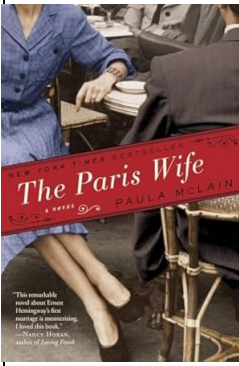




# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

The Paris Wife

Author: Paula McClain

Published: Ballentine Books, 2011

<https://paulamclain.com/>

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. What brought Hadley and Ernst together, initially?
3. How did the author portray their relationship? Do you think this was mostly based on fact, or mostly fiction and why?
4. Why do you think *The Sun Also Rises* which covered the time period Hadley was with Ernest, excludes Hadley in the characters? How did that make her feel? Why do you think he give her the royalties?
5. Have you read *The Moveable Feast*, in which Hemingway tells the story of their relationship? This book inspired McClain to write the novel. How closely does it follow her book? How does it differ?
6. Hadley describes herself as Victorian as opposed to a modern woman. What did you think she meant by that? How did their friends differ? Some describe their circle of friends as Bohemian? Which do you identify with the most and why?
7. What did you make of Pauline and her relationship with both Hadley and Ernst?
8. Do you like Hemingway's writing? Why or why not? How does this book affect your opinion of him?
9. Do you think Hemingway had mental health problems? If so, what issues do you think he had and how did that affect his relationships? What about Hadley?
10. Why do you think Hemingway married four times? Why did Hadley only marry once more after their divorce?
11. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?

Listen to the author on YouTube

Paula McClain talks writing *The Paris Wife*—Upcoming Episode Promo on About the Authors TV (12:36)

Beauty and the Book Episode 2 Paula McClain, author of *The Paris Wife* (11:01)



**NANCY:** This novel catapults the reader into Paris of the 1920s and the life of the first wife of Ernest Hemingway, Hadley. The author does a good job bringing their relationship and experiences alive within their circle of writing friends and beyond. I thought it gave a plausible view of Hadley's perspective.



**ABIGAIL:** I liked the way McClain portrayed Hadley, but this book really lays out her difficult life with Hemingway. I didn't really know much about the man before reading this book. I felt sorry for Hadley, and amazed the way she supported and stayed true to Hemingway, despite his issues and moods, until she couldn't.



**SALLIE:** I'd like to know more about their son, Bumby, as they called him. He seemed to be a happy little boy and not much affected by his parents' strange life and relationship, but then you don't really know what his life was like. I read a little about him as an adult, and it sounds like he had a good life.



**PRISCILLA:** I'm surprised that the people in Hemingway's circle were so unconventional and immoral. He and Hadley seemed to come from good families. I wonder how they became that way. I didn't like it.



**MOLLY:** I didn't realize what a mean person Hemingway was until I read this book. He doesn't sound like a very nice man, but Hadley and his other wives seemed to love him and supported him in his writing. He seemed to live a rather tragic life in the end, but he brought it on himself.



**JANE:** It seemed like Hemingway's wives supported him and encouraged him in his work. I was rather impressed with the way they did that before he hit the big time, especially Hadley. Fortunately he shared some of the royalties with her.



**KATHARINE:** I think this would be great for English literature students and anyone wanting to be a writer. To see how hard it was for Hemingway to become successful could help other writers persevere. He was fortunate to have the women supporting him in his early career.