

BOOK CLUB KIT



A CONVERSATION WITH KIMBERLY MCCREIGHT

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR MOST RECENT NOVEL?

Being married for 18 years myself and surrounded by so many friends who've been married for a similar length of time, inspired the core themes of *A Good Marriage*. I've long marveled at how different each marriage seems. Some couples still hold hands, some banter playfully, others fight openly—and yet most would probably say they are happy. But could they all possibly be? There isn't a simple answer to this question, especially when you reflect on which marriages survive and which do not. And because every relationship is so different, you can't know the truth of it unless you're living inside it.

Other aspects of the story were inspired by my fifteen years of living in Park Slope, Brooklyn—a place that I love—and the fact that I'm a recovered alcoholic. Also, the book is a true combination of domestic suspense and a legal thriller. I was excited to finally put my legal education to good use!

WHAT CHARACTER DO YOU MOST RELATE TO AND WHY?

Lizzie, the main character in *A Good Marriage*, is most like me on a fundamental level, though the details of her life—her marriage especially—are very different. But there is a small part of me in most of my characters. Which, come to think of it, is a little frightening.

The irony of Lizzie being the character I most relate to is that she was also the hardest to write. When a character is like me, I have a tendency to under-explain motivations and emotional responses. Because I understand them so intimately, I assume they will be self-evident to everyone. I worked hard to create enough distance between Lizzie and I so that she could be fully developed in her own right. She isn't me, not really. I just had to work extra hard to let her be herself.

DISCUSSION QUESTION WHAT MAKES A GOOD MARRIAGE?

WHAT ARE YOUR WRITING RITUALS?

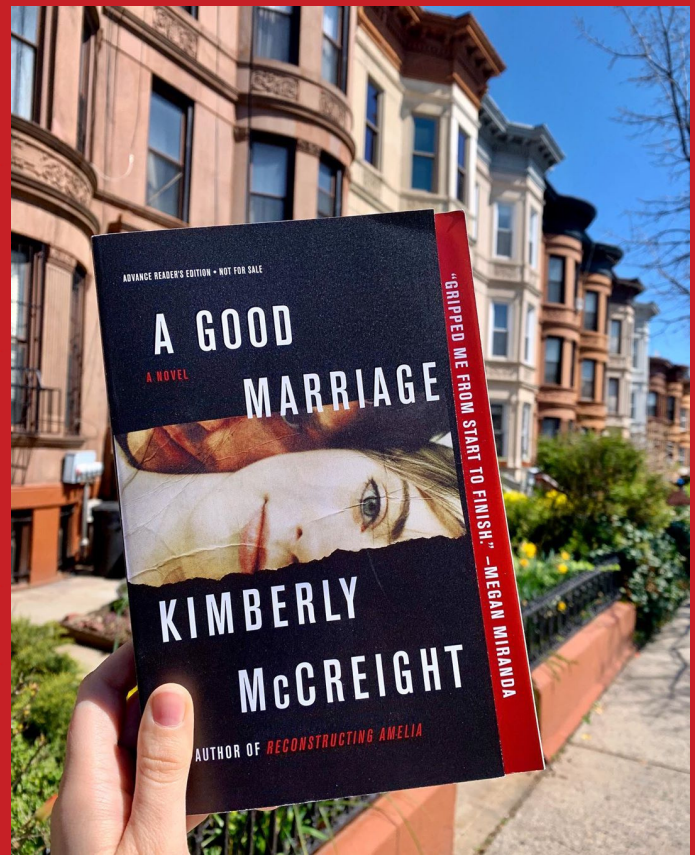
Too many to count! Mostly they involve a rigid writing schedule and daily word counts—which vary depending on where I am in the process. Having clear structure to my writing day, especially when I have a whole new book to write in front of me, is how I avoid feeling overwhelmed. I treat writing very much like any other job—I get up, get dressed and leave the house at the same time in the morning every day. I work at The Brooklyn Writer's space, where I'm really attached to one specific desk. That can get complicated because each day is luck of the draw. Each day, I cross my fingers the whole walk there.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

WHAT DOES BEING "HAPPILY MARRIED" MEAN?

WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD THRILLER?

For me, the most compelling thrillers are character driven. That way the twists and turns of a story are satisfying on an emotional level, as opposed to simply a complex mental puzzle—though the puzzle part has to be really good, too! Because that's what I enjoy as a reader, I try to strike the same balance in my own books. I want readers to be genuinely surprised by the ending, but not utterly blindsided. Readers should be able to look back and realize they could have seen an ending coming, but did not.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU IN THE BOOK WORLD?

Hard at work on my next book! It's a thriller about a group of troubled Vassar grads, reuniting a decade after graduation. They head upstate from New York City with the best of intentions, but the weekend ends tragically when old secrets resurface and violence erupts.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

DO YOU BELIEVE IN WHITE LIES?

INTERESTED IN HAVING KIMBERLY MCCREIGHT ATTEND YOUR VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB?
CONTACT HER AT KIMBERLYMCCREIGHT.COM/WP/CONTACT/

DID YOU KNOW NICOLE KIDMAN AND BLOSSOM FILMS ARE ALREADY WORKING ON AN ADAPTATION OF *A GOOD MARRIAGE* FOR AMAZON STUDIOS?



WHO WOULD YOU CAST?

LIZZIE PLAYED BY _____

AMANDA PLAYED BY _____

ZACH PLAYED BY _____

SAM PLAYED BY _____

KERRY PLAYED BY _____

SARAH PLAYED BY _____

MAUDE PLAYED BY _____

SEBE PLAYED BY _____

DISCUSSION QUESTION

DO YOU THINK YOU EVER
COMPLETELY KNOW A PERSON?