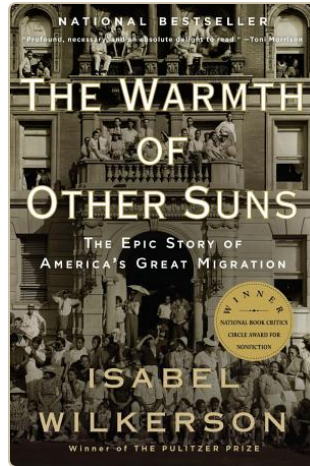


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Warmth Of Other Suns

Isabel Wilkerson

🌙 COZY NIGHT

Isabel Wilkerson follows three real people who left the Jim Crow South for new lives up North and out West, and tells their stories with a novelist's warmth. It's true history that reads like family stories told around a kitchen table, which makes it a natural fit for a cozy evening of sharing.

Come Home for the Evening

Join us for a cozy night of Southern comfort food, warm drinks, and heartfelt talk about Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Bring your appetite and a family story if you have one.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: Clubs that love true stories, family history, and long, heartfelt conversations over good food





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Many families in this book kept memories of the South alive through a dish, a phrase, or a song. What's one small thing that makes you feel instantly at home, and where does it come from?
2. Is there a story in your own family, near or far back, about someone packing up and moving somewhere new for a better life? Share as much or as little as you'd like.

DIGGING IN

1. People leaving the South often packed a shoebox lunch for the long train ride because they couldn't count on being served along the way. What did that small detail make you feel, and what would you pack for a journey like that?
2. Ida Mae, George, and Robert each carried something of home with them even as they built new lives. Which of their small comforts or habits stayed with you most, and why?
3. Wilkerson spent years getting to know the people she wrote about. Was there a moment in the book when you felt you were sitting right beside one of them, listening? What was that like?
4. The book shows the pull between the place you come from and the place you choose. Where in your life have you felt both at once, and how did you make peace with it?

GOING DEEP

1. Leaving meant real hope, but also real losses: family, land, and familiar faces left behind. How did the book change the way you think about the quiet courage it takes to start over, and whose courage moved you most?
2. The title speaks of seeking 'the warmth of other suns.' After living with these three lives, what does that phrase mean to you personally, and did any of them find the kind of warmth you hoped they would?

On the table & to sip

TO EAT



Shoebox Supper: Fried Chicken and Buttered Biscuits

A nod to the shoebox lunches migrants packed for the train north. Serve it in lined boxes or baskets, and use store-bought fried chicken if you want an easy night.



Skillet Cornbread with Honey Butter

A Southern staple families carried into Chicago, Harlem, and Los Angeles kitchens. Serve it warm straight from the skillet so everyone can tear off a piece.



Warm Sweet Potato Pie

A beloved taste of the Southern table that stayed in migrant households for generations. It's rich, sweet, and just the thing to share over a long conversation.

TO SIP



Warm Spiced Florida Orange Cider (no alcohol)

Non-alcoholic. A nod to the Florida citrus groves of George Starling's youth, simmered with cinnamon and cloves until the room smells like the holidays.



Hot Peach Sweet Tea (no alcohol)

Non-alcoholic. Southern sweet tea served hot with peach nectar and a lemon slice, for sipping slowly.



Bourbon Honey Hot Toddy

A warming Southern classic with bourbon, honey, lemon, and hot water. Offer it as the grown-up nightcap.



Run of show

7:00

Welcome In

Greet guests with a warm mug of spiced orange cider or peach tea while the playlist runs softly.

7:15

Shoebox Supper

Hand out the boxed chicken and biscuits. Explain the shoebox lunch tradition as everyone settles in.

7:40

Warm-Up Circle

Go around with the two warm-up questions. Let people pass or share briefly, with no pressure.

8:00

Heart of the Book

Move into the theme and deep questions. Let the conversation wander toward family stories whenever it wants to.

8:45

Pie and Trivia

Bring out the warm sweet potato pie and toddies, then play relaxed, just-for-fun trivia in teams.

