



Malibu Rising

Taylor Jenkins Reid

A sweeping family saga set during one unforgettable Malibu party, where four famous siblings carry decades of love, longing, and unspoken hurts under the California sun.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: Clubs that love character-driven stories with heart, sunshine, and a little glitter

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where did you curl up to read this one, and did it make you crave the beach or the couch more?
2. Which Riva sibling did you want to wrap a blanket around and bring a cup of tea to first?

DIGGING IN

1. The Riva siblings take care of each other in really tender ways. What small moment between them stayed warm in your chest?
2. Nina carries so much for everyone. Have you ever been the person who quietly holds a family together, and how did this book sit with you because of it?
3. Malibu itself feels like a character. What place in your own life feels like home in that bone-deep way?
4. Surfing is the siblings' refuge. What is the thing in your life that works on you the way the ocean works on them?

GOING DEEP

1. The book gently asks what we owe the people who raised us, and what we owe ourselves. Where did you land emotionally by the last page?
2. Without giving anything away, was there a moment that made you want to call someone in your own family? What would you want to say to them?

On the table

Build-your-own grilled cheese bar with tomato soup shooters

Cozy California beach-shack comfort, easy to nibble through a long chat

Warm cinnamon sugar churro bites

A nod to Malibu's Southern California roots, sweet and shareable

Honey-drizzled cornbread with whipped butter

Soft, golden, and homey, like the Riva family kitchen you wish you grew up in

To sip

Mick Riva's Old Fashioned

A nod to the famous crooner father, served slow and stirred

Beach-bonfire spiked horchata

Warm, cinnamon-sweet, and a little indulgent for a cool evening

Sunset citrus spritzer with orange and rosemary (no alcohol)

Non-alcoholic and bright like a Malibu evening sky

Run of show

7:00

Soft landing

Greet guests with blankets, slippers welcome, playlist low, citrus spritzers in hand

7:15

Grazing and warm-ups

Settle in around the food, ask the two warm-up questions casually

7:40

Into the Riva house

Move to theme questions, encourage tangents into personal stories

8:15

Cocoa and churro break

Refill drinks, pass dessert, run a quick round of trivia for fun

8:30

Deeper waters

Tackle the two deep questions gently, let silences breathe

9:00

Scorecards and send-off

Fill out scorecards together, send everyone home with a bookmark

HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low and lamp-warm, not overhead, so people feel safe sharing
- Have a backup question on standby if a story takes the room somewhere tender
- Invite guests to bring a cozy item: a mug, a pillow, even pajama pants are welcome

Playlist

Soft 70s and 80s California gold, sun-warmed and a little wistful

01 Dreams - Fleetwood Mac

03 Ventura Highway - America

05 Africa - Toto

07 Harvest Moon - Neil Young

02 California - Joni Mitchell

04 Hotel California - Eagles

06 Time After Time - Cyndi Lauper

08 Wildflowers - Tom Petty

Trivia

1. Who wrote Malibu Rising? (Taylor Jenkins Reid)
2. In what year was Malibu Rising published? (2021)
3. Malibu Rising is set primarily during what single event? (An annual end-of-summer party at the Riva house)
4. What sport are the Riva siblings famous for? (Surfing)
5. In what decade is the main party storyline set? (The 1980s (1983))
6. Which earlier Taylor Jenkins Reid novel shares a character connection with Malibu Rising? (The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo)
7. What California coastal town gives the book its name? (Malibu)
8. How many Riva siblings are at the heart of the story? (Four)

Rate the book

Coziness factor ☆☆☆☆☆

Made me feel something ☆☆☆☆☆

Characters I cared about ☆☆☆☆☆

Setting I wanted to live in ☆☆☆☆☆

Would re-read on a rainy day ☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

The sibling I would invite over for tea: _____

A scene I want to remember: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

A Cozy Night in Malibu

Come trade the sand for the sofa. We are gathering for warm food, soft lights, and a long, gentle talk about the Riva family.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit bookclubnight.com

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