



Book Club Kit Contents:

- Letter from Jodie Leigh Murray
- The Beginning of The Guilded Age
 - Discussion Questions
 - Author Bio

A Letter from Jodie Leigh Murray

Dear Book Club Readers,

Thank you for reading *The Aristocrat's Wife*!

To say there was a lot going on during this period in time would be an understatement. This could be the reason it took me so long to write it. There were also a lot of sensitive subjects such as slavery, indigenous people, women's rights. But it was also a time of change. Wonderful change. Technology saw new beginnings, a new way of accomplishing things, and a means to make fortunes.

The country, still divided, needed to rebuild after the damage sustained during the Civil War. This included rebuilding train tracks destroyed in the south by the Union to sabotage supply efforts to the south.

You'll notice this book is larger than my others and broken into three parts. I started writing this one the summer of 2023 after *The Gangster's Daughter* was published. What I didn't expect was the amount of people who wanted to know what happened to the characters and I paused this one to start *The Gangster's Mistake*. I'm happy that I did! It came out better than expected with that break in between.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Jodie Leigh Murray

P.S. I would appreciate a review on Amazon or Goodreads. Thanks again!

The Beginning of the Gilded Age



People often referred to the period following the American Civil War from years 1865-1877 as the Reconstruction Era. The country remained bitterly divided even after the war; the south ravaged from the war. Wartime, presidential, and radical or congressional: these were the three parts of the reconstruction.

Part of this time period included the Gilded Age, a time a great revolution in America. While the period following the war remained a period of reconstruction, it also began this period of great economic change. The time period saw the transition from old ways to new ways, a time when vast fortunes were gained and lost.

Here are some interesting facts about the year 1868:

April 20, 1868: Women could not dine in public with a male companion. This changed in 1868 when journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, who went by Jenny June, was denied entry to a dinner in honor of Charles Dickens at Delmonico's. In response to this, she created her own club named Sororis, which became an organization of professional and literary women. On April 20, 1868, the Sororis club held its first official meeting at Delmonico's protesting the ridiculous ban against women dining alone. And they won. Delmonico's agreed and became the first establishment to offer a place for women to dine without a male chaperone.

May 16-26, 1868: The impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States. The House had charged Johnson in violation of the 1867 Tenure Office Act when he tried to remove Secretary of War Edwin Stanton from office while Congress was not in session. He was acquitted.

May 30: The United States observes Memorial Day for the first time, known as "Decoration Day".

June 22, 1868: Arkansas rejoins the United States.

June 25, 1868: The United States readmits Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, North and South Carolina.

Discussion Questions



1. What was your expectation about the book before you read it?
2. After reading the book, did your expectations change about it?
3. If someone asked you to summarize this book in ten words or less, what would you say?
4. If this book was made into a movie, would you watch it?
5. If you could give this book a different title, what would it be?
6. Is this book's genre the type you'd usually read?
7. How long did it take you to read this book?
8. What emotions did this book cause you to feel?
9. Did you learn something new about yourself after this book?
10. Did this book evoke a new feeling of empathy for other people and their personal challenges?
11. Did you like or dislike this author's writing style?
12. Is there a quote from the book that stayed with you? What is it, and why?
13. Is there a line from the book that you found unsettling or cringe-worthy?
14. If you could interview the author, what questions would you ask?
15. Have you ever met this author in person? What were your impressions or experience?
16. What character bothered you the most?
17. If you were making a film adaptation of this book, who would you cast for each main character, and why?
18. What did you think of the characters' names? Did they match their personalities?

19. If you could rename a character, which character and what would it be?
20. Do you agree with the decisions made by the main character and other characters?
21. Is the book's setting somewhere you'd like to travel to, and why?
22. How does the setting impact the story?
23. Did the world the author creates in the story feel realistic to you or lacking in certain details?
24. If you could make the setting a different location, where would it be, and how would it change the story?
25. Did the author accurately portray the time period, or did you notice inconsistencies?
26. How would you describe the pace of the plot?
27. Were there any plot twists? Were they predictable, or did they take you by surprise?
28. If you could change something that happened in the story, what would it be?
29. Is there an event in the story that stands out to you?
30. Do you agree with the ending?
26. What were some of the themes in the book?
27. Do you think the author covered the theme beautifully or missed an opportunity?
28. Did this book cause you to gain a new perspective?
29. How did this book broaden your view of societal, cultural, or worldwide issues?
30. Did this book leave a lasting impression on you?





About the Author

Jodie Leigh Murray is an independent author of romantic suspense and historical romance novels. An avid reader since learning to read, she started writing at a young age and never stopped. When Jodie isn't writing, she can be found camping or snuggling up with a good book. Find her on Facebook, Instagram and Goodreads, and learn more at www.jodieleighmurray.com.