



1. Although Edward has recently kept something hidden from Faith, she herself has a deep-seated secret that has fueled her life as a lie. How has she rationalized this for so many years?
2. What is it about Faith that causes her to believe that she can “fix” Edward’s errors? Do you feel that she is naive or clever to fight for him—and to what end are her intentions?
3. Vintage Tales is a specific gathering place for the women of Palm Beach. Critical events—the consignment of a Birkin bag by a wife who is descending, invitations, social exclusions—and gossip swirl around the shop. What environment would you equate this to in your life and what aspects of it appeal to you?
4. Faith confronts an unconsummated true love (Lucas) versus a shared life partner (Edward). The world she and Edward have built together has merit and she has been a loyal wife. Now circumstances have changed and she has been betrayed by Edward. What would you do in such a situation?
5. Social ambitions for Faith have been important and her unique shop, Vintage Tales, and Edward’s successes have given her excellent standing in Palm Beach. Until her world unravels. As a reader, how did you interpret her “awakening”? What is your reaction to the steps she takes?
6. When Katherine attaches fables and stories to the items sold at Vintage Tales, there is an added dimension and a level of irony and foreshadowing. What tales resonated with you and why?
7. Palm Beach, a place, presents as a character in the novel. For Katherine it is what she knows, and for Diana it is a mystery. How would you describe the effect of this “character/place” that once had such meaning for Faith?

*Discussion
Questions*



8. Female rivalry is alive and well among factions of women in the novel. Women are vying for recognition and will backstab in order to get there. What they compete for might prove secondary to the idea of winning. How do their machinations remind you of real-life experiences?
9. With the amount of materialism, beauty, and money in Palm Beach, a reality check is in order for Faith. As her own actuality no longer fits with the lush exterior and surreptitious interior of Palm Beach, what happens to her?
10. The price of escape is steep and comes at a great risk—as does the price of belonging. The women in Palm Beach know this. Discuss how Faith, who had it all, deals with her position once she is in peril.
11. The trajectory of several characters—Faith, Eve, and Mrs. A—is about resilience and self-confidence. As the story unfolds, Faith moves with lightning speed toward misfortune and salvation. In terms of inner strength, with whom do you most identify and why?
12. Reinvention is a part of the culture in *A Palm Beach Wife*, along with trading up. What about trading down—as Faith does? And has the discovery of Diana deepened Faith's commitment to reclaiming herself?