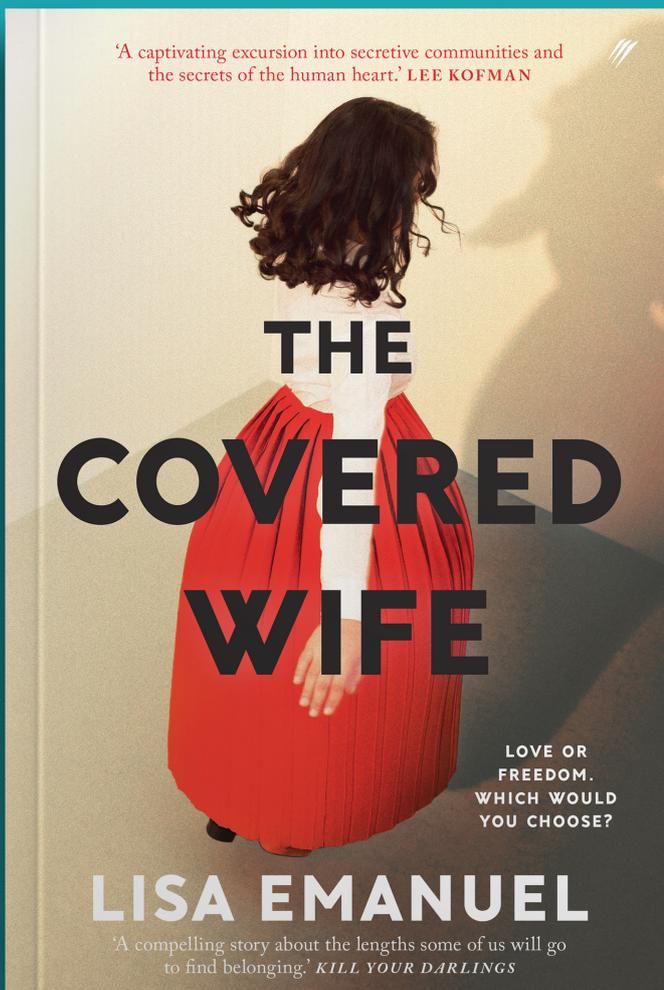




**PANTERA
PRESS**

SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

BOOK CLUB NOTES



Praise for *The Covered Wife*:

'Lisa Emanuel writes of family, of love, of anger and desire with lyricism and authority.'

KATHRYN HEYMAN

'A compelling story about the lengths some of us will go to find belonging.'

KILL YOUR DARLINGS

'A captivating excursion into secretive communities and the secrets of the human heart.'

LEE KOFMAN

BOOK CLUB NOTES



SPARKING
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THE COVERED WIFE

by Lisa Emanuel

Sarah is a smart, young lawyer working endless office hours when she falls head over heels for Daniel – handsome, passionate and part of the kind of large, chaotically loving family Sarah longed for as the only child of a single mother.

When Daniel introduces her to a charismatic young couple, Rabbi Menachem Lev and his wife, Chani, despite herself, Sarah is drawn in by their progressive beachside synagogue. By the time the couple move to the Jamison Valley, where Menachem and Chani have established a community of believers, Sarah can't imagine life without the friendship, purpose and love she's discovered.

Four years on, youthful fervour has given way to something darker. A series of terrifying truths emerges that tear Sarah's world apart, and cause her to question everything – her faith, her marriage, and her future.

This intelligent, unusual and gripping debut takes us from a seemingly perfect marriage deep into a closed community and asks, 'Where would you draw the line?'

About the author

Born and raised in Wellington, New Zealand, Lisa Emanuel studied law and political science in Wellington, Jerusalem and Sydney. She has worked as a political staffer, a judge's associate and in human rights law and marketing and communications. She now works as a competition lawyer and is writing her second novel. She lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband, three children and dog.



Shortlisted for the *Kill Your Darlings* 2019 Unpublished Manuscript Award, *The Covered Wife* is Lisa's first novel.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Which character did you most connect with?
2. Describe Daniel in three words.
3. Daniel says his family's beliefs are 'hypocritical'. Do you think this judgement is fair for him to make?
4. How does Sarah's upbringing affect her when she enters Daniel's world?
5. Do you think there are any similarities between Tali and Chani?
6. How would you describe the different power dynamics between the characters?
7. Did Sarah's mother do enough for her daughter? Discuss why/why not?
8. Do you think it was fair for Daniel to decide to stop being intimate with Sarah? Why/why not?
9. Before moving to the Jamison Valley, Sarah considered her life a 'half-life'. Why do you think she felt this way?
10. When do you think Sarah began to feel like an outsider? Do you think she is the only one in the community to have felt this way?
11. What do you think drew people to Menachem and Chani?
12. How does parenthood affect Sarah? How does her relationship with motherhood play out in the novel?
13. Do you think any of the choices Sarah made were 'easy'?
14. Compare Sarah at the start of the novel and at the end. Discuss the ways you think she's changed, or the ways you think she's stayed the same.
15. What do you think the future holds for Daniel and Sarah?