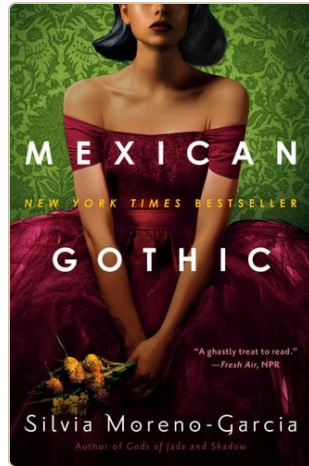


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



Mexican Gothic

Silvia Moreno-Garcia

🌙 COZY NIGHT

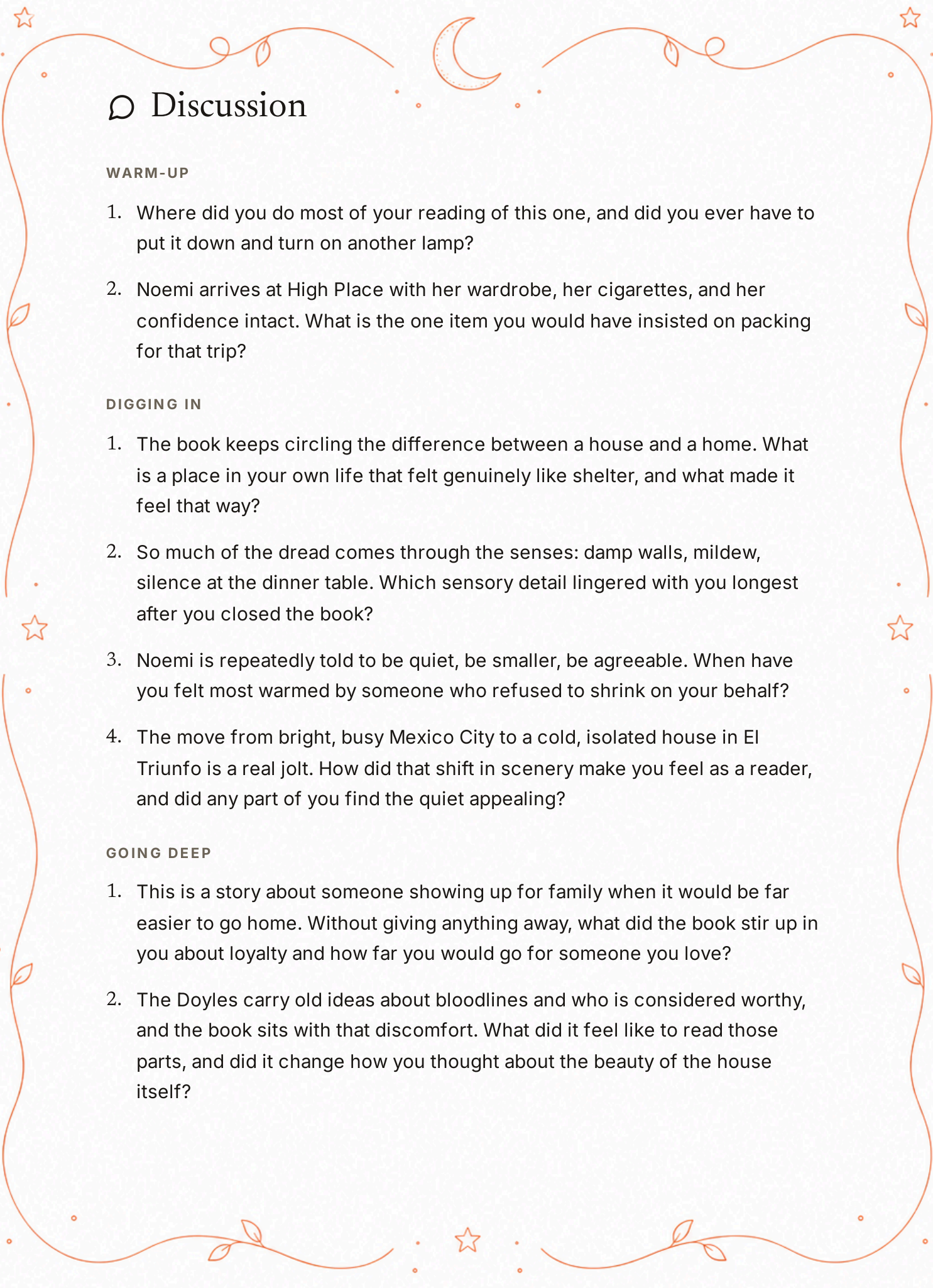
A young socialite in 1950s Mexico travels to a crumbling mansion in the misty mountains after a distressing letter from her cousin, and finds a house that seems to breathe. It is atmospheric, gorgeously eerie, and endlessly fun to talk about with a blanket over your knees.

