

***The Wife and the Widow* by Christian White – Book Club Questions**

1. *The Wife and the Widow* explores self-sacrifice in the name of love. If you suspected your loved one of having committed a heinous crime, would you protect them? Should you?
2. Kate Keddie is forced to confront two types of grief: the first is the loss of her husband, and the second is the concession that she didn't truly know him. How well *can* we know the people we love?
3. 'If we don't talk about the monsters in this world, we won't be ready for them when they jump out from under the bed.' John says this to Kate in his last conversation with her. Why did he go to such elaborate lengths to not let Kate in?
4. Discuss setting in *The Wife and the Widow*. How does it influence atmosphere? Why do you think Christian White has opted for these events to unfold on a fictional island instead of a real one?
5. Christian White is also a screenwriter. How does this background come across in his narrative style?
6. Who would you cast as each of the key characters in a TV or film adaptation, and why?
7. To what extent are the characters in *The Wife and the Widow* victims of circumstance? Is anyone in this book evil?
8. The title of this book, *The Wife and the Widow*, invites comparison between the two main characters – specifically their identities as wives. What do Abby and Kate have in common? What is the effect of the alternating perspectives?
9. Consider every set of parents in the book, including Fisher and Pam. In what ways do they fail their children?
10. In the end, is justice served? Discuss the difference between the law and what is morally right, with reference to specific characters.
11. Christian White touches on social issues like class, mental health, sexuality and gender roles in *The Wife and the Widow*. How does the story comment on them?