

KRISTIN MILLER

THE SINFUL LIVES OF TROPHY WIVES

BOOK CLUB KIT



AUTHOR'S NOTE

Dear reader,

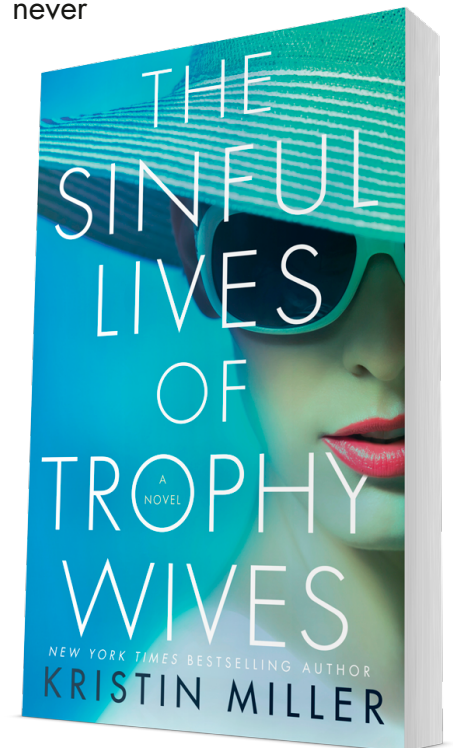
First and foremost, thank you for reading about the sinful lives of the women in these pages. They are over-the-top dramatic, petty, outlandish, and I loved every second that I was able to spend with them.

For those of you unfamiliar with San Francisco, Presidio Terrace is a real place. It's a small, affluent neighborhood—a single street really, that is elliptical in shape just as it's written in the novel. Congressmen and congresswomen, mayors, and senators have lived on the street, though none of them were inspiration for any characters. Grounds & Greens doesn't exist in the center either, though I'm sure the residents wish it did!

I started plotting this novel because I wanted to write a very loose retelling of *The Great Gatsby*. In my opinion, it's one of the most beautifully written novels of all time, and although my writing style can never touch Fitzgerald's brilliance, I wanted to create a novel that gave a nod to some of my favorite characters. Brooke, a naïve stranger in this shiny, rich world, remained on the outside looking in, much like Nick Carraway. Georgia, cloaked in mystery and vibrancy, began as a gender-bent Jay Gatsby. Rumors swirled around them in much the same way. However, once I delved into the minds of the women of Presidio Terrace, I fell in love. The story began to morph into something entirely different. It admittedly took me two years and three "from scratch" rewrites to reach the point where it was ready to be released.

This novel holds a special place in my heart, not only because I borrowed names from a few of my friends and family members, but because the drinks served happen to be my favorites. The dresses are ones I'd love to wear on a night out with my husband. And the women (despite the ghosts of their past and the secrets they've buried) are like long lost friends that I'd kill to spend a morning with.

Cheers,
KRISTIN MILLER



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss each wife's relationship with her husband. How do these relationships change over the course of the novel, if at all? Do you believe they are in love? Or were ever in love?
2. How did your perception of the characters change as the story developed? Are any of them reliable narrators? Whom did you trust the most? The least?
3. How do money and privilege play into this? If they weren't rich, do you think they would have looked into a similar solution for their husbands?
4. Erin loves posting on her social media, for better or for worse. Did the book make you think differently about social media? Discuss the positive and negative aspects of being in the spotlight and sharing one's life online—even when it's not as perfect as it seems.
5. Did you understand Georgia's choices? Did you empathize with her? Why or not?
6. Why do you think Georgia and Erin—and many people in abusive relationships—were able to overlook red flags? Was it for love? For money? Something else?
7. How did you feel about the novel's alternating voices and perspectives? How would the story be different without them?
8. Discuss Brooke, Georgia, and Erin's relationships with each other. How do their perceptions of each other change over time?
9. Which twist shocked you the most?
10. What do you see happening next for each of the characters?



BARRIOUS BERMUDA PUNCH

RECIPE BY STEPHANIE BARRIOUS

INGREDIENTS

2 fresh squeezed limes

1 can Zero Sugar Diet 7UP

1 bottle (750 ml) Malibu Strawberry Rum

½ cup DeKuyper Peachtree Peach Schnapps

3½ cups V8 Splash Berry Blend Juice

INSTRUCTIONS

Empty the entire bottle of Malibu Strawberry rum (yes, you read that right) into a 2 quart pitcher. Stir in the rest of the liquid ingredients. Finish by squeezing the juice of two limes into the mix. Pour into glasses, share with your friends, and enjoy this sinfully delicious drink!

Photo: iStock