Come In From The Fog

Bring your blanket and your appetite for a cozy evening with Mexican Gothic. There will be pozole, warm chocolate, candlelight, and just enough of a shiver to make the sofa feel safer.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: A club that loves mood and setting, and wants a shiver without losing the coziness



Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where did you do most of your reading of this one, and did you ever have to put it down and turn on another lamp?
2. Noemi arrives at High Place with her wardrobe, her cigarettes, and her confidence intact. What is the one item you would have insisted on packing for that trip?

DIGGING IN

1. The book keeps circling the difference between a house and a home. What is a place in your own life that felt genuinely like shelter, and what made it feel that way?
2. So much of the dread comes through the senses: damp walls, mildew, silence at the dinner table. Which sensory detail lingered with you longest after you closed the book?
3. Noemi is repeatedly told to be quiet, be smaller, be agreeable. When have you felt most warmed by someone who refused to shrink on your behalf?
4. The move from bright, busy Mexico City to a cold, isolated house in El Triunfo is a real jolt. How did that shift in scenery make you feel as a reader, and did any part of you find the quiet appealing?

GOING DEEP

1. This is a story about someone showing up for family when it would be far easier to go home. Without giving anything away, what did the book stir up in you about loyalty and how far you would go for someone you love?
2. The Doyles carry old ideas about bloodlines and who is considered worthy, and the book sits with that discomfort. What did it feel like to read those parts, and did it change how you thought about the beauty of the house itself?

☕ On the table & to sip

TO EAT

☺ **Pan dulce basket (conchas, orejas, cuernitos)**

Warm from the oven and dusted in sugar, this is the soft Mexico City comfort Noemi is homesick for, and it is a shop-and-serve win for the host.

☺ **Pozole rojo with all the little bowls of toppings**

A hearty, steaming, deeply homey Mexican stew that turns a chilly gothic night into something nurturing. Make it ahead, keep it in a slow cooker, let people build their own.

🏠 **Mushroom and cheese quesadillas with epazote**

A gentle nod to the fungal atmosphere of High Place, but earthy, buttery, and entirely friendly. Cook them on a griddle while people talk.

TO SIP

☕ **Champurrado (no alcohol)**

Thick, warm, chocolate and masa, the mug you wrap both hands around while someone describes the creepiest scene. Fully non-alcoholic.

☕ **Cafe de olla with piloncillo and canela (no alcohol)**

Brewed in a clay pot, sweet and spiced, the kind of coffee that says stay a little longer. Non-alcoholic, and a warm counterweight to the book's damp gloom.

☕ **Mezcal with orange slices and sal de gusano**

Noemi would absolutely have a drink in hand. Serve small pours, smoky and slow-sipping, for anyone who wants a grown-up nightcap.

