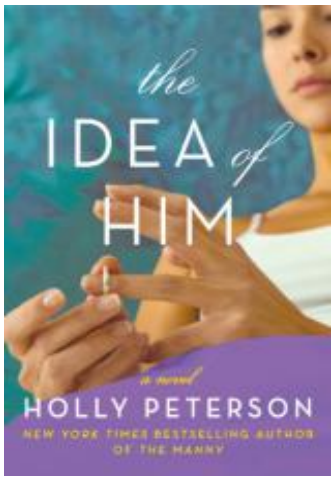
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The Idea of Him

by Holly Peterson



About the Book

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE MANNY --- a vibrant novel of love, life lessons, and learning to trust yourself

Allie Crawford has the life she always dreamed of --- she's number two at a high-profile P.R. firm; she has two kids she adores; and her husband is a blend of handsome and heroic. Wade is everything she thought a man was supposed to be --- he's running a successful newsmagazine and, best of all, he provides the stable yet exciting New York City life Allie believes she needs in order to feel secure and happy.

But when Allie finds Wade locked in their laundry room with a stunning blonde in snakeskin sandals, a scandal ensues that flips her life on its head. And when the woman wants to befriend Allie, an old flame calls, and a new guy gets a little too close for comfort, she starts to think her marriage is more of a facade than something real. Maybe she's fallen in love not with Wade, but with the idea of him.

Captivating and seductive, told in the whip-smart voice of a woman who is working hard to keep her parenting and career on track, THE IDEA OF HIM is a novel of conspiracy, intrigue and intense passion --- and discovering your greatest strength through your deepest fears.

Discussion Guide

1. At the age of 16, Allie Crawford loses her father in a plane crash. How does this profound loss affect Allie?s adult relationships? What do the men in Allie?s life have in common?

2. Allie Crawford is a busy working mother of two. What do you think drew her to her husband, Wade? Why do you think she never pursued her screenwriting?

3. When brainstorming with classmate Tommy, Allie is forced to reflect on her past with James: ??my life was all about what began that night. It was that night, under the elms?that I first understood what love must be like. Something you can?t help but feel. Something I would spend decades trying to run from, or desperately searching for in places it didn?t exist.? (p.122-123) Why then do you think a romantic relationship between Allie and her childhood friend, James, never materialized?

4. When coworker Caitlin asks Allie if Wade still ?rocked her world,? she didn?t quite know how to respond: ?This was the seminal questions of the day I wasn?t ready for. It literally stung?*How and when did he rock my world?Was I just wanting and needing to rock his so much I don?t even know the answer??* (p.73) Why did Caitlin?s question ?sting??

5. Can you relate to Allie?s hectic juggling act between home, work and romantic relationships? What areas does she excel in, and where do you think she may be falling short? Do you think her marriage to Wade is an equitable one?

6. Why do you think Allie ignores her instincts and trusts in Jackie Malone? Do you have any inkling of Jackie?s real connection to Murray?

7. There?s an old saying, ?The more things change, the more they stay the same.? You could say the problems Allie is dealing with are not unlike those of a Jane Austen heroine. In what way are they similar? How are things easier for a woman of today? How are they more difficult?

8. Were you satisfied by the ending? Which reveal surprised you the most?

9. Do you think falling for the ?idea of him? is a strictly feminine trap, or do you think men also fall prey to the idea of a partner rather than the reality?

10. Author Holly Peterson worked at ABC News for more than a decade before becoming a novelist. Do you think her time as a journalist informed her writing? In what way?

11. This is Peterson?s second novel. Have you read her first novel, THE MANNY? If not, after reading THE IDEA OF HIM, are you eager to read more of her work? (You can learn more about the author on her website.)

12. What are some of your other favorite novels that deal with all that modern women have to manage?

Author Bio

Holly Peterson is the author of the May 2017 social satire fiction release, IT HAPPENS IN THE HAMPTONS. In 2016, she curated an outdoor cooking book, ASSOULINE'S SMOKE AND FIRE: Recipes and Menus for Outdoor Entertaining. In 2014, she published THE IDEA OF HIM and the *New York Times* bestseller THE MANNY in 2007. She was a Contributing Editor for *Newsweek*, an Editor-at-Large for *Talk* magazine, and an Emmy Award-winning

Producer for ABC News, where she spent more than a decade covering everthing from trials of the century to global politics. Her writing has been published in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Town and Country*, *The Daily Beast*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle Decor*, *Departures* and numerous other publications.

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Publication Date: April 1, 2014
Genres: Fiction
Paperback: 384 pages
Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks
ISBN-10: 0062283103
ISBN-13: 9780062283108