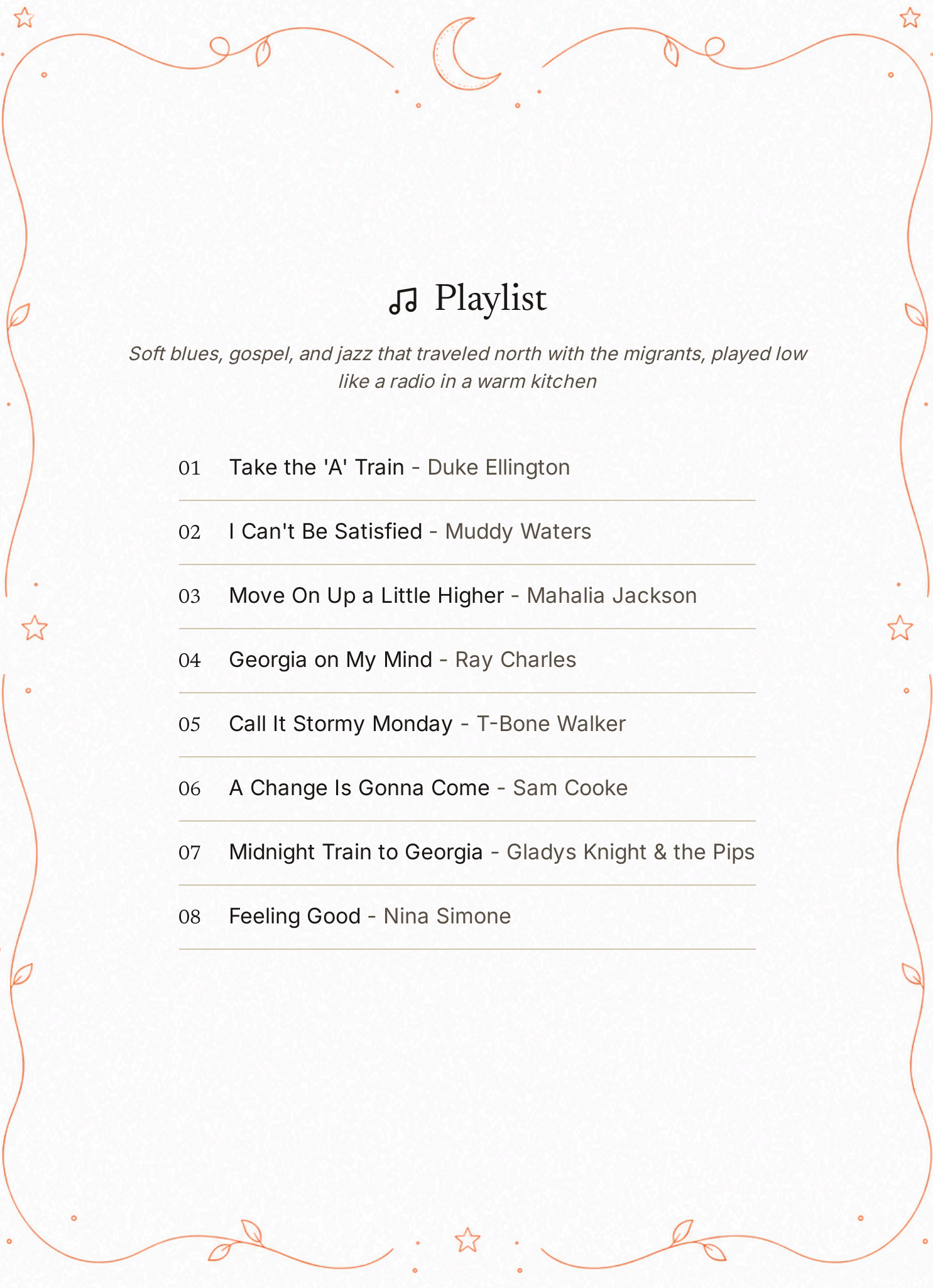
9:15

Cozy Send-Off

Fill out scorecards, hand out bookmarks, and invite everyone to share one person from the book they'll carry with them.

HOST TIPS

- Some guests may bring up painful family history. Keep the mood gentle, thank people for sharing, and never push anyone to say more.
- Set out a small basket of blankets and keep the lighting low and warm so the room feels like a family living room.
- It's a long book, so tell guests ahead of time that they're welcome even if they didn't finish. The questions work for any reader.