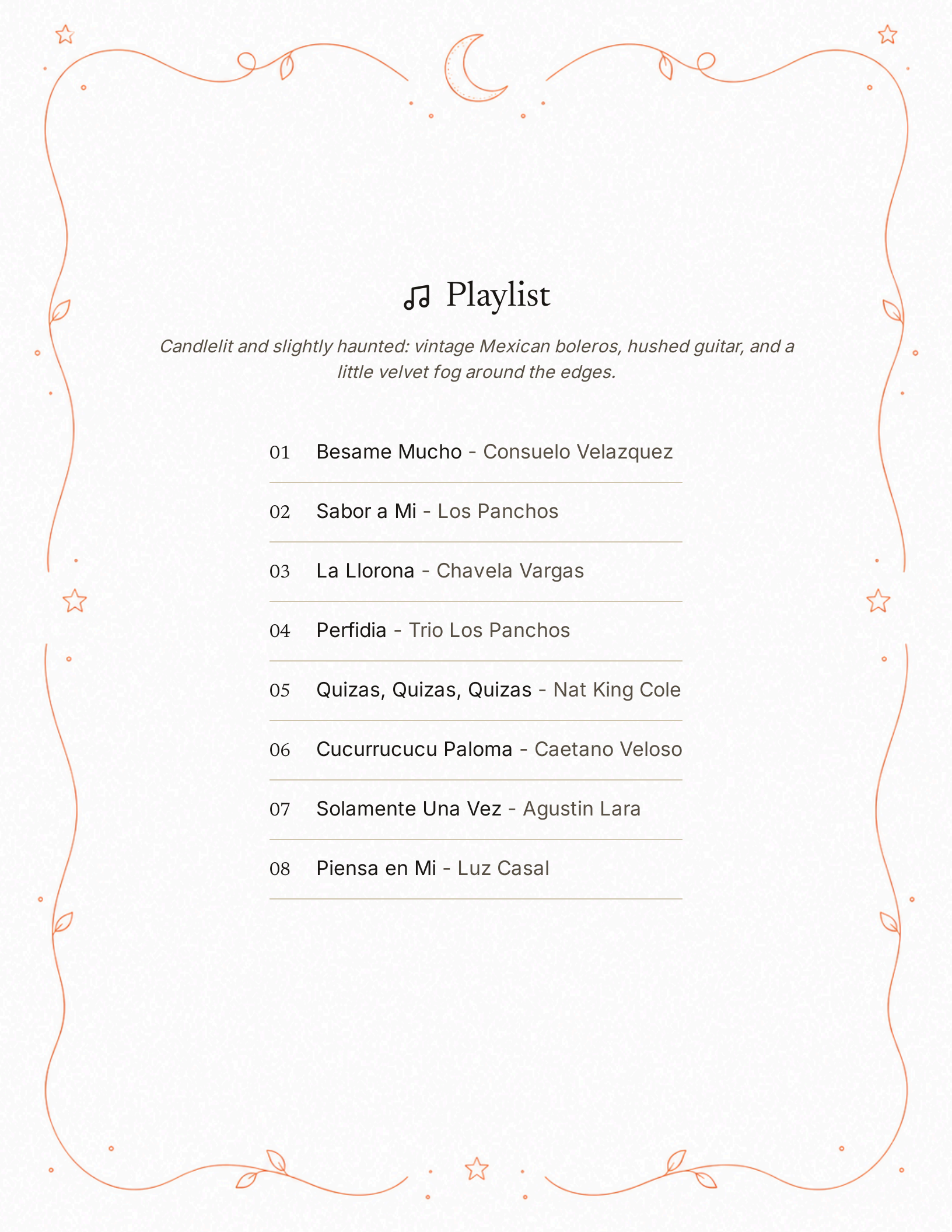


Run of show

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:00 | Arrive and warm up
Champurrado and cafe de olla ready by the door, pan dulce on the table, boleros low. No agenda for the first half hour. |
| 7:30 | Pozole and settle in
Everyone builds their own bowl and finds a soft seat. Blankets out, lamps on instead of overheads. |
| 7:50 | Warm-up round
Go around with the two warm-up questions. Keep it light and let people ramble a bit. |
| 8:10 | Theme conversation
Pull the theme questions from a bowl. Skip any that do not land. Silence is fine, it is a gothic night. |
| 8:45 | Trivia and quesadillas
Fire up the griddle and run trivia as a low-stakes group game, no teams, no scorekeeping unless someone insists. |
| 9:10 | Deep questions and last pours
Mezcal or a second champurrado, the two deep questions, then scorecards and bookmarks as people drift out. |

HOST TIPS

- Light the room with lamps and candles only, and keep one blanket per guest within reach. The atmosphere does half of your hosting for you.
- Make the pozole a day ahead and let the slow cooker do the work, so you are in the conversation and not the kitchen.
- Announce a gentle spoiler rule at the start for anyone who is still reading, and let the deep questions be opt-in near the end of the night.



🎵 Playlist

Candlelit and slightly haunted: vintage Mexican boleros, hushed guitar, and a little velvet fog around the edges.

