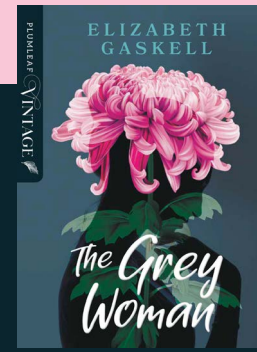


# The Grey Woman



BY  
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1. *The Grey Woman* is sometimes categorized as a Gothic novel. How successful is Elizabeth Gaskell in building an atmosphere of fear and suspense in the novel? What other features does *The Grey Woman* have that are typical of a Gothic novel? How is this novel different from other Gothic tales?
2. What role does the friendship Anna shares with her servant Amante (the name means "lover" in Italian) play in *The Grey Woman*? Why can this friendship not be easily characterized? Does Amante have to die?
3. Present a case for or against considering Anna a victim. Is Anna more than a victim? How can an argument be made for considering Amante, not Anna, the protagonist of *The Grey Woman*?
4. How do the characters of Monsieur de la Tourelle and of Amante both seem to break conventional gender barriers? In what other ways is *The Grey Woman* a story of contrasts? Why is nothing as it seems?
5. Does the epistolary format in *The Grey Woman* lead to greater intimacy with Anna, or does it allow her to manipulate the reader to her point of view? Is she a reliable narrator, or is she biased? What impact does writing from the perspective of the victim allow the storyteller to have on the listener?
6. What general observations can be made about the state of marriage in *The Grey Woman*? How convincingly does Elizabeth Gaskell advocate for marriage as an equal partnership? How relevant to our world today are the comments that she is making about marriage?
7. The opening pages of the book quote Elizabeth Gaskell: "How easy it is to judge rightly after one sees what evil comes from judging wrongly." How is this statement applicable to *The Grey Woman*?
8. *The Grey Woman* is now considered ahead of its time for its progressive feminist views. It was published in 1861, nine years before the Married Woman's Property Act was introduced in 1870 (and amended in 1882). Before this Act, husbands legally had complete control over their wives largely for financial reasons. How does *The Grey Woman* make a compelling case for women's rights?
9. In her introduction to this edition of *The Grey Woman*, Molly Greeley wrote, "Beneath The Grey Woman's Gothic exterior ... seethe feminist themes that are still relevant today, 160 years after its writing." Evaluate the accuracy of this statement.