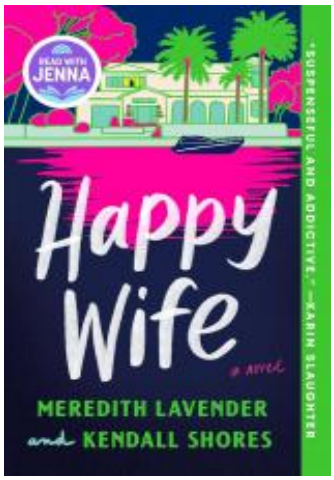
Happy Wife

by Meredith Lavender and Kendall Shores



About the Book

A young woman must find her missing husband and prove her innocence in this twisty, unputdownable novel set in an ultrawealthy Florida community where looks can kill.

Nora Davies doesn?t exactly fit in to Winter Park, Florida, where old-guard Floridians mix with the tax-fleeing coastal elite. Twenty-eight and barely making ends meet working at a country club, Nora feels like she?s going nowhere fast. Enter Will Somerset: a prominent 46-year-old lawyer, father to a teenage daughter, and recently divorced. The two set Winter Park?s social scene agog when they fall in love and marry after a whirlwind Cinderella-style courtship.

But Winter Park is fully upended when Will disappears the morning after a birthday bash Nora throws for him. Going back and forth between Nora and Will?s romance and the search in the wake of Will?s mysterious disappearance, Nora must answer the question from all angles: Where. Is. Will?

Combining breathless suspense, glittering and juicy social dynamics, and an unforgettable cast of characters, HAPPY WIFE is a clever and subversive novel that explores marriage, wealth and the secrets that lurk behind closed doors.

Discussion Guide

1. How does Nora evolve over the course of the novel, from a social outcast playing second fiddle to her prominent husband into a formidable force in Winter Park society? Can you relate to the feeling of being an outsider? Why or why not?

2. The community of Winter Park is gossipy, glamourous, insular and in many ways unattainable. Have you ever been part of, or in proximity to, a community that reminds you of Winter Park?

3. How did Nora and Will?s relationship evolve from when they first met, and what were their biggest obstacles? If he had lived, do you think they could have worked through their problems?

4. While reading, who did you suspect had killed Will, and why? Did the ending surprise you?

5. Discuss the dynamic between Constance and Nora. They have many differences, but in what ways are they similar? What did you think of their relationship by the end of the novel?

6. How does Nora?s background, as someone who grew up near wealth but never quite with it, shape her experience of Winter Park?s society? How has your own background shaped your perception of money and social status?

7. What did you think of Nora and Marcus? friendship? Do you think Nora crossed any lines by growing close to him? What do you think the future holds for them?

8. What choices made by any of the characters led to an outcome they didn?t expect? Can unexpected negative consequences of someone?s actions make them an inherently bad person?

9. Who is your favorite character in the book, and why? Who do you relate to the most?

10. After reading, what does the title of the book mean to you? Do you think Nora will be able to find happiness after the events of this novel?

Author Bio

Meredith Lavender has spent more than two decades working as a television writer. She served as showrunner/executive producer on HBO Max?s "The Flight Attendant," as well as an executive producer on "Nashville" (ABC), among other shows. Currently, she?s in development on multiple TV projects and adaptations.

Happy Wife
by Meredith Lavender and Kendall Shores

Publication Date: June 23, 2026
Genres: Domestic Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Suspense, Thriller
Paperback: 352 pages
Publisher: Bantam
ISBN-10: 0593974395
ISBN-13: 9780593974391