**A Fine Imitation
by Amber Brock**

**About the Book**

Set in the glamorous 1920s, A Fine Imitation is an intoxicating debut that sweeps readers into a privileged Manhattan socialite’s restless life and the affair with a mysterious painter that upends her world, flashing back to her years at Vassar and the friendship that brought her to the brink of ruin.

Vera Bellington has beauty, pedigree, and a penthouse at The Angelus—the most coveted address on Park Avenue. But behind the sparkling social whirl, Vera is living a life of quiet desperation. Her days are an unbroken loop of empty, champagne-soaked socializing, while her nights are silent and cold, spent waiting alone in her cavernous apartment for a husband who seldom comes home.

Then Emil Hallan arrives at The Angelus to paint a mural above its glittering subterranean pool. When the dangerous mysteries of Emil’s past are revealed, Vera faces an impossible choice—whether to cling to her familiar world of privilege and propriety or to risk her future with the enigmatic man who has taken her heart. A Fine Imitation explores what happens when we realize that the life we’ve always led is not the life we want to have.

**About the Author**

Amber Brock teaches British literature at an all girls’ school in Atlanta. She holds an MA from the University of Georgia and lives in Smyrna with her husband, also an English teacher, and their three rescue dogs

**If you enjoyed *A Fine Imitation:***

* *A Certain Age* by Beatriz Williams
* *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict
* *Monsoon Summer by* Julia Gregson
* *The Light of Paris* by Eleanor Brown
* *The Book That Matters Most* byAnn Hood

**Discussion Questions**

1. Visual art plays a huge role in A Fine Imitation. In her college years, Vera explains why she studies art, saying, “Even when it’s ugly or sad, it’s beautiful.” Why might she feel this way? Do you agree?
2. The novel explores some of the tension between classical and modern art. The tenants of The Angelus mock modern art, while Hallan declares that the newly emerging cinema is just another form of art. Is one form of art more legitimate than another? How does a form of expression become a true art form?
3. The names Longacre and Bellington come with certain rights and obligations for Vera. Bea refuses to be called Beatrice. Hallan’s name is the subject of doubt and speculation. Even Poppy’s name holds a secret. How do names affect the ways in which the characters define who they are and how other characters view them?
4. Vera enjoys obvious privilege thanks to her status and wealth. Why, then, is she still miserable? How do you interpret Hallan’s claim that Vera is living the tragedy she knows? Do you agree or disagree?
5. Vera’s breakthrough comes when she realizes she has the power to make her own choices about her life. Which of Vera’s choices do you agree were right for her? In which moments would you have done something different?
6. Each character is the protagonist of his or her own story. How does this novel change when told from Hallan’s point of view? Arthur’s? Lorna’s? Bea’s?
7. Much of the conflict in the novel comes from the secrets the characters keep. Are there times when keeping a secret is someone’s right? Are there times when others have a right to know?