

Other Women: Discussion Guide

- 1) How would you describe the sense of place in *Other Women*? What impressions do you get of 1920s London and Sussex, and how does the author create these impressions?
- 2) What were your first impressions of Bea, and how did your opinion of her evolve during the book? Did you like her? How much did you sympathise with her?
- 3) What were your first impressions of Kate, and how much did your opinion of her change throughout the book? Did you sympathise with her feelings for Tom, and her reactions to the events she learned about during the course of the book?
- 4) How did the version of events shown in Bea and in Kate's narratives differ from that presented in the courtroom and reported in the press?
- 5) What roles do other women have in the novel: Bea's sister Jane, the girls in the office where Bea works, and the girls at the Club in Guildford Street? What did you think about how the relationships between Bea and these various female characters were portrayed?
- 6) To what extent did you feel that Bea and Kate were in control of their lives or trapped by their social circumstances and by the era in which they lived? Did their stories feel of their time, or could you see any parallels with more recent cases?
- 7) The novel explores love in many forms: the love of a parent towards a child or between siblings, friendship, flirtation, obsession, self-love. How far did you feel the characters were motivated by love?
- 8) What did you think of the conversations between anonymous members of the public in the courtroom? Were these a useful way into Kate's reactions to the evidence presented at the trial?
- 9) How did you feel about the decision Kate makes at the end of the novel?
- 10) Were you surprised by the ending of the novel? Did you find it satisfying?