

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

J.T. ELLISON

# Her Dark Lies

At the wedding of the year,  
a killer needs no invitation

A NOVEL



BOOK CLUB  
KIT

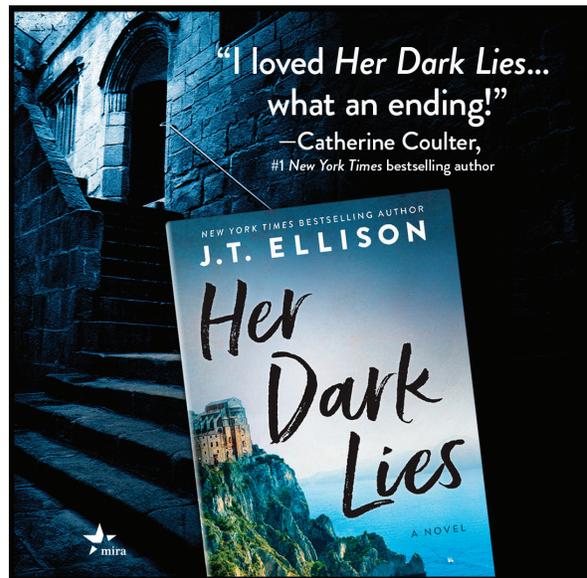
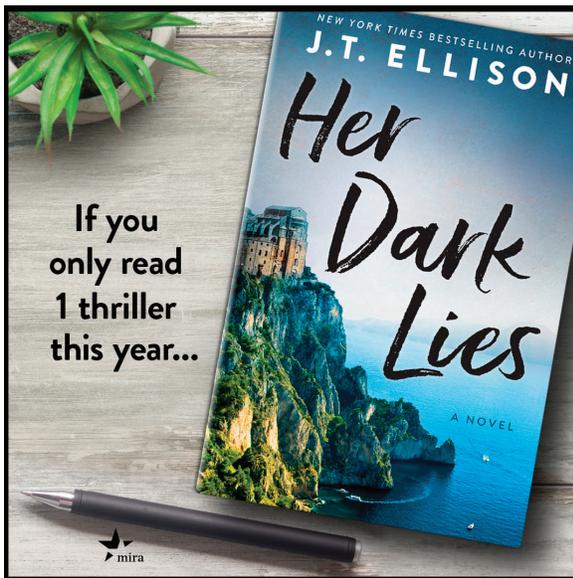
# Discussion Guide

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR

Thank you so much for your interest in **HER DARK LIES**! I'm excited for you to discover the secrets driving Claire and Jack, and to experience the dangerous, beguiling, remote Isle Isola.

While writing **HER DARK LIES**, I envisioned Isola in the abyss between the Scylla and Charybdis, the monsters of lore who guard the small channel of sea historically located off the southern coast of Italy. Like Odysseus, this story threads that small needle between sucking whirlpool and razor-teeth, pulling you in many directions, all dangerous. I hope your journey leaves you breathless!

Peace and hugs,  
JT



# Discussion Guide

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**DAPHNE DU MAURIER'S REBECCA MEETS PATRICIA HIGHSMITH'S  
*THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY* IN THIS DARK, INTENSE, EXOTIC THRILLER.**

**J.T. ELLISON'S BREATHTAKING NEW NOVEL INVITES YOU  
TO A WEDDING NONE WILL FORGET—AND SOME WON'T SURVIVE.**

Claire Hunter, an almost famous painter, is engaged to handsome, wealthy Max Compton. Their upcoming destination wedding in Italy is the talk of the town. People would kill for an invite. But someone has it in for Claire. She's been receiving disturbing text messages with dire warnings—Max is not who you think he is. Claire ignores these warnings as someone jealous and out to ruin their wedding. But something about her beloved does bother her—why won't Max talk about his dead wife?

Max and Claire's wedding will take place on Isle Isola, the remote Italian island the Comptons have vacationed on for generations. When they arrive on the island, they are greeted with a terrible finding, the skeletal remains of a former island resident, missing for many years.

Max's warm, loving parents, Anna and Brice Compton, step in to help Claire feel more at ease and when her bridesmaids and family arrive, she is further comforted.

But the Comptons veil of secrecy is at an end. Their first night on the island, their wedding planner plunges down the main staircase and dies. Then wedding guests start to disappear, causing a cascade of terrible events.

The Comptons, Max included, swing into gear against these threats, but they aren't telling Claire—or anyone—the whole truth. Claire realizes she doesn't know Max. She doesn't know him at all.

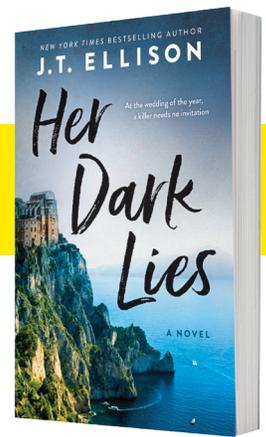
Can a public family have private secrets? Because the Comptons' worst secrets are coming back to haunt them, and Claire Hunter is the only one who can unravel decades of lies.

But Claire has more than a few secrets of her own, and she will go to the grave to make sure no one finds out the truth.



# Discussion Guide

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION



- 1) Weddings are extremely emotional events and can trigger a lot of intense and often negative feelings. Have you ever attended a wedding that you felt was doomed from the start...and were you right?
- 2) Destination weddings are a dream for many brides but they can be expensive and a logistical nightmare. Have you attended or chosen not to attend a destination wedding and do you regret that decision?
- 3) Marrying into a wealthy family is a dream for many people but all families have secrets and unwritten rules. What advice would you give to someone marrying into your family?
- 4) Second marriages are complex and whether through divorce or death the specter of a former spouse is never completely absent. How does that impact second marriages you are familiar with?
- 5) The role of social media and being an influencer is prominent in this novel, specifically the lengths people will go to present an image of perfection. What are your thoughts on social media influencers?
- 6) The setting of this novel sets the stage and the mood for the events that follow. Have you ever been to a location where you could feel the history of the place just by walking its corridors?
- 7) One of the main themes of *Her Dark Lies* is the idea that everyone lies to protect something or someone. Is it ever okay to keep the truth hidden from your spouse? If so, why?
- 8) Can you ever completely trust another person?
- 9) What are your thoughts on Claire's decision at the end of the novel. Why do you think she makes the choice she does and is it justifiable?
- 10) What's the biggest lie you've ever told?

# Discussion Guide

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo Credit: Krista Lee Photography

J.T. Ellison is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 20 novels, and the EMMY-award winning co-host of *A WORD ON WORDS*, Nashville's premier literary show. With millions of books in print, her work has won critical acclaim, prestigious awards, and has been published in 26 countries. Ellison lives in Nashville with her husband and twin kittens.

Follow J.T. on Instagram @thillerchick and Facebook @J.T.Ellison.