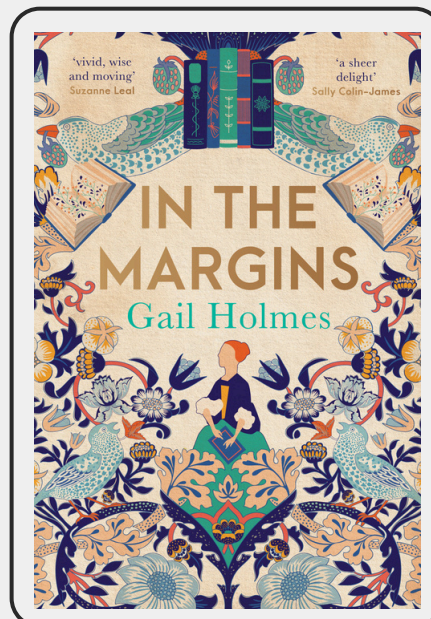


READING GROUP NOTES

IN THE MARGINS GAIL HOLMES

We are the spaces between the words.

Inspired by a real person, *In the Margins* is the story of spirited book-collector, Frances Wolfreston—the woman who uniquely preserved the earliest part of Shakespeare’s legacy.



September 2024

Paperback: \$34.99 | 9781761153112 | 336pp | TPB

Ebook: \$16.99 | 9781761153129

How much did you know about the 17th Century before reading *In the Margins*? Has the novel influenced your views on the lives of women back then?

What is the significance of Frances’ mother being arrested to Frances as a daughter, and as a rector’s wife?

In what different ways were books an important part of Frances’s life? Do you think books were a part of Frances’ being/identity or a hobby that she enjoyed? What informs your decision?

In what ways do the different characters in the book affect Frances’ agency/ability to change things? Who are the most and least supportive characters and why?

How would you describe the relationship between Frances and her husband Henry? Are the secrets between them justified? Why do you think that?

Frances and her mother bond over a particular Shakespeare quote. Why do you think this has such meaning for them?

HERSTORY. MOTHERHOOD. FREEDOM.

Why do you think Frances is drawn to help Hannah Smythe? How would you describe their relationship over the narrative.

Why does Frances tell Mrs Edwards, "We are the spaces between the words."

Does it surprise you that women were reading and collecting early books? If you had lived in 1647, do you think you would have been doing this?

How much do you think our lives have improved since Frances's days. Are there any areas that seemed familiar to you today?

Nature surrounds Frances. Can you think of any significant trees, flowers or birds and what these may symbolise?