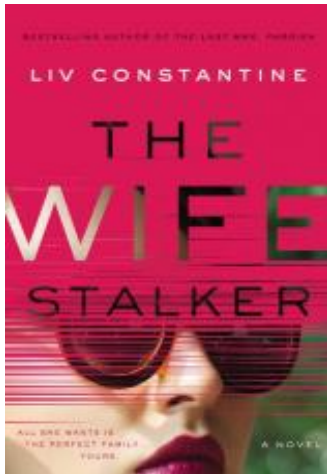


The Wife Stalker

by Liv Constantine



About the Book

The bestselling author of *THE LAST MRS. PARRISH* returns with a psychological thriller, filled with chilling serpentine twists, about a woman fighting to hold onto the only family she's ever loved --- and how far she'll go to preserve it.

Breezing into the tony seaside paradise of Westport, Connecticut, gorgeous thirtysomething Piper Reynard sets down roots, opening a rehab and wellness space and joining a local yacht club. When she meets Leo Drakos, a handsome, successful lawyer, the wedding ring on his finger is the only thing she doesn't like about him. Yet as Piper well knows, no marriage is permanent.

Meanwhile, Joanna has been waiting patiently for Leo, the charismatic man she fell in love with all those years ago, to re-emerge from the severe depression that has engulfed him. Though she's thankful when Leo returns to his charming, energetic self, paying attention again to Evie and Stelli, the children they both love beyond measure, Joanna is shocked to discover that it's not her loving support that's sparked his renewed happiness --- it's something else.

Piper. Leo has fallen head over heels for the flaky, New Age-y newcomer, and unrepentant and resolute, he's more than willing to leave Joanna behind, along with everything they've built. *Of course*, he assures her, *she can still see the children.*

Joanna is devastated --- and determined to find something, anything, to use against this woman who has stolen her life and her true love. As she digs deeper into Piper's past, Joanna begins to unearth disturbing secrets...but when she confides to her therapist that she fears for the lives of her ex-husband and children, her concerns are dismissed as paranoia. Can she find the proof she needs in time to save them?

Discussion Guide

1. How does Joanna try to help Leo through his depression? Do you think that someone is ever able to guide another person out of this kind of experience?
2. What do you think it was that attracted Leo to Piper in the first place? Is it ever acceptable to get involved with someone who's married or in a relationship, or to step outside the bounds of a marriage yourself?
3. Do you think Joanna overreacts or under-reacts when Piper comes into their lives?
4. Joanna and Piper's ideas about children and childrearing seem to differ greatly. Whose approach do you relate to more?
5. How do the coastal settings in Westport and Maine serve to highlight the tension in the novel?
6. Would you consider Piper a perfectionist? Do you think she could have handled her relationship with Stelli differently and gotten off on a better foot?
7. How much do you think Joanna's upbringing affected her future relationships? Do you think we are doomed to repeat or react to the patterns set in our early childhood?
8. Is Leo right to seek to cut off Joanna's access to the children, based on his understanding of what happened at the beach?
9. Could Leo have tapped into the emotional drama surrounding him more effectively, or seen the signs of danger? Do you believe women are more attuned to those sorts of signals than men?
10. Do you think Leo's family prejudged Piper or judged her too harshly? What are some of the prejudices and beliefs that might make us rush to judgment about a person?
11. How does Liv Constantine use two different points of view to advance the story and your understanding of these characters? What does the first person versus third person narrative do for your feeling about Joanna and about Piper?
12. What did you think of the twist at the end of the novel? Did you see it coming?

Author Bio

Liv Constantine is the pseudonym of Lynne Constantine, an Edgar® Award-nominated, *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author. She is the co-author of *THE LAST MRS. PARRISH*, a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick, and her critically acclaimed books have been praised by the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, the *Sunday Times*, *People* magazine and "Good Morning America," among many others, with more than two million copies sold worldwide. Her work has been translated into 29 languages, is available in 34 countries, and is in development for both

television and film. When she's not writing, you can find her curled up with her Labrador and golden retriever, reading a good book or binge-watching the latest limited series.

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