

# Moonlighting Bride

by Deborah Kulish

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## About the Book

When rich meets middle class love ensues. But will it be enough to keep newly married Jan Nichols from creatively financing her high maintenance lifestyle—even if it costs her life?

Jan Nichols is a newly married woman who has to give her paycheck to her dominating husband. Instead of her money going to support her high maintenance lifestyle, she now has to pay for things like electricity, insurance, groceries—and stay within her budget. This comes as a complete surprise to her. How did marrying the man of her dreams suddenly turn her world upside down? Jan has to figure out how she's going to maintain her standard of living at any cost. She can't let him know what she's up to, and she still wants to make her husband happy.

But when Jan realizes that her husband may be playing her for money—even at the expense of her life—she needs to find safety fast.

The Happily Ever After series is one woman's journey in love, business, marriage, motherhood, and gracefully aging. And, just like everyone else, she can't go back and rewrite her story. Follow Jan Nichol's love story with the entire series of books; *Life Changing*, *Moonlighting Bride*, *Christmas Runaway*, *Maternal Instincts*, and *Age Related*.

## Discussion Guide

1. Do you agree with the author's description that the central theme of *Moonlighting Bride* is marital disagreements over finances? Are there any other themes in the book that are not included in the book's description? Do you think the book jacket synopsis and jacket illustration do a good job of indicating the type of book it is?
2. Do you think Jan experiences guilt for the first time in her life when she has to choose between her husband's expectations of her versus maintaining her standard of living? Should she have been more forceful with her husband to live the life she wanted to?
3. How does each of the characters' personalities color the telling of the story? Do you empathize with any of the characters? Which ones and why?
4. Does Jan Nichols transform throughout the book? Or is she still the same person she always was with some new interests? Does any of the other characters in the story change? Can you relate to any of the characters' behaviors toward Jan?
5. When Jan explains to her husband that her parents' accountant manages her money, Rob lashes out at her by saying, "The big deal is that you and I are married, and we're tied to each other financially now." Do you think Jan should have insisted they keep separate finances? In what ways is Rob's dominance over Jan a reflection of his trust in Jan?
6. Are Jan and her friends, Monica, Christie, and Gina, really the supportive, loving sisterhood they think they are? Does the group's behavior remind you of any other fictional women's groups?
7. Do you think the story of marital finances will date well? Will people still be reading it in 10 years, 50 years, or a hundred years? Is it even relevant today? Was it relevant in the past?
8. Is *Moonlighting Bride* similar to other books in its genre? Does it fit more than one genre? If so, what are they, and what other books are in those genres?

9. Do the characters portray real-life behaviors? Do you personally know people who behave like any of the characters in *Moonlighting Bride*? Do you relate to any of the characters with your behaviors?
10. When you first started reading this book, did you have expectations of it? Did it meet your expectations, surpass them, or disappoint? Would you recommend, not recommend this book to others?
11. How did the book affect you emotionally as you read it? Did you feel the emotions that Jan endured throughout the story? Did you agree with her decisions, or do you think she should have taken a different path? Did the story remind you of anyone you know?
12. Project into the future. What do you think will happen to Jan Nichols and her family and friends next? Does she stay married and ditch her friends? Or ditch her marriage and keep her friends? Will you read the sequels to find out?
13. What other issues do you anticipate Jan and Rob will encounter throughout the Happily Ever After series? Do you think they are mature enough to work through their problems, or will they end up divorced?
14. Do you think Jan should have given up on the marriage and asked for a divorce? Do you think Rob would have agreed to it or have manipulated Jan into staying?

## Author Bio

Deborah Kulish is the author of the acclaimed series Happily Ever After, including LIFE CHANGING, MOONLIGHTING BRIDE, CHRISTMAS RUNAWAY, MATERNAL INSTINCTS, and AGE RELATED. She holds several degrees and has a wide range of experience writing for businesses and media. She lives in Metro Detroit, enjoying her life as a full-time indie author and managing her entrepreneurial activities.

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