



The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue

V.E. Schwab

A sweeping, bittersweet tale of a young woman who trades her soul for freedom and spends three centuries trying to be remembered. It is romantic, melancholy, and quietly magical, perfect for a slow evening together.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: clubs who love character-driven, emotional reads with a touch of magic

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What is the coziest spot in your home where you imagined yourself curling up with Addie's story?
2. Was there a particular city or era Addie passes through that made you want to visit (or revisit a memory of)?

DIGGING IN

1. Addie collects small joys (a song, a sketch, a meal). What tiny, everyday thing brings you the kind of comfort she clings to?
2. The book lingers on the warmth of being truly seen by someone. When in your life have you felt most genuinely noticed?
3. Art, music, and books carry Addie's mark through time. What song, painting, or story do you hope outlives you?
4. Which scene felt like a soft blanket while you were reading it, and which one left a little ache you carried around all day?

GOING DEEP

1. Addie bargains away one kind of life for another. Without spoiling anything, was there a trade in the book that felt achingly familiar to a choice you have made?
2. By the end, what feeling did the book leave gently sitting in your chest, and did it remind you of anyone you wanted to call or hold close?

On the table

Rustic French bread with salted butter and honey

A nod to Addie's village beginnings in rural France, warm and easy to share

Brie and pear grilled cheese

Cozy comfort food meets Parisian flavors from her many wanderings

Apple tarte tatin with whipped cream

Homey, slightly indulgent dessert evoking centuries of French kitchens

To sip

Honey-vanilla steamer (no alcohol)

Warm milk, honey, and vanilla for a soothing, memory-soft cup

Mulled red wine with orange and clove

Old-world warmth in a mug, perfect for a winter-in-Paris feeling

Spiced pear cider

Available in alcoholic or sparkling versions for an autumnal, orchard-cozy sip

Run of show

7:00

Soft landing

Greet guests with warm drinks, slippers welcome, low lamps and candles already lit

7:15

Comfort plates

Serve grilled cheese and bread basket while people settle into couches and floor cushions

7:35

Warm-up questions

Start with the two warmups so everyone hears their own voice in the room early

7:55

Heart of the book

Move through the theme questions slowly, no pressure to answer every one

8:30

Dessert and deep questions

Bring out the tarte tatin and ease into the two deeper questions over forks and whipped cream

9:10

Scorecards and wind-down

Pass out scorecards, share bookmarks, and let conversation drift naturally

HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low and layered: lamps, fairy lights, candles. It instantly sets the mood.
- Have a basket of throw blankets by the door so guests can grab one as they arrive.
- Let silences breathe. Cozy nights are about feelings, not filling every gap.

Playlist

Soft piano, hushed strings, and dreamy folk for candlelit conversation

01 Clair de Lune - Claude Debussy

03 Holocene - Bon Iver

05 Light - Sleeping at Last

07 Gymnopédie No. 1 - Erik Satie

02 Saturn - Sleeping at Last

04 La Vie en Rose - Édith Piaf

06 To Build a Home - The Cinematic Orchestra

08 Liability - Lorde

Trivia

1. Who is the author of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*? (V.E. Schwab (Victoria Schwab))
2. In what year was the novel first published? (2020)
3. In which country and rough time period does Addie's story begin? (France, in the early 1700s)
4. What modern city is one of the central settings of the book? (New York City)
5. What other adult fantasy series is V.E. Schwab best known for? (The *Shades of Magic* series)
6. What genre best describes this novel? (Historical fantasy / literary fantasy)
7. Roughly how many years does Addie's life span across the novel? (About 300 years)
8. What art form recurs throughout the book as a way Addie leaves traces in the world? (Visual art, music, and stories (especially the image of seven freckles like stars))

Rate the book

Coziness factor ☆☆☆☆☆

Emotional warmth ☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere and setting ☆☆☆☆☆

Characters you wanted to hug ☆☆☆☆☆

Lingering afterglow ☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I want to reread on a rainy day: _____

Someone I want to recommend this to: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

An Evening to Be Remembered

Bring your softest sweater and your most-loved copy of *Addie LaRue*.

We are gathering for warm drinks, comfort food, and a slow, gentle chat about the story that stayed with us.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit bookclubnight.com

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