



# The Guest List

Lucy Foley

A wedding on a windswept Irish island turns stormy in every sense, told through shifting voices that keep you guessing. It's a propulsive, atmospheric mystery perfect for a snug night in.

**Reading level:** Easy

**Best for:** groups who love a juicy, escapist mystery and a good gossip

## Discussion

### WARM-UP

1. Where were you (and what were you snacking on) when you first got hooked into this book?
2. If you were invited to a wedding on a remote Irish island, would your gut say 'yes please' or 'absolutely not'? Why?

### DIGGING IN

1. Which character did you most want to wrap in a blanket and feed soup to, and what about their story moved you?
2. Weddings have a way of stirring up old feelings. Did any moment in the book remind you of a real wedding (yours or someone else's) you've attended?
3. The island itself almost feels like a character. How did the setting make you feel as a reader, and did it remind you of any place from your own life?
4. Foley jumps between narrators. Whose voice felt the coziest to settle into, and whose made you want to keep reading with the lights on?




### GOING DEEP

1. So many of these characters are keeping something tucked away. Without spoiling anything, which secret did you find yourself most sympathetic toward?
2. Looking back on the whole book, what feeling did it leave you with, and is that the feeling you wanted from a story like this?

## On the table

-  **Mini beef and Guinness hand pies**  
A nod to the Irish setting, warm and easy to nibble on the couch
-  **Cheddar and chive soda bread with salted butter**  
Homey, rustic, and very 'windy island kitchen'
-  **Sticky toffee pudding cups**  
A classic British Isles comfort dessert, indulgent in a cozy single-serve size

## To sip

-  **Irish coffee**  
Whiskey, coffee, brown sugar, soft cream on top, the ultimate cozy nightcap
-  **Mulled cider with apple and clove**  
Warm, fragrant, and feels like coming in from the wind
-  **Honey vanilla steamer (warm milk with honey and vanilla) (no alcohol)**  
A soothing non-alcoholic option that pairs with the dessert

## Run of show

- 7:00** **Soft arrivals**  
Greet guests with a warm drink in hand and the playlist already going. Blankets out, lamps on.
- 7:15** **Settle and snack**  
Hand pies and soda bread on the coffee table. Let people graze while you do warmups.
- 7:30** **Warmup questions**  
Keep it light and personal. No pressure to have 'right' answers.
- 7:50** **Into the book**  
Move through the theme questions. Pour refills between answers.
- 8:20** **Dessert and deeper chat**  
Bring out sticky toffee puddings and tackle the deep questions while the room is at its coziest.
- 8:50** **Trivia and scorecards**  
Wind down with the trivia round and let people fill in scorecards before goodnights.

## HOST TIPS

- Dim overheads and use lamps or candles to make the room feel like a snug cottage.
- Keep a basket of throw blankets near the seating, and put the food within easy reach so no one has to get up.
- If conversation lulls, share your own answer first to model that personal stories are welcome.

## Playlist

*Hushed folk, soft Irish strings, and gently moody acoustic, like a fireplace with the wind outside*

- 01 The Parting Glass - The High Kings
- 03 Bright Eyes - Hozier
- 05 Skinny Love - Birdy
- 07 Heartbeats - Jose Gonzalez

- 02 Galway Girl - Mundy and Sharon Shannon
- 04 Take Me to Church (acoustic) - Hozier
- 06 Carrickfergus - Loreena McKennitt
- 08 The Wedding - Cinematic Orchestra

# Trivia

1. Who is the author of The Guest List? (Lucy Foley)
2. In what year was The Guest List first published? (2020)
3. On what type of location does the wedding take place? (A remote island off the coast of Ireland)
4. What major book club picked The Guest List as a selection in 2020? (Reese's Book Club)
5. What earlier locked-setting mystery by Lucy Foley is The Guest List often compared to? (The Hunting Party)
6. What narrative structure does Foley use to tell the story? (Multiple alternating points of view)
7. What genre best describes The Guest List? (Mystery / psychological thriller)
8. What classic author of country-house mysteries is Foley frequently compared to? (Agatha Christie)

## Rate the book

Coziness factor	☆☆☆☆☆
Atmosphere	☆☆☆☆☆
Characters you'd have tea with	☆☆☆☆☆
Page-turn pull	☆☆☆☆☆
Lingered with you	☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: \_\_\_\_\_

The character I'd invite over for soup: \_\_\_\_\_

A moment I want to reread on a rainy day: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU'RE INVITED

## A Cozy Night on the Island

Pull on your softest socks and join us for warm drinks, comfort food, and a gentle gossip about Lucy Foley's *The Guest List*. No analysis required, just feelings and seconds of dessert.



**Plan your own book club night**

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