



## Summary

What if marriage was the law? Dare you disobey? Black Mirror meets thriller with a dash of Naomi Alderman's *The Power* in this dark, high-concept novel by the bestselling author of *The One*.

Britain. The near-future. A right-wing government believes it has the answer to society's ills—the Sanctity of Marriage Act, which actively encourages marriage as the norm, punishing those who choose to remain single.

But four couples are about to discover just how impossible relationships can be when the government is monitoring every aspect of our personal lives—monitoring every word, every minor disagreement...and will use every tool in its arsenal to ensure everyone will love, honor and obey.



## About the Author

John Marrs is an author and former journalist based in London and Northamptonshire. After spending his career interviewing celebrities from the worlds of television, film and music for numerous national newspapers and magazines, he is now a full-time author. His books include the #1 bestseller and Netflix series *THE ONE*, *THE PASSENGERS*, the award-winning *WHAT LIES BETWEEN US* and *THE GOOD SAMARITAN*.

## Discussion Questions

- The book is set in a dystopian near future. Did you find it difficult to envision such a future? Or did it hit a little too close to home?
- How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
- How did the author use different perspectives or narrators to tell the story? Did it add to the complexity or confusion of the plot? Did it reveal any secrets or clues that you missed before?
- What were the main themes or messages of the book and how did they relate to the story?
- How did the book challenge or change your perspective or opinion on something?
- Who was your favorite character and why?
- What was the most memorable or shocking scene or twist in the story and why?
- What does the world of the book say about our actual world, if anything? Is it optimistic about a potential future or cautionary?
- How do the book's characters react to the science fiction world or scenario they experience? How does it compare to how you would react if placed in this situation or world?
- How did the author generate suspense and tension throughout the book? How did they initially draw you in? What techniques did they use to keep you hooked and on edge?
- What was the most challenging or difficult part of the book for you to read or understand? How did you overcome it?
- How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?

## Reviews

"A smart Orwellian thriller set in a near-future U.K. where the financial impact of several pandemics has led to drastic measures... Marris builds on techno-dystopian ideas explored in prior books to craft a scarily plausible world. Readers will be riveted." —Publishers Weekly

The characters (both central and supporting) are vividly drawn, and their stories uniquely captivating. Marris transforms a slightly out-there premise into a gripping, completely believable story full of surprises that prompt reflection. Absolutely compelling."—Booklist

"John Marris can do no wrong. Like Huxley and Orwell before him, Marris manages to take real life sanctities and twist them into something terrifyingly plausible. All hail the master of the speculative thriller!"—Jack Jordan, author of Sunday Times bestseller Do No Harm

"The king of near-future what-ifs is back with a smart and chilling page-turner. Twisty, unsettling, scarily believable and thought provoking, this is his best yet." —Ellery Lloyd, author of The Club

"A scarily plausible alternative future with a truly twisted narrative. Tensely plotted and terrifyingly imagined." —Harriet Tyce, bestselling author of Blood Orange

"Clever, compelling and terrifyingly plausible. A near future nightmare that grips from the first page and never lets go. The Marriage Act is a brilliant examination of relationships and the power we let others have over us. And talk about a page-turner. This one will leave you with paper cuts!" —C. J. Tudor, author of The Chalk Man

"An absolute blinder of a book... Another gripping page-turner." —Claire Allan, author of The Liar's Daughter