Reading Guide

ANOTHER WOMAN'S HUSBAND William Morrow Paperbacks

By Gill Paul ISBN: 9780062843265

Introduction



From the bestselling author of *The Secret Wife*, as the world mourns the loss of a beloved princess, one young woman uncovers a forgotten story of passion, betrayal and a scandal surrounding the English crown.

As the world mourns the loss of Diana, Princess of Wales, one young woman uncovers a forgotten story of passion, betrayal, and a scandal surrounding the British crown in this unforgettable novel.

Two women who challenged the Crown.

Divided by time. Bound by a secret...

1911: When fifteen-year-old Mary Kirk meets Wallis Warfield at summer camp, she's immediately captivated by her fearless, brazen, and self-assured personality. She steadfastly stands by her side—even years later when they're adults and rumors swirl about Wallis and her reckless behavior with none other than the Prince of Wales. But when Mary's loyalty to Wallis comes into question, their friendship will be put to the ultimate test.

1997: After a romantic proposal in Paris, Rachel and her fiancé Alex are in a cab when suddenly the car ahead crashes. They're stunned to learn Princess Diana is in the car. Haunted by the crash and Diana's subsequent death, Rachel is intrigued when she discovers that Di had visited the last home of Wallis, the Duchess of Windsor, only hours before the accident. Eventually, the revelation of a long-forgotten link to Wallis Simpson leads Rachel to the truth behind a scandal that shook the world...

Questions for Discussion

1. "Diana Syndrome," the huge numbers of people who openly mourned the princess's death and felt psychologically affected by it, is now a matter of historical record. Do you think it changed the popular ethos, making it more acceptable for men in particular to show emotion?

2. Eighty-five percent of British people polled in the months after the crash thought there was a conspiracy involved, so Alex was not alone. Do you think there was anything odd about the events in the Alma Tunnel that remains unexplained today?

3. This novel mentions some living people who were affected by Diana's death—in particular, her sons. Do you think it does so respectfully? Is it acceptable for a novelist to write about people who are still alive? Are there any circumstances in which it would not be?

4. Wallis has generally had bad press since the abdication crisis. Do you think there was misogyny involved? Would it have been different if it had been a divorced man whom a female heir to the throne fell in love with? How does her portrayal in this novel compare with others you may have seen in films or nonfiction accounts?

5. Were you sympathetic toward Mary Kirk in the novel? She did have an affair with her best friend's husband, after all. Do you think she was justified?

6. Female friendship is a theme of the novel, explored through Wallis and Mary's relationship and, to a lesser extent, that of Rachel and Nicola. Friendships mutate over the years and can be challenged when the balance of power changes. Have you had any experience with this? Did you find the novel's friendships convincing?

7. How did the linking of the two plots work for you? In timeslip novels, there is often a direct family relationship linking the historical and modern plots, but here Wallis and Diana were linked only because they married into the same family. Does this matter?

8. Do you think Wallis and Diana would have gotten along with each other if they had been contemporaries?

9. What do you think of Alex and Rachel's relationship? Were you rooting for them? Did you think one or both of them were being unreasonable?

10. Which of the settings in the novel stood out the most for you? If you could travel back in time to one of the novel's locations, which would you choose?