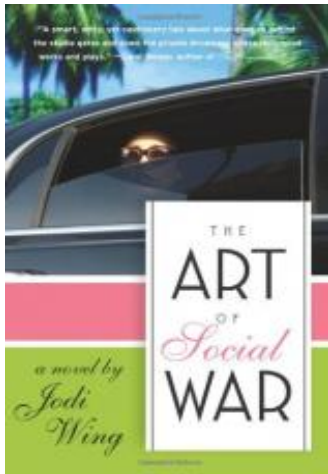


The Art of Social War

by Jodi Wing



About the Book

New York career woman Stacey Knight marries James Makepeace just as she learns he's been offered the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to run a major Hollywood studio. There's one catch: they must relocate to Los Angeles. Will Stacey be lost in translation, or will her hard-earned New York survival skills prove yet again, as Ol' Blue Eyes so often said, if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere?

The unwitting newlyweds land in a Technicolor high-stakes Social War, pursued by ruthless power brokers in the film demimonde. What's a girl to do when the promise of a glittering blockbuster future descends rapidly into film noir despair? At once seduced and repelled by the rigid caste system and predatory aspect of Hollywood life, Stacey navigates a sea of confusing social obstacles and extremely bad behavior. Empowered by 2,500-year-old military strategist Sun Tzu's **The Art of War**, Stacey takes control of the War Game and learns that they must adapt to survive and attack if they are to thrive.

Discussion Guide

1. To what extent does Stacey's comfort with her identity as a New York professional prevent her from fully embracing the possibility of life in Los Angeles with Jamey?
2. How does the behavior of the Pacificus team at Jamey and Stacey's New York wedding hint at their ability to wreak havoc on their lives in Los Angeles?
3. How does the author's Dickensian use of suggestive last names for her characters (Jamey Makepeace, Julia Mallis, Charlie Trueheart, Phil Craven) affect your appreciation of their roles in the novel?
4. How does the portrait of LA society in *The Art of Social War* compare to the everyday social encounters and

relationships in your circle?

5. Why does Stacey feel inadequate when she's among the ladies of leisure in the exclusive Los Angeles film community?

6. How does Stacey's rallying around a coyote relocation program transform her identity and others' perceptions of her?

7. How does Sun-Tzu's *The Art of War* influence Stacey in her scheme to expose Simon's misuse of corporate funds? To what extent is she successful in her efforts?

8. How does Julia Mallis's past come to haunt her in a very public way, and what roles do Barb Spurdoff and Ritzy Snippington play in her exposure? To what extent is Julia personally responsible for their retribution?

9. How do the many hardships that Stacey and Jamey have experienced make possible the exciting professional offer Stacey gets from Charlie Trueheart at the end of the novel?

10. Of the many humorous moments in this novel, which did you find most memorable or compelling, and why?

Author Bio

Jodi Wing was born and raised in New York. A graduate of Colgate University, she settled in New York City and worked in marketing and public relations. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband. **The Art of Social War** is her first novel.

Critical Praise

"The gloves are off in Jodi Wing's hilariously witty account of Hollywood's social battle ground. For anyone who has ever wondered what it really takes to make it here, **The Art of Social War** delivers a knockout punch!"

The Art of Social War

by Jodi Wing

Publication Date: November 18, 2008

Paperback: 307 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial

ISBN-10: 0061568244

ISBN-13: 9780061568244