



the dangers of female provocation

by zoë coyle

Vengeance is coming.

Odessa Odin has it all – a successful career, an adoring husband and a close circle of friends to whom she is fiercely loyal. On the surface they're living a glittering London life of wealth and cosseted privilege, but underneath this veneer lies painful truths of betrayal, neglect and unfulfilled ambitions. It's a tightrope of holding themselves and their marriages together as their men transgress the promises they made at the altar with the blithe entitlement they've enjoyed all their lives. For the women, there's just too much to lose.

When Odessa discovers her husband is having an affair, her carefully constructed life falls away, and the mask slips to reveal a vast reservoir of rage, fed up with the ways the patriarchy stack the odds against her sisterhood. Training her sights on her friends' husbands, Odessa becomes an avenging warrior – aiming to chasten them into being better partners, picking them off one compromising situation at a time...

But as Odessa's mission becomes all-consuming, it blinds her to the reality that the score is about to be evened in a way she could never anticipate.

The Dangers of Female Provocation is a razor-sharp, delicious testament to the force of women stepping into their own power.

The Dangers of Female Provocation is a razor-sharp, delicious testament to the force of women stepping into their own power.

Zoë Coyle has spent over 15 years in corporate and communication training, building on her 20 years' experience as a film and theatre actor in the UK, US and Australia. She is the communication coach of choice for the CEOs of some of Australia's largest companies, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations. Her first novel, *Where the Light Gets In*, was released in 2022. This is her second novel.



The Dangers of Female Provocation – book club notes

1. Is Odessa's behaviour justifiable?
2. Do you think you could forgive Odessa if you were one of her friends?
How important is forgiveness to you?
3. Is marriage an institution that is set up for women to thrive?
4. How many men in your life consider themselves feminists?
5. Do you think we have equality?
6. Why did Odessa's life change course so dramatically after the death of her father and learning about Ian's affair?
7. Do you think Cynthia a weak or strong person?
8. What do you think happens to Odessa after the end of the novel?
9. Why were brand names mentioned so often in the book?
10. The author wanted to explore perspective and how we can create ill-informed ideas about people. Discuss your experience of getting to know Elliott.
11. Would you say that Ian was a wholly bad man? Do you think anyone is completely bad?
12. When was the last time you were heckled on the street and how did it make you feel? How did you respond?
13. Kitty is a complex character. What are your thoughts on her?
14. Why is Odessa's dog at the end of the novel called Cassandra?
15. Do you think Odessa's friends' marriages are better or worse after she interferes with them?