

# *The* **HOUSEWIVES UNDERGROUND**

by **KAITLYN TIFFANY**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What drew you most to Sylvia Meagher, Shirley Martin, or Maggie Field?
2. Which woman's story resonated with you most and why?
3. How does the book challenge traditional ideas about who gets to be considered an expert? What qualities made these women effective researchers despite being dismissed as amateurs?
4. The women profiled in the book came from very different backgrounds and political perspectives. What do you think allowed them to form meaningful connections and work together despite those differences?
5. How did the women's investigations change their lives? Do you think the work enriched their lives, consumed them, or both?
6. The book repeatedly explores the differences among evidence, speculation, and certainty. Did it change the way you think about how people reach conclusions or form beliefs?
7. Many of the women felt isolated before they found one another. What role did friendship, correspondence, and community play in sustaining their work?
8. How does the book portray the relationship between ordinary citizens and powerful institutions? Did your sympathies shift as the story unfolded?
9. Several of the women became increasingly frustrated with how history was being written in real time. What does the book suggest about who gets to shape public memory?
10. The story unfolds against the backdrop of the 1960s, including the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. How did these larger events influence the women's thinking and motivations?
11. By the end of the book, what do you think is the most important mystery being explored: who killed Kennedy, why people questioned the official story, or how these women found purpose through the search? Why?
12. The book follows people who devoted years of their lives to a single question. What do you think motivates that level of commitment? Is it admirable, troubling, or both?
13. What do you think the title *The Housewives Underground* ultimately means? What does the "underground" represent in the context of the story?

**CROWN**