

Reading Group Guide for  
*A Woman of Fortune*  
by Kellie Coates Gilbert

1. In *A Woman of Fortune*, Claire Massey experiences a life event in which her security shifts beneath her feet. Have you ever felt a similar blow? Describe how you made it through.
2. Claire enjoys a fabulous life until her husband betrays her and his actions put everything she holds dear at risk. Why do you think she didn't see it coming?
3. Describe Claire. What are her strengths? Her weaknesses?
4. In what ways does Tuck remind you of the white-collar criminals often seen in the news? What characteristics make him different? Why do you think he perpetrated these crimes? Why does he continue to hide the truth of his crimes even after the initial settlement?
5. Claire's situation in this story is not unlike many politician and celebrity wives who face public humiliation and have to decide whether or not to support their husbands. If you were faced with a similar situation, would you stand by your man? Why or why not?
6. Couples often carry baggage into their marriages. What did Tuck and Claire cart into their relationship?
7. Despite being churchgoers, the Massey family crumbles under the pressure of losing everything. In what ways did their faith differ from Margarita's?
8. Others in this story had faith. Describe how each of them influenced the Massey family, for good or bad.
9. Do you think Claire made the right decision to stay in her marriage? Or do you think she should have pursued her relationship with Brian? Why?
10. Describe the scenes that most reveal how Lainie's emotions are particularly bruised by her father's actions. In angry desperation, have you ever made decisions that made everything worse? Were you surprised at Lainie's choices?
11. As the events in the story unfolded, describe how Tuck's criminal actions affected each member of the Massey family. How did these events change the characters by the end of the story?
12. Brian tells Claire she shouldn't live her life as a mirror, reflecting everybody else's view. Describe ways you think Claire does that.

13. If you were in Jana Rae's shoes, would you continue to support Claire? Why or why not?
14. Women have incredible influence. How did Ellie Wyden impact her daughter and granddaughter and their choices?
15. Men also have influence. Describe how Tuck molded his sons.
16. List the ways you think the Masseys' faith, or lack thereof, plays into their struggles.
17. While shopping, Lainie encounters a poignant scene of a man and his pregnant wife in the mall. Seeing the man rub his wife's feet moves Lainie to crave a different kind of relationship than what she's been pursuing. Why do you think that is?
18. Shortly after, Lainie acknowledges she's been swimming in a muddy pond when she is meant to ride the waves of the ocean. Why do you think so many young women settle for less than what they really want?
19. The story concludes with the author giving readers a quick peek twenty years later. How would you write the rest of the story?



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