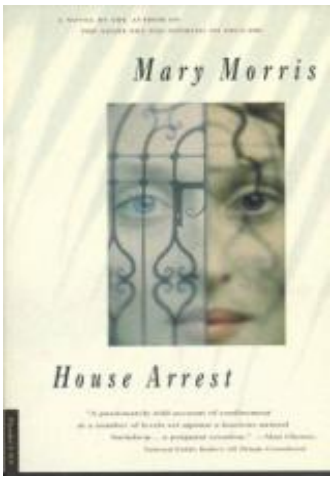
House Arrest

by Mary Morris



About the Book

House Arrest is the harrowing novel about Maggie Conover, a travel writer in a Caribbean island nation, who is placed under house arrest in her hotel after befriending the missing daughter of the nation's revolutionary leader. As Maggie is interrogated, bullied, and brought to a fever pitch of anxiety, she recalls her new friend's courage, her own troubled past, her longing for home, her daughter and family. Based on Mary Morris's own experience in Cuba, **House Arrest** is a story of both personal and political intrigue, as well as the meanings of freedom and its loss.

Discussion Guide

1. How would you describe Maggie's house arrest? Is it just political, or does it operate on another level? If so, how?

2. Morri was actually arrested in Cuba so there is an autobiographical component to this book. Where do you think the truth ends and the story begins? What clues do you have that this is the case?

3. Why do you think Morri chose to deal with this material in a novel rather than as a work of nonfiction?

4. In telling these multilayered stories of women Morri use monologues. What function do these serve?

5. La isla is based on Cuba, yet Morri never calls it Cuba. How is or isn't la isla Cuba, and why do you think Morri chose not to name it?

6. Maggie is taking a definite risk in helping Isabel. Why does she take such a risk?

7. What do the different voices contribute to how we read this story? How do they help us interpret la isla?

Author Bio

Mary Morris is the author of numerous works of fiction, including the novels THE JAZZ PALACE, A MOTHER'S LOVE and HOUSE ARREST, and of nonfiction, including the travel memoir classic NOTHING TO DECLARE: Memoirs of a Woman Traveling Alone. She is a recipient of the Rome Prize in literature and the 2016 Anisfield-Wolf Award for Fiction. Morris lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Critical Praise

"Maggie's hopes and fears, as well as those of Isabel, estranged daughter of the island's revolutionary leader, are intimately revealed, allowing us to feel the isolation and desperation that both women experience. "

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