

The Reading Guide

Reading Group Questions

1. In the first part of the novel, the author introduces us to May, who becomes Violet. How important is it that we, the readers, know about Violet's background? How does this affect how we feel about her?
2. In what ways are Violet and Madame Fournier similar?
3. 'Blood betraying blood begets blood'. These are the words Jimmy Gribbens, Violet's father, says to her as he is sent to prison for murdering Bryce. In what ways does this ring true in the book?
4. Although she briefly marries Dorian, then Patrick at the end of the novel, for much of her life Violet is a single mother. Do you find you warm to her more because she is on her own?
5. Of all the men Violet falls in love with in her life (Bryce, Sam, Dorian and Patrick), who do you think was her true love and who would have made her happiest?
6. How differently do you think Sebastian would have turned out had Violet married his father Sam Gilmour? In what ways could this have changed what happened in the book?
7. Much of the novel is told through Violet's eyes as she looks back on her life from her deathbed; the novel jumps back and forth from past to present throughout. Do you think this is a useful way of telling a story or can it be confusing?
8. What do you think of the twist at the end of the novel? Had you suspected who Tillie really was? How else could the author have finished the story?
9. At the end of the novel, Violet leaves Cavalleys to her daughter Fran. Do you think she made the right decision? Who else could she have left it to?

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About the Book

Renowned for style, glamour and sophistication, Cavalley's creates the most luxurious millinery in the world. Talented and beautiful, Violet Cavalley has poured her heart and soul into building her multi-million-pound business and raising her three adored children. But behind the Cavalley family's gilded façade lies a streak of darkness. Darkness that now threatens to destroy them.

About the Author

Jessica Ruston was born in Warwickshire. Her career began in the worlds of theatre, film and publishing and she has written screenplays and two non-fiction books. Her debut novel *Luxury* was highly acclaimed. Jessica lives in London with her husband. For everything you need to know about Jessica, visit her website www.jessicaruston.com.

Reviews for LUXURY

'A wonderful debut: Ruston is staggeringly assured' *Sunday Express*

'Manhattan penthouses and exotic islands are the glitzy settings in this blockbuster debut. Deliciously indulgent' *Marie Claire*

'LUXURY oozes glamour, wealth and scandal - a fantastic debut *****' *Company*

'Impressively written and littered with exciting twists, this sleek story about addiction, scandal and revenge is utterly thrilling. *****' *Closer*

'Twists and turns and everything you need to keep you glued... Just the thing to pack on a long flight or train journey' Adele Geras

'Jessica Ruston is bringing back sexy moguls, reckless glamour-pusses and moneyed decadence in a way we didn't think was possible... It's what long-haul flights were made for' *Elle*

'Pure escapism for a rainy weekend - a real page-turner!' *Woman*