

## Bookworm

Harper Perennial

By Robin Yeatman

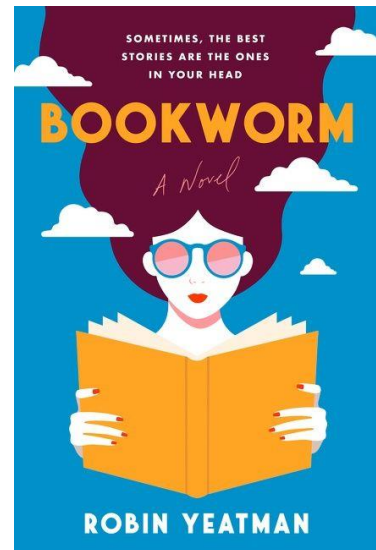
ISBN: 9780063273009

### Introduction

Victoria is unhappily married to an ambitious and controlling lawyer consumed with his career. Burdened with overbearing in-laws, a boring dead-end job she can't seem to leave, and a best friend who doesn't seem to understand her, Victoria finds solace from the daily grind in her beloved books and the stories she makes up in her head. One day, in a favorite café, she notices an attractive man reading the same talked-about bestselling novel that she is reading. A woman yearning for her own happy ending, Victoria is sure it's fate. The handsome book lover must be her soul mate.

There's only one small problem. Victoria is already married. Frustrated, and desperate to change her life, Victoria retreats to the dark places in her mind and thinks back to all the stories she's ever read in hopes of finding a solution. She begins to fantasize about nocturnal trysts with café man, and imaginative ways (poisoned pickles were an inspired choice in Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres*) of getting rid of the dread husband.

It's all just harmless fantasy born of Victoria's fevered imagination and her books—until, one night, fiction and reality blur and suddenly it seems Victoria is about to get everything she's wished for . . . .



### Questions for Discussion

1. What role does reading play in Victoria's life? How do the books she reads inform her decisions? What do they tell you about her personality?
2. Are there scenes from books you've read that come back to you the way they come back to Victoria? Which ones?
3. How accurate do you think Victoria's imaginings are about the people she sees?

4. Victoria escapes from her unhappiness by fantasizing about a better relationship, as well as the demise of her husband. Do you think this is healthy or harmful?
  
5. What kind of affect do you think Victoria's parents have had on her, for better or worse?
  
6. Why is it so difficult for Victoria to just leave her marriage?
  
7. Do you think Victoria is a reliable narrator?
  
8. What has kept Holly and Victoria's friendship intact for so long?
  
9. What future do you see for Victoria at the end? Does she have a chance at happiness?