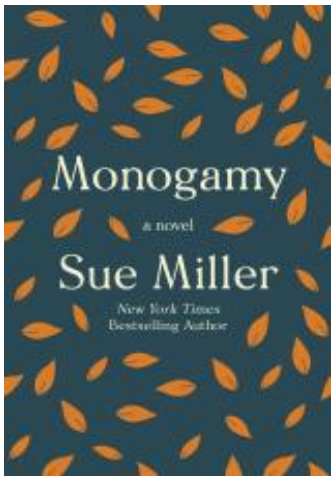
Monogamy

by Sue Miller



About the Book

A brilliantly insightful, engrossing and haunting novel --- about marriage, love, family, happiness and sorrow --- from *New York Times* bestselling author Sue Miller.

Graham and Annie have been married for nearly 30 years. A golden couple, their seemingly effortless devotion has long been the envy of their circle of friends and acquaintances.

Graham is a bookseller, a big, gregarious man with large appetites --- curious, eager to please, a lover of life, and the convivial host of frequent, lively parties at his and Annie?s comfortable house in Cambridge. Annie, more reserved and introspective, is a photographer. She is about to have her first gallery show after a six-year lull and is worried that the best years of her career may be behind her. They have two adult children. Lucas, Graham?s son with his first wife, Frieda, works in New York. Annie and Graham?s daughter, Sarah, lives in San Francisco. Though Frieda is an integral part of this far-flung, loving family, Annie feels confident in the knowledge that she is Graham?s last and greatest love.

When Graham suddenly dies --- this man whose enormous presence has seemed to dominate their lives together --- Annie is lost. What is the point of going on, she wonders, without him?

Then, while she is still mourning him intensely, she discovers that Graham had been unfaithful to her. She spirals into darkness, wondering if she ever truly knew the man who loved her.

Discussion Guide

1. Graham and Annie are very different people. What attracts them to each other?

2. Do you think they have a good marriage?

3. Graham is portrayed as a gregarious, likable person. Does his infidelity influence or change your opinion of him?

4. One underlying theme of the novel is the preservation of self in a committed relationship. Do you think Annie sacrifices her identity to this marriage? Does Graham give up anything?

5. Annie is a photographer. What does this choice of profession tell us about her?

6. Discuss Annie?s relationship with her daughter, Sarah. Do you think their relationship changes or evolves over the years? Do you think they are giving each other what they need, either as a mother-daughter relationship or otherwise?

7. Sarah says Annie is ?unreadable.? Would you agree?

8. Contrast Graham and Annie?s marriage with the marriage of Lucas and Jeanne. How do you account for the differences?

9. What did you make of Annie?s reaction when she found Graham dead beside her in bed?

10. When we learn unpleasant truths about those who have died, how do we process that information and come to terms with our conflicted memories?

11. For a time, Annie focuses on the memories of her childhood friend, Sofie Kahn. What does this tell us about what she is going through?

12. What do you think of Annie?s relationship with Graham?s ex-wife, Frieda.

13. How does the reunion between Annie and Ian Pedersen drive the final outcome of the novel? What does Annie gain or lose from the encounter?

14. Do you think the title ?Monogamy? is meant to be emblematic or ironic?

Author Bio

Sue Miller is the bestselling author of MONOGAMY, THE ARSONIST, WHILE I WAS GONE, THE DISTINGUISHED GUEST, FOR LOVE, FAMILY PICTURES, INVENTING THE ABBOTTS and THE GOOD MOTHER. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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