

Reading Guide

All Her Little Secrets

William Morrow

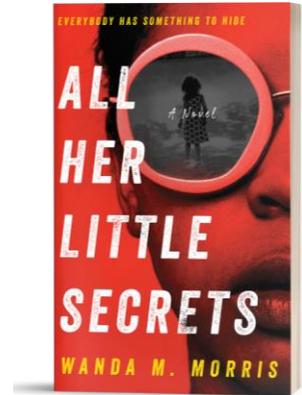
By Wanda M. Morris

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Introduction

“*All Her Little Secrets* is a brilliantly nuanced but powerhouse exploration of race, the legal system, and the crushing pressure of keeping secrets. Morris brings a vibrant and welcome new voice to the thriller space.”

—Karin Slaughter, *New York Times* and international bestselling author



In this fast-paced thriller, Wanda M. Morris crafts a twisty mystery about a black lawyer who gets caught in a dangerous conspiracy after the sudden death of her boss . . . A debut perfect for fans of Attica Locke, Alyssa Cole, Harlan Coben, and Celeste Ng, with shades of *How to Get Away with Murder* and John Grisham’s *The Firm*.

Everyone has something to hide...

Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a “for fun” relationship with a rich, charming executive, who just happens to be her white boss. But everything changes one cold January morning when Ellice arrives in the executive suite and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head.

And then she walks away like nothing has happened. Why? Ellice has been keeping a cache of dark secrets, including a small-town past and a kid brother who’s spent time on the other side of the law. She can’t be thrust into the spotlight—*again*.

But instead of grieving this tragedy, people are gossiping, the police are getting suspicious, and Ellice, the company’s lone black attorney, is promoted to replace her boss. While the opportunity is a dream-come-true, Ellice just can’t shake the feeling that something is off.

When she uncovers shady dealings inside the company, Ellice is trapped in an impossible ethical and moral dilemma. Suddenly, Ellice’s past and present lives collide as she launches into a pulse-pounding race to protect the brother she tried to save years ago and stop a conspiracy far more sinister than she could have ever imagined...

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think made Ellice so driven when it came to school and her career? Was she equally focused on other aspects of her life (e.g. friendships, romance, family)?
2. Despite what she says in the book, do you think Ellice actually did love Michael? Do you think her feelings were a factor in any of her decisions?
3. What did you think of the sibling relationship between Sam and Ellice? Do you think Ellice was responsible for Sam's problems and/or could she have prevented them?
4. Ellice gives some leeway to Willow towards the end of the book despite some of her complicity in what happened at Houghton. What do you think Ellice's thought process was? Do you agree or disagree with her?
5. Ellice rubs up against Detective Bradford at multiple points in the novel. What do you think of these two characters? Do you think they're in similar positions or do you think they're purely antagonists?
6. What did you think of Detective Bradford's advice to Ellice at the end of the book?
7. What did you think of the other women in the book and their respective journeys, like Willow, Anna and even Grace in their quest to strike independence from the men in their lives?
8. What do you think of Vera's philosophy of "saving the babies"?
9. Do you think Nate was complicit in the schemes at Houghton?
10. What do you think of Ellice's decision to leave everything behind and take care of Vera?
11. How do you think the author handled the tougher topics in the book, such as racism, sexism, and abuse?
12. Why do you think this story took place in Atlanta, Georgia and not any other city in the country or in the South?
13. There was a lot of discussion about family in the book whether it was the "Houghton family" or Ellice's personal relationships with Sam, Vera, Martha, Rudy and Grace. What do you think of the theme of family in this book and how do you define it?
14. Did you expect the ending of the book? Or did you have a completely different idea of how the story was going to end?