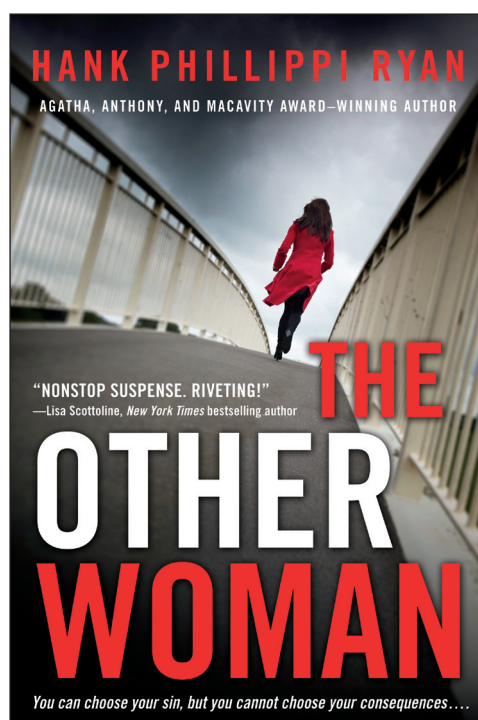




Hank Phillippi Ryan

The Other Woman



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“If you haven’t read Hank Phillippi Ryan yet, you should, and *The Other Woman* is the perfect place to start. A killer plot, compelling characters, and nonstop suspense. Riveting!”

—LISA SCOTTLINE, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

“*The Other Woman* does everything a great suspense novel should.”

—LEE CHILD, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

“A thriller that twists so fast it’ll leave you gasping. Hank Phillippi Ryan is a star.”

—JOSEPH FINDER, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

“Nonstop action... Ryan grabbed me on page one. As current as today’s headlines, *The Other Woman* is a wholly entertaining read. Just when you think you know it all, Ryan surprises with another twist.”

—SANDRA BROWN,
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo: Dorothy Timman

A former US Senate staffer and political campaign aide, **HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN** is the investigative reporter for Boston’s NBC affiliate, and has won twenty-seven Emmys and ten Edward R. Murrow awards. A bestselling author of four mystery novels, Ryan has won the Agatha,

Anthony, and Macavity awards. She’s on the national board of directors of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime.

ABOUT THE BOOK

You can choose your sin, but you cannot choose your consequences...

Reporter Jane Ryland is tracking down a candidate’s secret mistress just days before a pivotal Senate election. Detective Jake Brogan is investigating a possible serial killer that may be hunting down Boston’s young women under the city’s bridges. As the body count rises and election looms closer, it becomes clear to Jane and Jake that their cases may be connected...and that they may be facing a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to silence a scandal. Dirty politics, dirty tricks, and a barrage of final twists, *The Other Woman* is the first in an explosive new series. Seduction, betrayal, and murder—it’ll take a lot more than votes to win this election.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

* Note that these questions reveal much of the novel's plot; to preserve your reading pleasure, please don't look at these questions until after you've finished reading the book.

1. Since the legal debacle that destroyed her television news career, Jane Ryland has lived under the shadow of her new identity as “Wrong-Guy Ryland”—“wrong” being the one thing no journalist ever wants to be with a story. How does Jane cope with that characterization? How does she handle the personal and professional challenges being hurled at her when the book begins? What motivates her most, as a reporter and as a person?
2. The idea of “the other woman” is as old as human history—the interloper, the cheater, the person willing to break the rules and persuade someone else to join them at it. Who are the “other women” in Ryan’s story? In what different contexts do they intrude on existing relationships or situations? And do you think this characterization is specific to women, or are “other men” just as common in relationships?
3. Several characters—Jane included—have parents portrayed as demanding, critical, impossible to please. What is the nature of Jane’s relationship with her father? How do you think Jane’s life might have been different if her mother had survived? In what way do you think her relationship with her father motivates—or impedes—her?
4. Throughout *The Other Woman*, various characters’ true identities are meticulously disguised. Shortly after we first meet Kenna Wilkes, we discover that the four-year-old “son” at her side isn’t hers at all. Who do you believe she is, at first? Who does Holly Neff seem to be? Who is Matt, and do you have any sense, early on, of what his secret might be?
5. Are you as surprised as Jane is to discover that Tuck is a woman? Throughout the book, Tuck comes across as a mercurial character, surprising those around her in unfolding ways. What do you make of her? Do you trust her? Would you advise Jane to trust her? What women in the story do you feel Jane really can trust?
6. A persistent question in *The Other Woman* is whether or not “the bridge killer” exists, as Detective Jake Brogan continually denies, or whether he is simply a figment of the media’s powerful imagination, a creation being fed to the public. How responsible is the media throughout Ryan’s story? Are there points at which they create news rather than reporting it? What do you think Jane’s priorities are as a reporter? Are Alex’s, as an editor, any different?

7. Owen Lassiter is described throughout *The Other Woman* as charismatic, strikingly handsome, and powerfully attractive. What is your initial impression of Owen, as a politician and a person? Do you trust him? How do you feel about his interactions with Kenna Wilkes when she joins the campaign?
8. Ryan’s story is about the often conflicting public perceptions and private lives of politicians. What factors shape Owen’s public profile and reputation? Is he who his campaign says he is? Is your own opinion of him colored by the people closest to him, like Rory Maitland? How is he seen by members of his own family?
9. It is difficult for Jane and Moira Lassiter to gauge one another’s trustworthiness as the many plot twists in Ryan’s story unfold. Do you trust Moira? Moira knows Jane’s professional history; what makes her now decide that Jane is the right person to expose her husband’s mistress? How do different characters respond to the stance that Jane took in the Arthur Vick scandal?
10. Owen’s first wife, Katherine Lassiter, is portrayed at first as the victim of an unhappy marriage, but later as the person who in fact destroyed that marriage—and, more importantly, as a parent who worked for years to actively poison her children against their father. How have Matt and Sarah dealt with that influence over time? Why do you think their feelings toward their father wind up differing so sharply? What drives Matt to want to protect Owen?
11. Near the end of *The Other Woman*, Owen’s discovery of his grown children—and of their mother’s suicide—appears to stun him. Do you believe that Owen had tried and failed to locate his children over the years, despite all the resources available to him in public office? Do you believe his protestations that he always loved Matt and Sarah?
12. At the book’s end, Jane has made a crucial decision about her personal and professional life. Do you think that it is the right decision for her? Even though Jane and Jake aren’t formally a couple, their feelings for one another impact their jobs, and *The Other Woman*’s plot, at various points. Could two people in jobs that overlap so sensitively ever maintain a romantic relationship while keeping their work lives truly separate?