you describe the pacing of the novel, particularly in how it builds suspense and reveals information? Did the writing style and flow keep you hooked?
11. Did the authors successfully keep you guessing, or did you have a strong suspicion about the "who-done-it" relatively early on? What clues or red herrings did you find most compelling or misleading?
12. How do you interpret the significance of the title, especially concerning Nora's journey and the themes explored in the novel? Who, if anyone, truly fits the description of a "happy wife" by the book's conclusion, and what does that say about the societal expectations depicted?

Discussion questions by PrincetonBookReview.com