



IAM READERS GUILD

Discussion Guide

***The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene**

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1. Did you find the plot compelling? Were you able to maintain momentum in your reading? Did you find Greene's simple and straight-forward technique persuasive?
2. Many have called *The End of the Affair* a somewhat autobiographical work. Did you perceive this in Bendrix's narration? What does this say about Greene's opinions on adultery and its effects on religious belief?
3. When the bomb goes off during the blitz, Sarah prays that Maurice will be restored to life. She makes an oath to change her life if only her lover is spared. What does this evidence about sacrifice? Love both human and divine?
4. In his First Things article *The (Mis)Guided Dream of Graham Greene*, Robert Royal writes that Greene had repeated affairs which resulted in a lax Catholicism. Greene thought that, "...after the seventeenth century the novel had degenerated because of a lack of religious seriousness. Only in the nineteenth century, when orthodox religious belief had appeared were the fullness and depth of the human soul available to writers." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss the works of the 20th century that were/were not informed by religion and their resulting strengths/weaknesses.

The questions below are merely prompts to get your discussion going. Keep a brief record of the most interesting ideas that come up during your discussion, and after the meeting, send us a summary (around a paragraph long) to post to the Readers Guild blog! (Email your summary to readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org.)