



# *The Wedding Veil* by Kristy Woodson Harvey

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION NOTES

**PERTINENT PASSAGES**

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**CRITICAL QUOTES**

PAGE #	QUOTE

**I LIKED**

**I DIDN'T LIKE**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Babs made a conscious decision not to inform her daughters of her plan to move to a retirement community until the process was complete so that they would be unable to stop the relocation. How do you feel about this choice? What does it say about the relationship Babs has with her now-grown daughters Meredith and Alice?
- When the opportunity presented itself, Julia quickly decided to extend her time in St. Thomas. What do you think truly motivated her to stay past her original planned departure? Did staying longer help or hinder her emotional recovery?
- When Cornelia decided to essentially abandon the life she had built, Edith didn't intervene, despite the fact that she clearly didn't fully agree with her daughter's choice. Why do you think Edith didn't try to influence her daughter's decision?
- Though Julia's mother, Meredith, hadn't enjoyed a problem-free marriage, she clung to the union - at least in part - in an attempt not to sully the reputation of the otherwise purportedly lucky wedding veil. Do you think it is realistic that Meredith would have allowed her concern about maintaining the reputation of this family heirloom to induce her to put up with a relatively unhappy marriage? What about who she is as a person might have made her more likely to give in to such rigidity?
- Did you find the explanation of how the eponymous wedding veil changed hands to be satisfying? Is there anything you would like to change about how this family heirloom is woven into this novel?
- Babs eventually reveals that she had a very sound reason for choosing her now-deceased husband over her longtime love Miles. Knowing what she does now, though, do you think she regrets her decision?
- Were you surprised when you discovered who sent the explosive text that resulted in Julia abandoning her plans to marry Hayes? Do you think the sender did the right thing, or should she have approached the situation differently?
- As the novel draws to a close, it seems that Julia and Connor have a good shot at finding lasting love together. Do you think that they will truly enjoy a "happily ever after"? Why or why not?
- This novel contained a rich, robust cast of female characters. With which character(s) in this novel did you most identify, and why? Which character(s), if any, did you not like?



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## COCKTAIL SUGGESTIONS

Serve your book-clubbers a cocktail thematically tied to this title.

Delight them with an early Vanderbilt-era cocktail by whipping up a Gin Rickey or make them feel like they are ocean-side in St Thomas by presenting them a Virgin Islands' Painkiller.

### GIN RICKEY

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#### INGREDIENTS

2 ounces gin  
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice  
Club soda  
Lime slice (for garnish)

#### DIRECTIONS

Add gin and lime juice to an ice-filled highball glass. Stir if desired. Top with club soda until full. Garnish with a lime slice.

### PAINKILLER

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#### INGREDIENTS

2 ounces dark rum  
1 ounce orange juice  
4 ounces pineapple juice  
1 ounce cream of coconut  
Fresh grated nutmeg

#### DIRECTIONS

To an empty shaker, add: dark rum, orange juice, pineapple juice, cream of coconut. Shake vigorously. Strain into an ice-filled glass. Top with fresh grated nutmeg if desired.

**QUICK TIP:** Make each cocktail to order or free yourself up for bookish discussions by multiplying each recipe by 5 or 10 and preparing a pitcher in advance of your book club meeting.