

Reading Guide

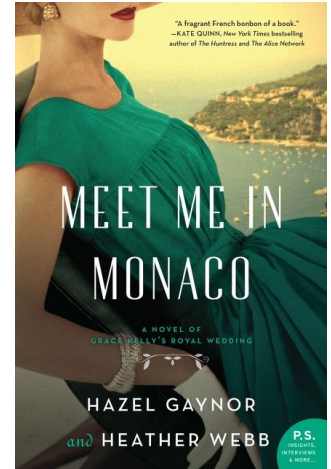
Meet Me in Monaco

William Morrow Paperbacks

By Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb
ISBN: 9780062885364

Introduction

Set in the 1950s against the backdrop of Grace Kelly's whirlwind romance and unforgettable wedding to Prince Rainier of Monaco, New York Times bestselling author Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb take the reader on an evocative sun-drenched journey along the Côte d'Azur in this page-turning novel of passion, fate and second chances...



Movie stars and paparazzi flock to Cannes for the glamorous film festival, but Grace Kelly, the biggest star of all, wants only to escape from the flash-bulbs. When struggling perfumer Sophie Duval shelters Miss Kelly in her boutique to fend off a persistent British press photographer, James Henderson, a bond is forged between the two women and sets in motion a chain of events that stretches across thirty years of friendship, love, and tragedy.

James Henderson cannot forget his brief encounter with Sophie Duval. Despite his guilt at being away from his daughter, he takes an assignment to cover the wedding of the century, sailing with Grace Kelly's wedding party on the SS Constitution from New York. In Monaco, as wedding fever soars and passions and tempers escalate, James and Sophie—like Princess Grace—must ultimately decide what they are prepared to give up for love.

Questions for Discussion

1. There's something about iconic women who are surrounded by tragedy. What is it about them that captivates us? What other women whose lives were shrouded in tragic circumstances have fascinated you over the years?
2. Do you believe Grace Kelly gave up too much to marry Prince Rainier? Would you have followed your heart and done the same, or would you have chosen a different path?
3. Scent is closely associated with memory. Can you think of a time you smelled a fragrance that whisked you away to a moment in your past? What scents transport you, typically?

4. The paparazzi was just becoming rampant in the 1950s. Would you say their coverage has changed in the last seventy years? How so? What would you consider appropriate versus inappropriate news to report? Have you been a consumer of paparazzi photos and articles?
5. *Meet Me in Monaco* focuses on Grace Kelly's life from first meeting Prince Rainier to her tragic death in 1982. Which aspects of her story especially surprised you, or resonated with you?
6. Grace and Rainier were said to be charmed by each other during their first meeting and got to know each other through the letters they wrote in the following months. Do you believe in love at first sight?
7. Many relationships come with a sacrifice, and James and Sophie's relationship is far from straightforward. How did you respond to their blossoming romance?
8. Both James's and Sophie's lives change dramatically after their interactions with Grace. Have you ever met a celebrity, or do you know anyone who has? If so, what happened?
9. Grace Kelly's wedding is still remembered as one of the most iconic events in modern times. Her wedding dress also regularly tops the list of most beautiful wedding gowns. Have you watched any modern royal weddings, such as those of Kate Middleton and Prince William, or Meghan Markle and Prince Harry? Why do you think we are so fascinated with royalty and celebrity?
10. The Golden Age of Hollywood left us with an incredible legacy of women whose style, elegance, and newsworthy lifestyles have captured our imaginations for decades. Which Hollywood stars—living or dead—would you invite to a dinner party, and why?