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JANUARY 2023 ADULT SERVICES

Book Club Kit

Listening Still by Anne Griffin



From the Publisher

From Anne Griffin, the bestselling author of *When All is Said*, comes *Listening Still*, a refreshing new novel about a young woman who can hear the dead—a talent which is both a gift and a curse.

Jeanie Masterson has a gift: she can hear the recently dead and give voice to their final wishes and revelations. Inherited from her father, this gift has enabled the family undertakers to flourish in their small Irish town. Yet she has always been uneasy about

censoring some of the dead's last messages to the living. Unsure, too, about the choice she made when she left school seventeen years ago: to stay or leave for a new life in London with her charismatic teenage sweetheart. So when Jeanie's parents unexpectedly announce their plan to retire, she is jolted out of her limbo. In this captivating successor to her much-lauded debut, *When All Is Said*, Anne Griffin portrays a young woman who is torn between duty, a comfortable marriage, a calling she both loves and hates and her last chance to break free. *Listening Still* is a heartachingly honest look at what we give up and what we gain when we choose to follow our heart.



Discussion Topics

1. How would you describe Jeanie Masterson's growth throughout the novel?
2. How does the concept of "family" make itself known in *Listening Still*?
3. Consider the idea of "last wishes" as is explored in this book.
4. What similarities do you see in the characters who can speak to the dead? What differences do you see?
5. Explore how different cultures handle death. Did anything stand out for you that you did or did not agree with?
6. When did you first suspect that Ann was not as innocent as you first believed? What was the biggest shock for you in the book?
7. Which of the characters did you resonate with the most in the book? The least?



Author Biography

Anne Griffin is the author of the Irish No. 1 bestseller 'When All Is Said'. Winner of the Newcomer of the Year Irish Book Awards 2019 and longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award 2021. Her second novel, 'Listening Still' was published in 2022 and her third, 'The Island Of Longing' will be published in April 2023.

Anne's books have been translated into several languages and recorded as e-audiobooks. Before becoming a writer, she had an eight year career as a bookseller at Waterstones. She lives in Ireland with her husband and son.