

## Tempting Fate: Readership Guide

**1. THE TITLE:** What does it mean to “*Tempt Fate*”? Do you “believe” in fate? Is ‘Fate’ really what propelled Gabby’s story and does that mean that she is not-at-fault. **How do you define ‘Fate’?**

**2. A FEMALE MID-LIFE CRISIS.** When we first meet Gabby she is feeling self-conscious about going out with the “girls.” She feels old, unattractive, irrelevant. Do you feel her “condition” is a relateable mid-life cliché? Does that excuse her mis-steps? **Do you *like* Gabby once you better understood her needs, her history, her struggles? Or are you still angry at her lack of judgment?**

**3. MATT’S ATTRACTION.** Take a moment to unpack Matt’s attraction to the older, happily married Gabby. What was he really looking for, really? How was he *tempting fate* by falling in love with an unavailable woman. **Do you understand the cravings of a cub-to-a-cougar?**

**4. WHAT IS TRUE LOVE?** Do Gabby and Elliott have “true” love? What *is* true love, both in your personal opinion and/or experience and for each of the main characters in the novel? Do Claire and her husband have it? What about Trish and Elliott? **What version of True Love do you want for yourself?**

**5. A MODERN SCARLET LETTER:** Is there ever a good way to have an extra-marital adventure? Why is it always the woman who suffers more consequences of an affair? **Have you ever cheating on your mate?**

**6. BEGGING FORGIVENESS.** Gabby realizes the mistake she’s made once she assesses the damage she’s done to her family. Do you sympathize with her? How did you react to Elliott’s reaction, and her daughters’? Did you find Jane Green’s portrayal of this family realistic? **Which words of apologies were most meaningful to you? What would it take for you to accept such a genuine apology?**

**7. MATT’S PLACE in the story:** *TEMPTING FATE* employs a unique narrative device in which Matt’s is seen through series of texts or emails. Did you feel that you *knew* him? Liked him? Does it matter, either way? How do you envision his role in his son’s life? And --- just for fun! --- do you think that will he and Monroe will stand the test of time? **Could you envision accepting this family blend?**

**8. DESCRIBING *TEMPTING FATE*.** **Would you recommend *TEMPTING FATE* to someone who has not yet read it?** Why or why not? Would you describe it as a love story? A family drama? A cautionary tale? All or none of the above? Why or why not?

**10. THE ENDING.** Did you guess how *TEMPTING FATE* would end? Were you gratified or disappointed by how things turned out? How would you react if your otherwise *loving spouse* so egregiously broke your marriage vows? Do you “believe” in happy endings, generally speaking?