ReadingGroupGuides
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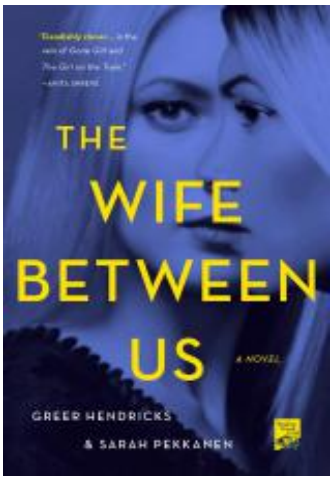
The Wife Between Us

by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen



About the Book

When you read this book, you will make many assumptions.

You will assume you are reading about a jealous ex-wife.

You will assume she is obsessed with her replacement --- a beautiful, younger woman who is about to marry the man they both love.

You will assume you know the anatomy of this tangled love triangle.

Assume nothing.

Twisted and deliciously chilling, Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen's THE WIFE BETWEEN US exposes the secret complexities of an enviable marriage --- and the dangerous truths we ignore in the name of love.

Read between the lies.

Discussion Guide

1. On page 7, Samantha asks Nellie one of the defining questions of the novel: ?Ever think he?s too good to be true?? At what point did you start to think that Sam might be right, and Richard might actually be too good to be true?

2. What do you think is the significance of Vanessa?s new job at an upscale clothing store? How might it affect her to still be in the upper class world she once occupied, but in a much different role? Compare and contrast her experience there to her previous job as a teacher.

3. Throughout the novel, Aunt Charlotte and Vanessa have an extremely close relationship, even when Vanessa struggles to be honest with her aunt. How do you see this relationship affecting the choices Vanessa makes? Is there someone in your family with whom you have a similar bond?

4. When did you realize who Vanessa, Nellie and Emma actually are? How did this new understanding shape your experience of the rest of the story, and how do you think it will affect your experience if you reread the novel?

5. On page 162, Vanessa says, ?I guess I thought marrying Richard would erase my concerns. But my old anxieties simply yielded to new ones.? Do you think that that is a common misconception about entering into a marriage? If so, why do you think so many men and women believe this?

6. THE WIFE BETWEEN US asks difficult questions about how much someone?s past can explain or excuse their behavior. What?s your opinion? Did getting to know more about Vanessa?s or Richard?s backstory help to explain or justify their choices at all?

7. The theme of sight --- foresight, hindsight and even real, physical eyesight --- is wound throughout the entire novel. Maggie, the young sorority pledge, repeatedly says, ?I hate it when I can?t see.? Do you think that anyone in this novel could (or should) have been able to see more clearly the consequences of their actions? Do you believe in the old saying, ?Hindsight is 20/20??

8. Did the end of the novel leave you questioning who was really calling the shots and who had a full picture of what was going on? Which character do you think was truly orchestrating the events that were set into action --- or was there more than one person responsible? Why do you believe this?

Author Bio

Greer Hendricks is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling co-author (with Sarah Pekkanen) of THE WIFE BETWEEN US, AN ANONYMOUS GIRL, YOU ARE NOT ALONE and THE GOLDEN COUPLE. Prior to becoming a novelist, she obtained her master?s degree in journalism at Columbia and spent two decades as an editor at Simon & Schuster. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Allure*, *Publishers Weekly* and other publications. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and two children.

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