



## Discussion Questions

1. Jenny, Kate, and Audrey have three very different experiences of privilege and class. How do you see these differences manifesting themselves in both small and large ways throughout the novel? How much do you think each woman's privilege (or lack of) can explain or excuse her behavior?
2. Though we are aware that something terrible has happened, we as readers don't find out what it is until halfway through the novel. How does this unusual structure affect your reading experience? Does withholding this information cause you to change the way you read or interpret the story? Did you predict what was going to happen or were you taken by surprise?
3. The three women at the center of *It's Always the Husband* met and became friends during a particularly tumultuous time in their lives: their freshman year of college. Do you have any friends or roommates from your freshman year of college that you formed a particularly intense or impactful relationship with? What do you think is different about friendships made during an intense period of change?
4. At one point in the novel, Jenny has to make a difficult decision between telling the truth and speaking out to power, or benefiting from lies. Do you think her behavior is logical or cutthroat? What do you think you would do if you were faced with a similar decision?
5. We get to read about the main characters as both young adults just starting their lives and twenty years later, as people with careers and families. Were you



surprised by some of the choices that the characters made in those twenty years? Did they end up where you expected them to be? Why or why not?

6. Throughout the novel, many of the characters face some kind of abyss, whether literal or metaphorical. Where can you see this in the book? What significance do you think this recurring motif has?
7. Jenny's husband Tim calls Kate's death in the river "poetic justice" for her previous actions. Do you agree with this, or do you think Tim's comment was in poor taste? Why do you think this?
8. After Kate is found dead, there is a lot of debate about how the police in Belle River should handle the investigation. What did you think of Chief Rizzo's approach, especially his appropriation of extra funds and ignoring some evidence? How do you think his prior relationship with Kate affected his judgment?
9. Near the end of the book, the author writes, "It dawned on Griff that for the rest of his life, people would wonder if he had murdered his wife." What do you think of this statement? How do you think you would feel if you were in Griff's situation? How does knowing the end of the novel change the way you think about this statement?
10. Did you have a personal theory about who was behind the death in the second half of the novel, and if so, what was it? Were you shocked by who was actually responsible?