

The Other Mrs. Discussion Questions

by Mary Kubica

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & website)

Mary Kubica, a former high school history teacher, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in History and American Literature. She lives outside of Chicago with her husband and two children and enjoys photography, gardening and caring for the animals at a local shelter.



Characters:

- **Sadie Foust** – (39) – Doctor works at medical clinic in Maine. Husband is Will. 2 children – Tate (7) and Otto (14). Just moved to Maine to take care of orphaned niece, Imogen. Family used to live in Chicago. In Chicago, she resigned before she could get a charge of negligence on her medical record.
- **Alice** – Will's sister. Imogen's mother. Had fibromyalgia and was in intense pain. Committed suicide by hanging. Left everything to Will.
- **Courtney Baines** – Jeffrey Baine's ex-wife. School Superintendent. Has a daughter (6) with Jeffrey.
- **Jeffrey Baines** – Foust's neighbor. Morgan Baine's husband. Was overseas when his wife was murdered. Has a daughter (6) from a previous marriage. Ex-wife is Courtney.
- **Morgan Baines** – (28) – Neighbor on top of hill. Murdered. Stabbed. Found by step-daughter (6). Husband, Jeffrey, is away on business during the murder.
- **Officer Berg** – Officer investigating Morgan Baines' murder.
- **Camille** – Sadie's old roommate. Master manipulator. Will pulled her out of the way of being hit by a taxi. How Will met Sadie. Camille is having an affair with Will.
- **Emma** – Medical clinic's receptionist.
- **Erin** – Will's 1st fiancé. Died when she was 19 in a car accident. She drowned.
- **Fake Mom** – The woman who comes to live with Mouse and her father.
- **Otto Foust** – (14) – Sadie and Will's older son. Quiet. Likes to draw. Was bullied at his last school in Chicago.
- **Tate Foust** – (7) – Sadie and Will's younger son.
- **Will Foust** – (40) – Adjust professor teaching Human Ecology 3 days a week. Stay at home dad rest of week. Wife is Sadie. Has 2 children – Otto and Tate. Inherited house in Maine and custody of 16-year old niece, Imogen, after his sister's suicide. Had an affair.
- **Imogen** – (16) – Goth. Mother, Alice, committed suicide. Her Uncle Will has been given guardianship of her. He and his family have moved to Maine to take care of her.

- **Joyce** – (65) – Head nurse at the clinic.
- **Carrie Laemmer** – College student. One of Will's students. Pre-law. Wants to be an environmental lawyer. From Boston.
- **Mouse** – Little girl. Her nickname is Mouse (given to her by her father.) Loves Salerno Butter Cookies and animals.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Nilsson** – Older couple that lives across the street from the Fousts. Poppy is in a wheelchair. Husband is George. They often go on walks throughout the day.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. What is the significance of the title, **The Other Mrs.**? Who do you think the title referred to? Did your thinking change at different parts of the story?
3. This story is told from the point of view of multiple people. Did it work? Did seeing the story through different points of view help your understanding of the story? Why or why not?
4. How does the isolated setting play into the novel? In what ways does it compound the circumstances in the story and Sadie's state of mind?
5. What do you think of Sadie's relationships with Otto and Tate? How do you think her experiences from the past shaped her approach to motherhood?
6. Were you surprised when the perspective shifted to the Camille character? What about Mouse? What did you think about Camille & Mouse at first? Did your opinion change throughout the novel?
7. Discuss the characters of Sadie, Camille, and Mouse. How does each perspective enhance the story?
8. What do you think about the relationship between Mouse, her father, and Fake Mom? What indications were there that something was wrong? Do you think Mouse's father should have known what was going on?
9. Sadie and Will's son, Otto, was bullied in the school in Chicago and got caught with a knife. The family moved to Maine shortly thereafter. What did you think of this addition to the story? How did the situation play into Sadie's paranoia?
10. Discuss the storyline revolving around Imogen and her mother, Alice. Who do you think is ultimately responsible for Alice's death? Why?
11. The relationship between Imogen and Sadie is fraught. How did that relationship affect the story? What do you think about the way the story ended between the two?
12. Does Sadie give her children the right amount of independence? What parenting advice would you give her? How do you reconcile protecting your children with giving them independence?

13. The big twist revolves around Sadie and her mental illness. Did you see this coming? What were some of the hints the author gave that Sadie suffered from this?
14. Did you initially think Will was a good husband? When did you start to suspect that there was some sinister about him? Do you think he ever truly loved Sadie?
15. It turns out that Will manipulated Sadie's condition and had her commit several crimes. What did you think as you read this reveal? Do you think Sadie is culpable for her crimes? Is Will?
16. What do you think about what happened to Morgan? Did you guess who the killer was? What about the motive?
17. Who do you think is the villain of the story? Who is the hero? Why?
18. What did you think about the ending and how the story wrapped up for Sadie, Imogen, and Sadie's kids?
19. Mary wrote in her author's note: "Mental illness affects forty-six million Americans each year. In **The Other Mrs.**, Sadie is a victim of cruel manipulation by those seeking to take advantage of her illness, and in the end she is empowered to seize control and ultimately to seek the help she needs. It is my hope that we, as a society, will continue to bring awareness to this important issue and that in the future, we will place greater emphasis on ensuring those in need have access to proper care and treatment." What do you think about this statement?
20. Netflix plans to turn **The Other Mrs.** into a feature film. What do you expect to see in the movie? Do you think there will be any changes to the story?
21. Mary Kubica has written other books. Will you read them?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/k/mary-kubica/>
- Mary Kubica website – <https://marykubica.com/>
- Novelist – <https://web-p-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.clevnet.org/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=8a18a237-12c8-4d6f-92c0-9f87ad99626d%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#UI=10843161&db=neh>

Mary Kubica's Books

Stand Alone Novels

- The Good Girl (2014)
 - Pretty Baby (2015)
 - Don't You Cry (2016)
 - Every Last Lie (2017)
 - When the Lights Go Out (2018)
 - The Other Mrs. (2019)
 - Local Woman Missing (2021)
 - Just the Nicest Couple (2023)
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If you liked The Other Mrs., try...

- The Breakdown – BA Paris
 - You Were Made for This – Michelle Sacks
 - The New Neighbors – Simon Lelic
 - The Hidden Girl – Louise Millar
 - The Last House Guest – Megan Miranda
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