



The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo

Taylor Jenkins Reid

A dazzling old-Hollywood confessional about a legendary star finally telling her real story, full of love, ambition, and secrets worth lingering over.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: clubs that love character-driven stories with heart, drama, and a glamorous backdrop

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where were you when you did most of your reading, and did you have a favorite cozy spot or snack pairing while curled up with Evelyn?
2. What was the first scene that made you sigh, gasp, or text a friend about? Walk us into that moment.

DIGGING IN

1. Evelyn shares her life by counting it in husbands. If you told your own story through a handful of meaningful chapters (no names required), what would you call them?
2. Which of Evelyn's relationships felt the most tender to you, and what about it warmed your heart?
3. The book lingers on the gap between a public image and a private self. When in your own life have you felt comforted by being truly seen by someone?
4. Old Hollywood glamour is such a soft blanket of a setting. What little details (a dress, a cocktail, a Sunset Boulevard moment) made you want to step inside the pages?

GOING DEEP

1. Evelyn makes choices many of us would never make, yet she is hard to stop rooting for. What did the book gently teach you about offering grace to complicated people, including yourself?
2. Without giving anything away, how did you feel as you closed the book? What stayed with you on the walk from the last page back into your own life?

On the table

Cuban-style slow-cooked pork sliders with sweet rolls

A warm nod to Evelyn's Hell's Kitchen roots and Cuban heritage, served small and shareable for easy nibbling on the couch.

Creamy tomato soup with grilled cheese fingers

Old Hollywood diner comfort, the kind of late-night meal a starlet might sneak after a long shoot.

Chocolate icebox cake with whipped cream

A retro mid-century dessert that feels like a hug, perfect for lingering over the juicy reveals.

To sip

French 75

Evelyn's glamorous era in a coupe, gentle bubbles for clinking during gossip.

Spiked or unspiked hot toddy bar

Set out honey, lemon, and bourbon so guests can build their own warm mug. Cozy permission slip to slow down.

Cafe con leche or vanilla steamer (no alcohol)

A creamy, nurturing nod to Evelyn's Cuban background and a perfect non-alcoholic option for sipping between chapters of conversation.

Run of show

7:00 Soft arrivals

Greet guests in slippers-welcome mode. Hand them a warm drink and let them settle into the couch with the playlist humming.

7:15 Comfort food spread

Open the sliders, soup, and grilled cheese fingers. Encourage seconds. Casual plates on laps are perfect.

7:35 Warm-up questions

Start with the two warm-ups so everyone, including slower readers, can ease in without pressure.

7:55 Theme questions

Move through the theme questions gently. Let tangents happen, that is the cozy magic.

8:30 Dessert and deep questions

Slice the icebox cake, refill mugs, and dip into the two deeper questions while everyone is sugared and soft.

9:00 Trivia and scorecards

Wind down with a few trivia questions and pass out scorecards and bookmarks as a sweet send-off.

HOST TIPS

- Keep the lighting low: lamps and candles only, no overhead lights. It changes everything.
- Tell guests ahead of time that finishing the book is not required. Cozy means no homework energy.
- Have throw blankets within arm's reach. Sounds silly, works every time.

Playlist

Soft, smoky, mid-century lounge with a touch of modern tenderness, low volume so conversation stays the star.

01 Dream a Little Dream of Me - Doris Day

03 Cheek to Cheek - Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong

05 Quizas, Quizas, Quizas - Nat King Cole

07 Cry to Me - Solomon Burke

02 La Vie en Rose - Louis Armstrong

04 Fly Me to the Moon - Frank Sinatra

06 The Way You Look Tonight - Tony Bennett

08 Lover - Taylor Swift

Trivia

1. Who is the author of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*? (Taylor Jenkins Reid)
2. In what year was the novel originally published? (2017)
3. What is the cultural heritage Evelyn was born into? (Cuban American)
4. What New York City neighborhood does young Evelyn grow up in? (Hell's Kitchen)
5. What industry is Evelyn famous in? (Hollywood film acting)
6. Name another bestselling novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid. (Daisy Jones and The Six (also accept Malibu Rising or Carrie Soto Is Back))
7. How many husbands does the title promise? (Seven)
8. What profession does Monique, the journalist Evelyn chooses, work in? (Magazine journalism)

Rate the book

Coziness of the Read ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Characters You Wanted to Hug ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Swoon Factor ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Emotional Aftertaste ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Reread Potential ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

The scene I want to reread with a cup of tea: _____

A person I want to lend this book to: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

An Evening with Evelyn (Slippers Encouraged)

Come curl up for a cozy night of old Hollywood gossip, comfort food, and the kind of conversation that only happens when everyone is wearing soft pants. Bring your feelings about Evelyn Hugo, we will bring the warm drinks.



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