01 Besame Mucho - Consuelo Velazquez

02 Sabor a Mi - Los Panchos

03 La Llorona - Chavela Vargas

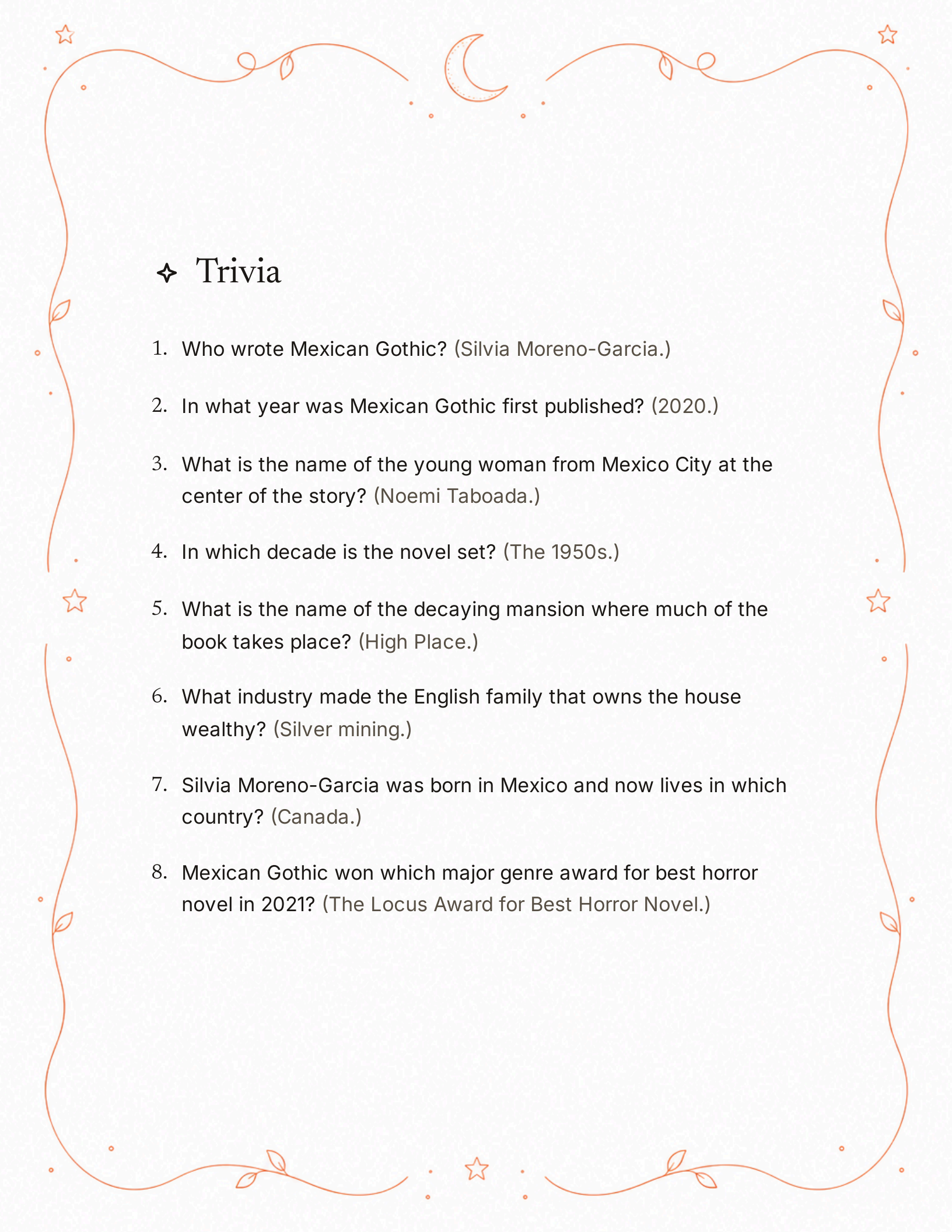
04 Perfidia - Trio Los Panchos

05 Quizas, Quizas, Quizas - Nat King Cole

06 Cucurrucucu Paloma - Caetano Veloso

07 Solamente Una Vez - Agustin Lara

08 Piensa en Mi - Luz Casal



✧ Trivia

1. Who wrote Mexican Gothic? (Silvia Moreno-Garcia.)
2. In what year was Mexican Gothic first published? (2020.)
3. What is the name of the young woman from Mexico City at the center of the story? (Noemi Taboada.)
4. In which decade is the novel set? (The 1950s.)
5. What is the name of the decaying mansion where much of the book takes place? (High Place.)
6. What industry made the English family that owns the house wealthy? (Silver mining.)
7. Silvia Moreno-Garcia was born in Mexico and now lives in which country? (Canada.)
8. Mexican Gothic won which major genre award for best horror novel in 2021? (The Locus Award for Best Horror Novel.)

□ Bookmarks

Print, cut, and tuck one at every seat, a small keepsake from the night.



☆ Rate the book

Coziness of the reading experience ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Atmosphere and mood ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

How much I loved Noemi ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Shiver factor ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would recommend to a friend ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

The scene I would happily reread with cocoa: _____

A place this book made me think of: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

We hope the company was good and the conversation even better. Until the next chapter.



Plan your own book club night

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Book Club Night