

The Last Anniversary

Harper Perennial

By Liane Moriarty

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Introduction

Sophie Honeywell always wondered if Thomas Gordon was the one who got away. He was the perfect boyfriend, but on the day he was going to propose, she broke his heart. A year later he married his travel agent, while Sophie has been mortifyingly single ever since. Now Thomas is back in her life because Sophie has unexpectedly inherited his aunt Connie's house on Scribbly Gum Island—home of the famously unsolved Munro Baby mystery.

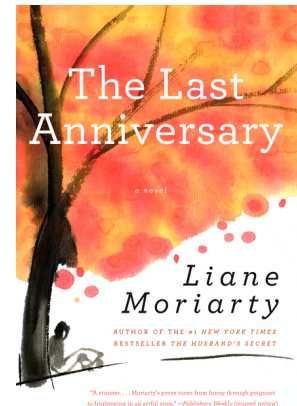
Sophie moves onto the island and begins a new life as part of an unconventional family, where it seems everyone has a secret. Grace, a beautiful young mother, is feverishly planning a shocking escape from her perfect life. Margie, a frumpy housewife, has made a pact with a stranger, while dreamy Aunt Rose wonders if maybe it's about time she started making her own decisions.

As Sophie's life becomes increasingly complicated, she discovers that sometimes you have to stop waiting around—and come up with your own fairy-tale ending.

Liane Moriarty once again combines sharp wit, lovable and eccentric characters, and a page-turning story for an unforgettable *Last Anniversary*.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does her extended family feel about Connie Thrum's decision to leave her house on Scribbly Gum Island to Sophie Honeywell?
2. To what extent do Grace Tidyman's turbulent emotions seem characteristic of postpartum depression, and how do they manifest themselves in the plot of the children's book she is writing?
3. What role does the Munro Baby mystery play in attracting tourists to Scribbly Gum Island, and how do Rose, Connie, and Enigma actively perpetuate the legend?
4. To what extent does Sophie Honeywell's acquisition of the house on Scribbly Gum Island change her prospects for romance?



5. What does Aunt Connie mean when she tells Veronika "Love is a decision," and how does this statement apply to Callum, Sophie, Connie, and Rose in *The Last Anniversary*?
6. How did the alternating narration of this novel from the perspectives of different characters affect your appreciation of each character and his or her individual concerns?
7. To what extent was Sophie and Callum's extramarital flirtation in keeping with their characters? How was Grace complicit in their developing feelings?
8. Several characters undergo major transformations over the course of *The Last Anniversary*. How do Veronika, Grace, Rose, Margie, and Sophie change over the course of the novel, and what makes these kinds of change possible?
9. Why does Rose's revelation about the true story behind the Munro Baby mystery redefine the nature of her relationship with Enigma? How does it call into question her morality?
10. Of the many characters in this novel, which was your favorite and why?