



The Paying Guests by Sarah Waters

About the author:

Sarah Waters is the bestselling author of five previous novels: *Tipping the Velvet*, *Affinity*, *Fingersmith*, *The Night Watch*; and *The Little Stranger*. Winner of many literary awards, she has been shortlisted for both the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. She lives in London.

Source: Publisher's website (<http://penquinrandomhouse.ca/>)

About this book:

The year is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned, the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. In South London, in a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants, life is about to be transformed, as Mrs. Wray and her daughter Frances are obliged to take in lodgers.

With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, the routines of the house and the lives of its inhabitants will be shaken up in unexpected ways. And as passions mount and frustration gathers, no one can foresee just how far, and how devastatingly, the disturbances will reach.

In this psychological and dramatic tour-de-force, beloved international bestseller Sarah Waters proves once again that her eye for the telling details of class and character that draw people together as well as tear them apart is second to none.

Source: Publisher's website (<http://penquinrandomhouse.ca/>)

March 2016



Discussion Questions:

1. If you've read other novels by Sarah Waters, how do you feel this fits into her existing work? What similarities and differences did you notice?
2. How do you think Sarah Waters deals with questions of morality in *The Paying Guests*?
3. Domestic details are very important in the novel: what effect do you think the house and its contents had on the characters and on the reader?
4. How does Waters deal with class issues in the novel, and how important do you think this aspect of *The Paying Guests* is?
5. The ending... was it what you expected, or were you surprised? What impact do you think it has on the rest of the narrative?

Source: <http://shinynewbooks.co.uk/>

Other formats available at Halifax Public Libraries:

- Audiobook (on CD)
- eBook
- Large Print

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