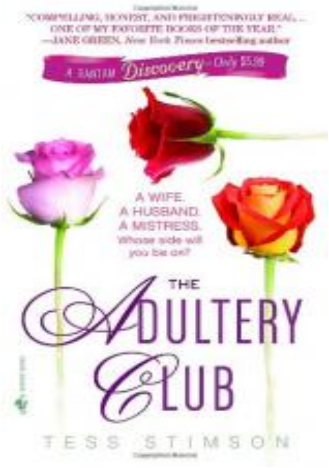
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

The Adultery Club

by Tess Stimson



About the Book

Nicholas Lyon is the perfect husband --- a handsome divorce attorney who dotes on his family. Sara Kaplan is the perfect seductress --- a vivacious young lawyer unburdened by sexual scruples. And Malinche Lyon is the perfect wife --- a beautiful cookbook writer and mother to three darling daughters. Now, in this smart, wickedly sexy novel, Nick, Sara, and Malinche are all about to join?**The Adultery Club**.

Suddenly Nicholas --- a man totally in love with his wife --- is fantasizing about Sara. Sara is toying with Nick. And Malinche is facing temptations of her own. While appetites are whetted and sated from London to the English countryside, one heretofore happily married man and two very different women are about to discover the difference between fulfilling your wildest desires --- and getting your just deserts.

Discussion Guide

1. Consider the trio of voices the author uses in the narrative. How would the novel have been different if the story were told from only one character?s point of view?

2. ?It?s not that I have a particular moral thing about affairs with married men, though it?s not something I?d shout from the rooftops. But at the end of the day, *they?re* the ones cheating, not you,? (chapter 2). Discuss Sara, specifically her belief stated here. Do you agree that because she?s not married, she?s not doing anything wrong by having an affair with a man who is?

3. ?I?m shocked. I would never have thought?he doesn?t seem the type,? (chapter 2). What did you think of Nicholas? Did you expect he?d be capable of cheating on Malinche? Are there clues or traits about a man that suggest he might cheat?

4. Does Kit?s friendship hurt or help Malinche? Why does Nicholas dislike him so much?

5. Sara asserts, ?A man who cheats *with* you will cheat *on* you,? (chapter 2). Nicholas muses, ?Is there a gene to infidelity, like those for red hair or big feet?? (chapter 13). For a man, is it a foregone conclusion that once he cheats, it?s something he?s destined to do again and again?

6. ?I don?t want this. I love my wife. *I love my wife*,? (chapter 7). Why do you think Nicholas ultimately gives in to Sara?

7. As she witnesses the daughter of a family neighbor hitting on her father, Sara disparages Libby as being a ?little tart? and a ?homewrecker? (chapter 5). Why is Sara not able to turn such a similar, and harsh, spotlight on herself?

8. ?Men give love to get sex?Women give sex to get love. There?s your battle of the sexes right there,? (chapter 11). Is lust purely a man?s domain, while love is a woman?s?

9. ?Kit, I kissed another man! And what?s worse, I *enjoyed* it!? (chapter 12). Countering Malinche?s self-pity, Kit argues that kissing does not constitute adultery; sex is the line to be crossed. What do you think; is one of these acts a bigger betrayal than the other?

10. Discuss Malinche?s renewed relationship with Trace, especially the timing of it. In your opinion, did her actions constitute adultery?

11. What do you think of the ending? Was it a surprise? Did you wish the book ended differently?

12. Answer the question the book?s subtitle poses: ?A wife. A husband. A mistress. Whose side will you be on??

Author Bio

Tess Stimon is the author of three previous novels and one biography, and writes regularly for UK newspapers and women?s magazines. Born and brought up in Sussex, England, she graduated from Oxford University before spending a number of years working in Europe, Cyprus, and Lebanon as a TV news producer with ITN (UK) and CNN. She now lives in Florida with her American husband, their daughter and two sons.

Critical Praise

?With stiletto-sharp wit, Stimson unfolds a love triangle from all three points of view.?

The Adultery Club

by Tess Stimson

Publication Date: January 29, 2008
Mass Market Paperback: 400 pages
Publisher: Bantam Discovery
ISBN-10: 0553591401
ISBN-13: 9780553591408