ReadingGroupGuides
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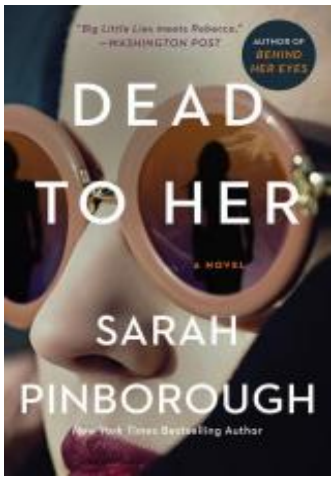
Dead to Her

by Sarah Pinborough



About the Book

For fans of Liane Moriarty, Liv Constantine and Lisa Jewell, a twisty psychological thriller about a savvy second wife who will do almost anything to come out on top from the *New York Times* bestselling author of BEHIND HER EYES.

Marriage can be murder?

SOMETHING OLD
Marcie?s affair with Jason Maddox catapulted her into the world of the elite. Old money, old ties, old secrets. Marcie may have married into this world --- but she?ll never be part of it.

SOMETHING NEW
Then Jason?s boss brings back a new wife from his trip to London. Young, attractive, reckless --- nobody can take their eyes off Keisha. Including Marcie?s husband.

SOMETHING YOU CAN NEVER, EVER UNDO?
Some people would kill for the life Marcie has. What will she do to keep it?

Discussion Guide

1. At the heart of DEAD TO HER is the subject of infidelity. At one point the statement is made: "Once a cheat, always a cheat." Discuss how the book both supports and rejects that point of view.

2. Sarah Pinborough uses a quote from Shakespeare's THE TEMPEST at the beginning of the book: "Hell is empty, and all the devils are here." Which characters in the novel best represent that statement and why?

3. Marcie is Jason Maddox's second wife and literally married into this new way of life. How did Marcie's world change when she went from mistress to wife?

4. What role does Keisha play in the story? Discuss the irony in Marcie?s reaction to another newcomer to the group. And how do the other characters feel about Keisha?

5. Marcie is angry at Jason for flirting with Keisha, and feels threatened by her, especially since Marcie believes Jason is the key to her life among the Savannah elite. Describe the steps Marcie takes to manage this situation.

6. When Keisha confesses her feelings for Marcie, the novel spins entirely in another direction. Is it possible, in this situation, for these two women to trust one another, or will their relationship become adversarial?

7. Marcie has a life some people would kill to keep. To what lengths will she go to preserve her new way of life? What is motivating her? Self-preservation, possessiveness or jealousy?

8. How did being a participant in an extramarital affair prepare Marcie for the changes in Jason? At what point do things change from love to mistrust, and why?

9. What role does the city of Savannah play in DEAD TO HER? How does the infusion of voodoo impact the novel?

10. Discuss the similarities and differences between the two main male characters in the story, Jason Maddox and William Radford, and how their behavior drives the narrative.

11. Part Two opens with a line from an old Creole song: "I walk on gilded splinters; I want to see what they can do!" How does that line suggest the action in the novel and the Southern setting?

12. Pinborough wrote a number of horror novels early in her career. Although DEAD TO HER is more psychological in nature, where in the narrative do you see examples of Pinborough stepping back into her old literary wheelhouse?

Author Bio

Sarah Pinborough is the award-winning, *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of such novels as BEHIND HER EYES 13 MINUTES. She lives in London.

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