

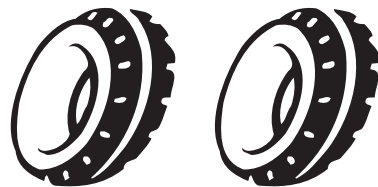
DISCUSSION GUIDE

All Her Little Secrets

by Wanda M. Morris

BOOK GROUP

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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Wanda M. Morris is the acclaimed author of *All Her Little Secrets*, which has been praised by Karin Slaughter as “brilliantly nuanced” and reviewed by *The Boston Globe*, *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Seattle Times*, and *South Florida Sun Sentinel* among others. It was named as one of the “Best Books of 2021” by Hudson Booksellers and selected as the #1 Top Pick for “Library Reads” by librarians across the country. It was selected as a Book Buzz Pick by Good Morning America, serialized in *Entertainment Weekly* and a *Marie Claire* book club pick. *All Her Little Secrets* won the 2022 Lefty Award for Best Debut Mystery Novel and a finalist for 2022 Georgia Author of the Year for Best First Novel. It was also nominated for the Anthony Award, the Strand Critics Award, the Macavity Award and has been shortlisted for the Crook’s Corner Book Prize.

All Her Little Secrets has been optioned for a one-hour limited series on Showtime, executive produced by and starring Emmy-award winning actress Uzo Aduba.

Her new book, *Anywhere You Run*, was named one of the Top Ten Crime Fiction Books for 2022 by *The New York Times*. It was also selected as one of the Best Books of 2022 by *NPR*, *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*. It has been named as one of “Fifteen Standout Historical Fiction Books to Read This Year” by *Oprah Daily*. It has received starred reviews from *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Booklist*. In its review, *Booklist* stated, “This riveting and moving novel, with echoes of Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is highly recommended for fans of suspense and women’s fiction.”

Wanda is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Crime Writers of Color and serves on the Board of International Thriller Writers.

BOOK SUMMARY

Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a “for fun” relationship with a rich, charming executive—her white boss, Michael.

But everything changes one cold January morning when Ellice goes to meet Michael... and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head.

And then she walks away like nothing has happened. Why? Ellice has been keeping a cache of dark secrets, including a small-town past and a kid brother who’s spent time on the other side of the law. She can’t be thrust into the spotlight—*again*.

But instead of grieving this tragedy, people are gossiping, the police are getting suspicious, and Ellice, the company’s lone black attorney, is promoted to replace Michael. While the opportunity is a dream-come-true, Ellice just can’t shake the feeling that something is off.

When she uncovers shady dealings inside the company, Ellice is trapped in an impossible ethical and moral dilemma. Suddenly, Ellice’s past and present lives collide as she launches into a pulse-pounding race to protect the brother she tried to save years ago and stop a conspiracy far more sinister than she could have ever imagined...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. This story switches back and forth between Ellice's childhood in Chillicothe, Georgia and the present situation in Atlanta. Did you like the time shifts? Why or why not?
3. Did you like the pacing of the book? Did it keep you interested? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Ellice ran when she found Michael's body? Do you think the situation have been different if she had stayed?
5. Ellice is a lawyer. Did you find the way she handled the situation and her interactions with the police to be believable? Why or why not?
6. Despite what she says in the book, do you think Ellice actually did love Michael? Do you think her feelings were a factor in any of her decisions?
7. What do you think made Ellice so driven when it came to school and her career? Was she equally focused on other aspects of her life (e.g. friendships, romance, family)?
8. What did you think of the sibling relationship between Sam and Ellice? Do you think Ellice was responsible for Sam's problems and/or could she have prevented them?
9. Ellice gives some leeway to Willow towards the end of the book despite some of her complicity in what happened at Houghton. What do you think Ellice's thought process was? Do you agree or disagree with her?
10. Ellice encounters Detective Bradford multiple times in the story. What do you think of these two characters? Do you think they're in similar positions or are they purely antagonists?
11. What do you think of Vera's philosophy of "saving the babies"?
12. Do you think Nate was complicit in the schemes at Houghton?
13. What do you think of Ellice's decision to leave everything behind and take care of Vera?
14. How do you think the author handled the tougher topics in the book, such as racism, sexism, and abuse?
15. Why do you think this story took place in Atlanta, Georgia and not any other city?
16. There was a lot of discussion about family in the book whether it was the "Houghton family" or Ellice's personal relationships with Sam, Vera, Martha, Rudy and Grace. What do you think of the theme of family in this book and how do you define it?
17. Did you expect the ending of the book? Or did you have a completely different idea of how the story was going to end?
18. Did the ending of the book offer the closure you wanted? Were you satisfied or disappointed by the way the book ended?
19. A reoccurring theme in our books is the grey area between the law and each character's moral code. Was what happened to Hardy King right? What about what happened to Willie Jay? Could either of the situations been handled in a different way?

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