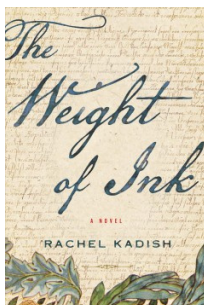


## Further Reading

### **The Weight of Ink (June 2017)**

by Rachel Kadish

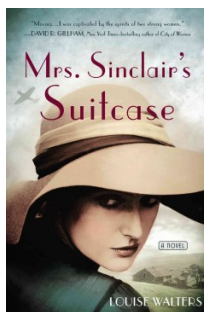
Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is a historical fiction about two women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.



### **Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase (Aug 2015)**

by Louise Walters

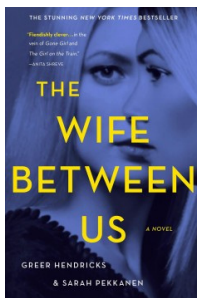
A lonely bookstore clerk discovers a hidden letter that reveals her grandmother's struggles with singlehood, a whirlwind affair during World War II, and the fateful choices that shaped decades of their family life.



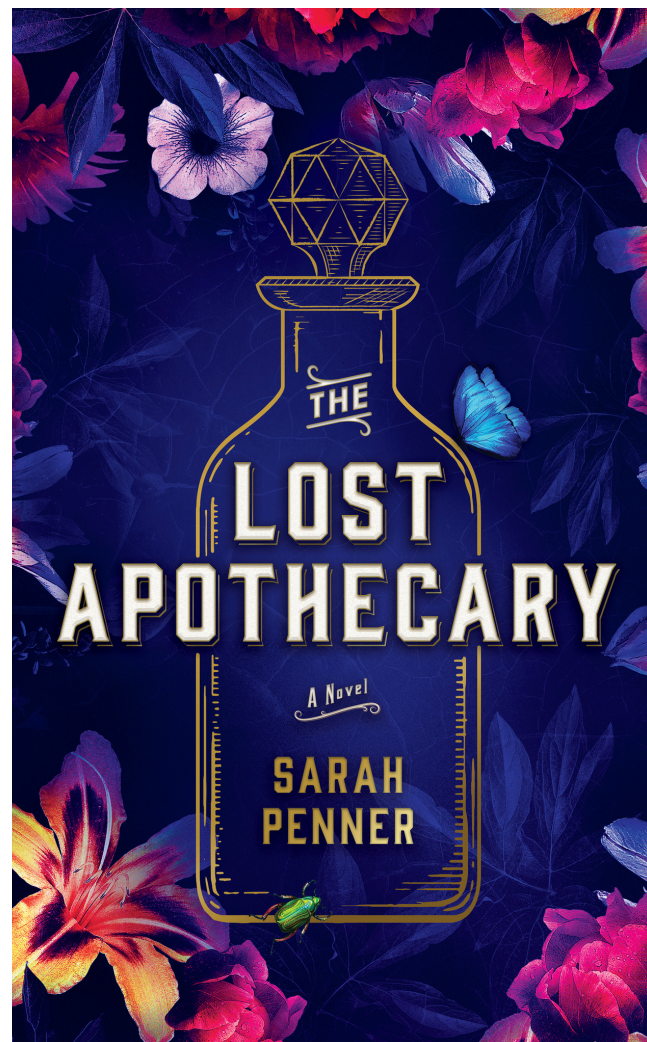
### **The Wife Between Us (Jan 2018)**

by Greer Hendricks

A psychologically charged tale of suspense follows the unexpected twists that shape a divorce and second marriage that are anything but what they seem.



# BOOK DISCUSSION



## Discussion Questions

1) When you first learned that Nella was a murderer, how did you view her? How did your feelings change over the course of the book as more of her past was revealed? Did you believe she would eventually find redemption? In the end, did you see her as a hero, a villain, or something in between? Why?

2) Both Nella and Caroline have been betrayed by men in their lives. In what ways did the two women respond similarly to these betrayals? In what ways did they respond differently? Do you feel that one woman was more emotionally resilient than the other?

3) Why do you think Nella eventually softened her heart toward Eliza? What drew the two characters—one on the cusp of womanhood, the other toward the end of her life—toward one another? What kind of impact did Eliza have on Nella's character?

4) James is a nuanced character. At different junctures in the story, he shows remorse and heartbreak, only to later lie again to his wife. What did you think of their relationship? Did you believe he was truly sorry for his infidelity, or were his apologies to Caroline yet another form of manipulation?

5) The Lost Apothecary explores the idea of female empowerment and rebelling against a man's world. In what ways did Nella, Eliza and Caroline empower themselves? Do you consider The Lost Apothecary a feminist book?

6) Which of the three characters—Nella, Eliza, or Caroline—did you find the most compelling or enjoyable to read? Why?

7) The theme of motherhood is explored throughout The Lost Apothecary. Nella mourns her inability to have children, and while Caroline begins the story wishing she had a baby, this changes by the end of her narrative. What wisdom do you think Nella would impart to Caroline about the pursuit of motherhood, if the two women had the opportunity to sit down and talk?

8) The Lost Apothecary is paced purposefully so that the truth about Nella's fate is slowly revealed over the course of the story. What techniques or literary devices did the author use to "drip-feed" this information and maintain the book's suspense?

9) Discuss the meaning of the title, The Lost Apothecary. In your opinion, which character is the real "lost apothecary"?

Questions provided by [www.bookclubbish.com](http://www.bookclubbish.com)