

FICTION BOOK CLUB

September 2018 Selection

***The Last Mrs. Parrish* by Liv Constantine**

Amber Patterson is fed up. She's tired of being a nobody: a plain, invisible woman who blends into the background. She deserves more—a life of money and power like the one blond-haired, blue-eyed goddess Daphne Parrish takes for granted.

To everyone in the exclusive town of Bishops Harbor, Connecticut, Daphne—a socialite and philanthropist—and her real-estate mogul husband, Jackson, are a couple straight out of a fairy tale.

Amber's envy could eat her alive... if she didn't have a plan. Amber uses Daphne's compassion and caring to insinuate herself into the family's life—the first step in a meticulous scheme to undermine her. Before long, Amber is Daphne's closest confidante, traveling to Europe with the Parrishes and their lovely young daughters, and growing closer to Jackson. But a skeleton from her past may undermine everything that Amber has worked towards, and if it is discovered, her well-laid plan may fall to pieces.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Start, perhaps, by talking about the disparity in life-styles—wealthy vs. “just-getting-by” that sets Amber off on her con job. How great are the differences in the women’s lives? Amber is jealous, believing that Daphne takes the ease and luxuries of her life for granted. Is she correct, at least in the first half of the book? Have you ever envied someone for their wealth? Or if you’re wealthy, have you ever been on the receiving end of others’ envy?
2. Talk about Amber’s inner monologues, the ones she has, for instance, while talking to Daphne about the death of Julie. What more do the internal conversations reveal about Amber?
3. Is Daphne naïve, or is Amber that convincing in her lies?
4. At what point do you begin to suspect that Amber has more to hide than the desire to break her way into the Parrish marriage? What do we learn about her past?
5. At what point, in the first half of the book, do cracks in the perfect Parrish marriage begin to evidence themselves?
6. Jackson has piercing blue eyes. Why do all fictional male hunks have dazzling orbs? Can you think of one, just one, who doesn't?
7. The book changes point of view in the second half. Were you surprised by Daphne? In what ways had you misjudged her?
8. The plot's twists and turns: did you see them coming, or were you taken by surprise? What about the ending: satisfying?
9. Inevitable comparisons are being made to *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train*. How does this one stack up?



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Recommendations:

- If you liked *The Last Mrs. Parrish*, you might like *Tangerine*
(<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062686664>)
- You might also enjoy *The Woman in Cabin 10*
(<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/9781501132957>)