



Summary

Jake Hayes is missing. This much is certain. At first, his wife, Nina, thinks he is blowing off steam at a friend's house after their heated fight the night before. But then a day goes by. Two days. Five. And Jake is still nowhere to be found. Lily Scott, Nina's friend and coworker, thinks she may have been the last to see Jake before he went missing. After Lily confesses everything to her husband, Christian, the two decide that nobody can find out what happened leading up to Jake's disappearance, especially not Nina. But Nina is out there looking for her husband, and she won't stop until the truth is discovered.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Between Christian and Nina, which of the narrators did you relate to most and why?
- 2) Christian, in particular, goes to extremes to protect his wife and unborn child. Did you ever think he crossed a line and, if so, at what point?
- 3) Are there circumstances where you would be willing to hurt another person or do something awful to protect yourself or someone you love? Explain.
- 4) Did you expect the final twist at the end? If you were Nina, how would you feel? Would you ever be able to forgive?
- 5) There is irony in the title of the book, Just the Nicest Couple. How do you think it applies to each of the couples?
- 6) Are you happy with how things are left with Christian and Lily at the end of the book? What do you think will happen to them?
- 7) What do you think will happen to Nina in the years to come? Do you think it's possible to find happiness after so much trauma?

Questions courtesy of authors website:

<https://marykubica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2211-no-code-JUST-THE-NICEST-COUPLE-Discussion-Questions.pdf>



About the Author

Mary Kubica is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of many suspense novels, including *THE GOOD GIRL*, *PRETTY BABY*, *DON'T YOU CRY*, *EVERY LAST LIE*, *WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT*, *THE OTHER MRS.*, *LOCAL WOMAN MISSING* and *JUST THE NICEST COUPLE*.

A former high school history teacher, Mary holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in History and American Literature. She lives outside of Chicago with her husband and two children.

Book reviews

Review by K.L. Romo

BookPage

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Nina and Jake Hayes are an impressive couple: a high school English teacher and a neurosurgeon. Nina accepts that Jake is hardly ever home—he saves lives for a living. But Jake doesn't reciprocate. He resents the time Nina spends with her mother, who's going blind, instead of with him. Nina didn't mean all the things she said to Jake when they fought the night before; she'll apologize when he comes home from work. When Jake doesn't come home, Nina thinks he's just punishing her. But a day missing turns into weeks, and Nina is sure something sinister has happened to her husband. Meanwhile, Nina's best friend and fellow teacher, Lily Scott, confesses to her husband, Christian, that she encountered Jake while hiking. He tried to assault her, and she defended herself. She thinks she might have killed him, but when they search the woods, Jake is nowhere to be found. As Lily and Christian try to cover up clues about Lily's involvement, Nina closes in on figuring out what happened to Jake. She never would have predicted what she discovers. **VERDICT** In Kubica's (*Local Woman Missing*) twisted tale of deception and falsehoods, readers will relish the shock factor in an ending they didn't see coming.—K.L. Romo

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