

The Night Circus

Erin Morgenstern

A lush, dreamlike tale of two young magicians bound to a mysterious competition inside a circus that only opens at night. It's the perfect book to curl up with and savor slowly.

Reading level: Moderate **Pages:** 512

Best for: clubs who love getting lost in vivid worlds and savoring the mood of a book

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. If Le Cirque des Rêves rolled into your town tonight, which tent would you wander into first, and who would you bring with you?
2. What was the first scene or image from the book that made you want to slow down and reread it?




DIGGING IN

1. The circus is famous for its blacks, whites, and reds. Did reading this book change how you notice color or small details in your everyday surroundings?
2. Which sensory moment in the book felt the most comforting to you, like something you'd want to step inside and stay a while?
3. The rêveurs follow the circus around the world. Is there a place, real or fictional, that you'd happily chase like that? What pulls you to it?
4. How did the book's pacing feel to you? Was its slow, dreamy rhythm soothing, or did you want it to move faster, and what does that say about how you like to read?




GOING DEEP

1. Many characters are quietly shaped by promises made long before they understood the cost. Was there a moment that made you think about commitments in your own life and how you carry them?
2. By the last page, what feeling did the book leave you sitting with, and is there a memory or season of your own life it gently brought back?

On the table

-  **Warm caramel apples and salted caramel popcorn**
Classic circus treats made cozy and shareable, perfect for picking at all night
-  **Black-and-white iced sugar cookies**
A nod to the circus's signature palette, easy to bake or buy and arrange on a platter
-  **A bubbling pot of tomato soup with grilled cheese soldiers**
Pure comfort food to anchor a chilly, dreamy evening of magic talk

To sip

-  **Spiced cider with cinnamon sticks (no alcohol)**
Warm, fragrant, and faintly carnival-like, ideal in a big mug while you chat
-  **Vanilla chai tea with honey and cream (no alcohol)**
Soft, sweet, and a little mysterious, like the circus itself
-  **Mulled red wine with orange and clove**
Deep red to match the rêveurs' scarves, and gently warming on a cool night

Run of show

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:00 | Soft arrivals Greet guests with a warm mug and let them browse the snack table while music plays low |
| 7:15 | Cozy settle-in Everyone finds a comfy seat with blankets and pillows, share one word for how the book felt to read |
| 7:25 | Warm-up questions Use the two warm-up prompts to ease into conversation, no pressure to go in order |
| 7:45 | Into the tents Move through the theme questions, refilling drinks and passing snacks as you go |
| 8:30 | Deeper by candlelight Dim the lights a little, bring out dessert, and sink into the two deep questions |
| 9:00 | Scorecards and lingering Fill out scorecards, play trivia for fun, and let the night wind down gently |

HOST TIPS

- Lean into atmosphere with candles, fairy lights, and soft blankets so guests instantly relax
- Keep food self-serve and easy to graze on, so conversation never has to pause
- If a question doesn't land, skip it without apology, the cozy vibe means flow matters more than coverage

Playlist

Hushed, twinkling, slightly mysterious instrumentals for a candlelit evening

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 01 The Night Circus - Christina Perri | 02 Comptine d'un autre été - Yann Tiersen |
| 03 Experience - Ludovico Einaudi | 04 Cornfield Chase - Hans Zimmer |
| 05 Saturn - Sleeping at Last | 06 Arrival of the Birds - The Cinematic Orchestra |
| 07 La Valse d'Amélie - Yann Tiersen | 08 Light - Sleeping at Last |

Trivia

1. Who wrote *The Night Circus*? (Erin Morgenstern)
2. In what year was the novel first published? (2011)
3. What is the French name of the circus in the book? (Le Cirque des Rêves)
4. What three colors define the circus's signature look? (Black, white, and red)
5. What name is given to the devoted fans who follow the circus around the world? (Rêveurs)
6. What hours is the circus open to the public? (Sunset to sunrise)
7. What writing project is *The Night Circus* said to have grown out of? (NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month))
8. What later novel did Erin Morgenstern publish after *The Night Circus*? (*The Starless Sea*)

Rate the book

Coziness Factor

☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere

☆☆☆☆☆

Characters You'd Hug

☆☆☆☆☆

Sentences Worth Rereading

☆☆☆☆☆

Lingering Feeling

☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I want to live inside: _____

Who I'd lend my copy to next: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

The Circus Arrives After Dark

Bring your slippers and a soft heart. We're gathering for warm drinks, cozy snacks, and gentle conversation about *The Night Circus*.



Plan your own book club night

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