

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
APRIL 2020 – “THE WIFE BETWEEN US” BY GREER HENDRICKS & SARAH PEKKANEN

1. Whether it be because of how thrilling it was or the value of it, what was your favorite moment during *The Wife Between Us*?
2. What do you think is the significance of Vanessa’s new job at an upscale clothing store? How might it affect her to still be in the upper class world she once occupied, but in a much different role? Compare and contrast her experience there to her previous job as a teacher.
3. Were you surprised to learn who Nellie was? If you were surprised, did you think it fit the story so far? If you suspected it, what aspects of the story gave you those suspicions?
4. *The Wife Between Us* asks difficult questions about how much someone’s past can explain or excuse their behavior. What’s your opinion? Did getting to know more about Vanessa’s or Richard’s backstory help to explain or justify their choices at all?
5. Throughout the novel, Aunt Charlotte and Vanessa have an extremely close relationship, even when Vanessa struggles to be honest with her aunt. How do you see this relationship affecting the choices Vanessa makes? Is there someone in your family with whom you have a similar bond?
6. The theme of sight – foresight, hindsight, and even real, physical eyesight – is wound throughout the entire novel. Maggie, the young sorority pledge, repeatedly says, “I hate it when I can’t see.” Do you think that anyone in this novel could (or should) have been able to see more clearly the consequences of their actions? Do you believe in the old saying, “Hindsight is 20/20?”
7. Maureen and Richard’s relationship was clearly a close and unique one. How did you perceive their relationship throughout the book? How did it make you feel when Maureen put the wedding ring on her finger “for safe keeping”?
8. Were you shocked to learn the true identities of Emma and Kate? Do you feel that these reveals fit well with the story? Did they add extra depth to the storyline for you?
9. Did the end of the novel leave you questioning who was really calling the shots and who had a full picture of what was going on? Which character do you think was truly orchestrating the events that were set into action – or was there more than one person responsible? Why do you believe this?
10. What was your overall impression for *The Wife Between Us*? Did you like the book? Why or why not?