



The Women

Kristin Hannah

Kristin Hannah's sweeping novel follows a young Army nurse through the Vietnam War and her hard road home, blending courage, friendship, and heartbreak in a story that lingers long after the last page.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: clubs who love big-hearted historical fiction and a good cry shared over snacks

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Settle in with your mug. What part of reading this book felt the most comforting, even when the story itself was heavy?
2. Where were you when you did most of your reading, and did the book pull you somewhere else entirely?

DIGGING IN

1. Frankie's friendships become a kind of lifeline. Who in your own life has been that steady person, and what did this book stir up about them?
2. So much of this story is about being seen, or not being seen, for what you've lived through. Was there a moment that made you want to reach into the page and just sit with a character for a while?
3. Hannah writes about home as both a soft place and a complicated one. What did 'coming home' mean to you while reading this?
4. The women in this book carry so much quietly. Did any small gesture or moment of tenderness between characters stay with you afterward?

GOING DEEP

1. Without giving anything away, was there a scene that made you put the book down for a minute? What were you feeling when you picked it back up?
2. This novel honors a generation of women whose stories were often overlooked. Did it change the way you think about anyone in your own family or community?

On the table

- 🍽️ **Slow-simmered chicken and dumplings**
A hug in a bowl, the kind of homecoming meal Frankie's generation would recognize
- 🍽️ **Buttery cornbread with honey**
Soft, sweet, southern-leaning comfort that nods to Frankie's Coronado roots and 1960s American kitchens
- 🍽️ **Warm apple crumble with vanilla ice cream**
An all-American dessert that feels like a porch swing on a quiet evening

To sip

- ☕ **Honey chamomile tea (no alcohol)**
Gentle, soothing, and perfect for the tender turns of the story
- 🍷 **Spiked hot cocoa with a splash of bourbon**
A cozy adult sip evoking the era and a little fortification for the feelings
- 🍷 **Classic whiskey sour**
A 1960s-era cocktail that fits Frankie's homecoming world

Run of show

- 7:00** **Soft landing**
Greet guests with warm drinks and slippers-welcome energy. Let the playlist do the work.
- 7:15** **Bowls and blankets**
Serve the chicken and dumplings buffet-style so people can curl up wherever feels good.
- 7:40** **Warm-ups**
Two gentle opening questions, no pressure to go in order. Pass a candle or mug as a 'talking token.'
- 8:00** **Heart of the conversation**
Move into the theme questions. Let silences breathe; this book earns them.
- 8:40** **Crumble and quiet**
Serve dessert, slow the pace, and try one or two deep questions while people savor.
- 9:15** **Bookmarks and goodbyes**
Hand out bookmarks, fill in scorecards together, pick the next read, send everyone off with a leftover cookie.

HOST TIPS

- Have tissues in pretty little dishes on every side table. People will need them and appreciate that you knew.
- Keep lighting low and lamp-based; overhead lights break the spell of a cozy night.
- Invite (but don't require) anyone with a family connection to the era or to nursing to share, gently and only if they want to.

Playlist

Warm, nostalgic 60s and early 70s songs, plus soft acoustic comfort to wrap the night in

- 01 California Dreamin' - The Mamas and the Papas
- 02 Bridge Over Troubled Water - Simon and Garfunkel
- 03 What the World Needs Now Is Love - Jackie DeShannon
- 04 Both Sides Now - Joni Mitchell
- 05 Stand By Me - Ben E. King
- 06 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac
- 07 The Long and Winding Road - The Beatles
- 08 I'll Be Seeing You - Billie Holiday

Trivia

1. In what war is *The Women* primarily set? (The Vietnam War)
2. What is the profession of the novel's main character, Frankie McGrath? (Army nurse)
3. In what year was *The Women* first published? (2024)
4. Kristin Hannah is also the author of which bestselling WWII-set novel about two French sisters? (*The Nightingale*)
5. Before becoming a full-time novelist, what profession did Kristin Hannah practice? (Law (she was an attorney))
6. In which U.S. state is Frankie's family home, Coronado, located? (California)
7. Which Kristin Hannah novel set in Alaska was adapted into a Netflix series? (*Firefly Lane*)
8. Roughly which decade does the bulk of *The Women* take place in? (The late 1960s and early 1970s)

Rate the book

Coziness of the read

☆☆☆☆☆

Emotional pull

☆☆☆☆☆

Characters you'd hug

☆☆☆☆☆

Staying power

☆☆☆☆☆

Recommend to a friend

☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made you feel: _____

A moment I want to remember: _____

Who I thought of while reading: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

Slippers On, Hearts Open

Come curl up for a cozy night with *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.
Warm bowls, soft blankets, and the kind of conversation that lingers
long after the kettle goes cold.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit bookclubnight.com

Made with Book Club Night