

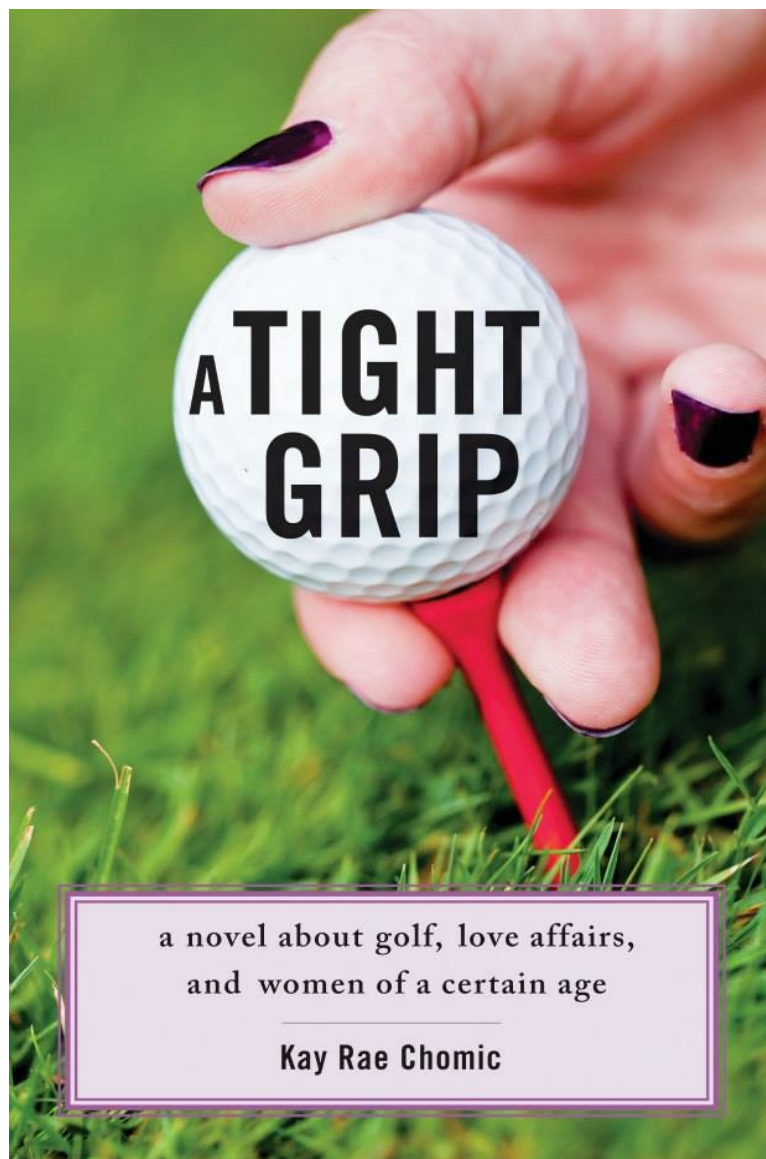
SHE WRITES PRESS

A Tight Grip

A novel about golf, love affairs, and women of a certain age
by Kay Rae Chomic

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Reading Group Guide



Discussion Questions

1. What do you think motivated Par to start reviewing her life story? How did you respond to her reaction to the secrets that she uncovers?
2. Discuss the importance of place in this novel. How does the author use the backdrop of small-town life in Midwestern America?
3. The beginning of this story attests to an everlasting hurt from the sins of high school—the cliques, the snubs, the popularity quotient. Discuss Dee Dee’s situation, and if it relates to your life experiences.
4. Discuss this passage: At times, walking into her childhood home reminded Par of the bond between her sister and mother and the bond she had had with her father. The former still vibrant, the latter extinct. Pairings like this being natural in families, often immutable, and always dysfunctional.
5. Did you have a favorite character in the story? How did your view of characters change as you read the book?
6. How does the relationship with her friends change her? In a sequel, what do you think will happen to Pinky and Gail’s relationship?
7. What do you think most matters to Par by the end of the novel? Do you think Par and Nick’s marriage has a sustaining advantage?
8. Par idolized Isadora Duncan who was the antithesis of Par. What do you think about the ritualistic “Isadora Fests” as a way to recover from life’s unexpected blows?
9. Discuss the book’s structure and the author’s use of language and writing style. How does the author draw the reader in?
10. Compare this book to other novels your group has read. Is it similar to any of them? What do you think will be your lasting impression of the book?

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About the Author



A competitive golfer at a young age, much of the golf action in Kay's novel was taken from her experiences playing tournaments at the local, state, college, and national level. Highlights: best round—73; one hole-in-one; life-long friendships made. An avid career changer, Kay spent a decade in the business world in four different industries, fifteen years teaching in a business school, and three years as a transit instructor. She holds a BA in marketing from Michigan State University, and a MBA in management from Golden Gate University. Kay has dedicated herself to her writing career in recent years, earning certificates in fiction and non-fiction writing from the University of Washington, participating in a writing group, readings, classes, and attending events at the Hugo House. When not writing, or working on the business of writing, Kay loves to swim, travel, and promote literacy by working as a tutor.

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