

## The Reading Guide

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### Reading Group Questions

1. Nell loses her job early on in the story. How different would the plot have been had she not been made redundant?
2. Heather and Jeremy got together and got engaged, despite the fact that Jeremy was Nell's boyfriend. Could you forgive either your sister or your boyfriend for doing the same thing?
3. Would it have worked out had Nell and Jeremy got back together? Or would Heather and Jeremy been happy if they had ended up getting married? What sort of woman do you see Jeremy with long-term?
4. Each of the Stockdale siblings has dysfunctional relationships throughout the book. At the end, are they all more settled than at the beginning?
5. Nell finds herself attracted to Pete, Jeremy and Michael. Do you think she ends up with the right man?
6. How much does having a five-year-old daughter affect the decisions Nell makes in the book?
7. Although charming and likeable, Michael is in the throes of getting divorced when he and Nell meet. How would you feel about getting involved with a man in this situation?
8. Spending the summer in Cornwall was like a long holiday for Nell and Cass. How differently do you think Nell reacted to events because she was on holiday, rather than still working and living in London? For example, meeting Michael, dealing with her mother, meeting April etc.
9. Valerie, as we find out, was obviously terribly affected by having to give away her baby forty years ago. How have times changed? What were her options then compared to if she was going through the same thing now? Like, for example, April's daughter Beth.
10. At the end of the novel, Valerie decides to sell Tredower and split the proceeds between her children. If she had decided not to and to let one child inherit it, who do you think would have been most suited to living there? How would it have split the siblings?

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### About the Book

After years of romantic drought, Nell is enjoying a thrilling fling with a sexy new man and loving London life, somehow managing to juggle single motherhood with a busy career. Plus, in the city it's easy to avoid her sister who is about to marry Nell's ex. (Yes, messy.) Then she gets the news. Please could she return to Tredower, the crumbling old family home in Cornwall for the summer? Disaster. Tredower has no wifi, harbours her big dysfunctional family, and, far worse, memories of her passionate love affair with the man who is about to become her brother-in-law. The past is another county. Can she go there?

Another woman is making her way west too, carrying an explosive secret. Love will be lost, broken, and found, lives changed forever...

### About the Author

Polly Williams grew up in Oxford and, having studied English at university, was drawn to journalism. She created her first job by launching a fashion magazine (now defunct). After that she worked at *Frank*, *Punch*, *You* and *InStyle* whilst writing for other publications. When Polly got pregnant, she decided to take an early maternity leave to begin writing her novel. Instead, on the night of her leaving party, her waters broke, scuppering her plans. *THE RISE AND FALL OF THE YUMMY MUMMY* did get written, eventually, and Polly hasn't looked bac

### Reviews for HOW TO BE MARRIED

'A great read for those times you look at other, perfect women and think "How do they DO that?'" Sophie Kinsella

'Fun from the start' *Heat*; 'A sharp and witty insight into one of the biggest modern marriage dilemmas' *Glamour*

'Fizzes with life and... brilliantly witty one-liners' *Daily Telegraph*

'Don't miss it' *Cosmopolitan*