🎵 Playlist

*Soft blues, gospel, and jazz that traveled north with the migrants, played low
like a radio in a warm kitchen*

- 01 Take the 'A' Train - Duke Ellington

- 02 I Can't Be Satisfied - Muddy Waters

- 03 Move On Up a Little Higher - Mahalia Jackson

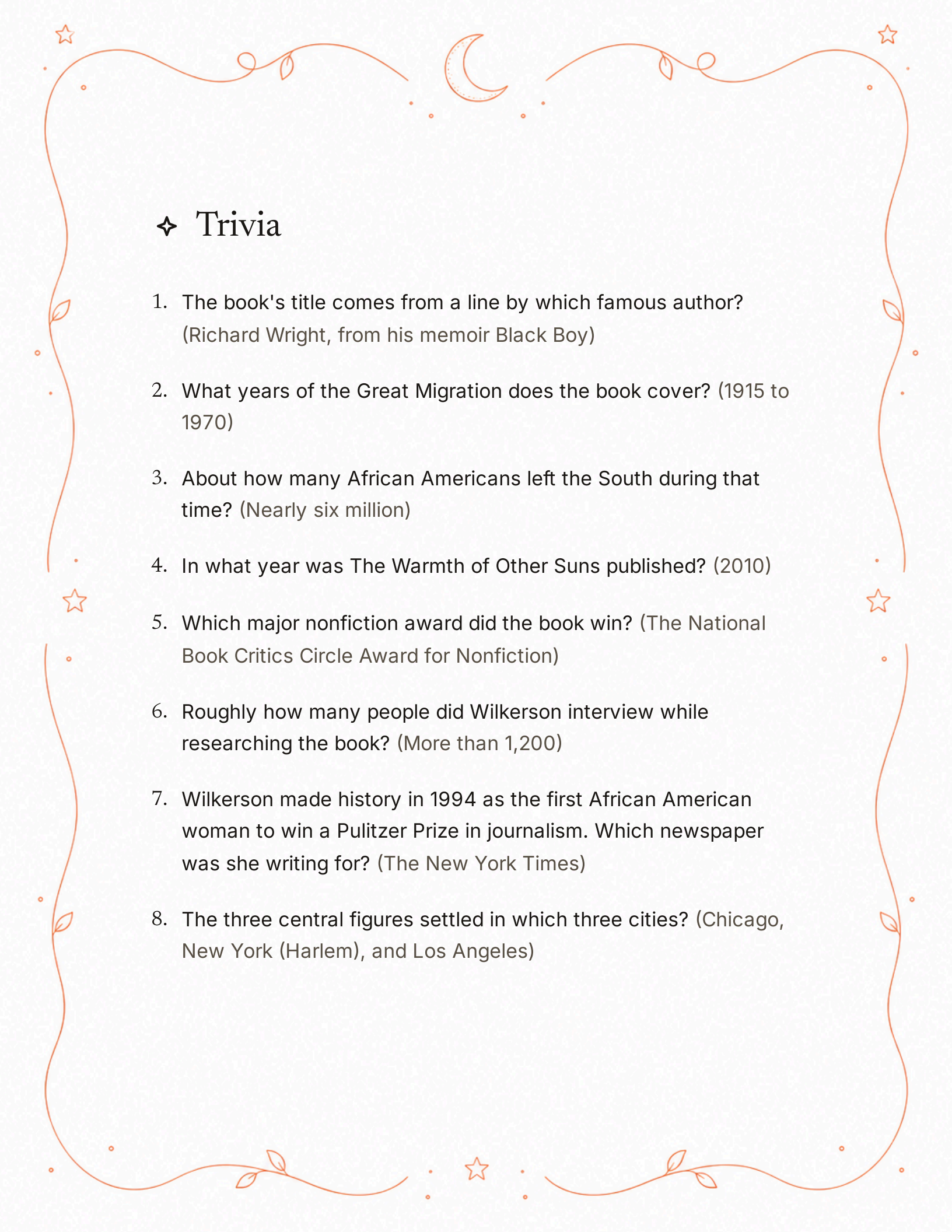
- 04 Georgia on My Mind - Ray Charles

- 05 Call It Stormy Monday - T-Bone Walker

- 06 A Change Is Gonna Come - Sam Cooke

- 07 Midnight Train to Georgia - Gladys Knight & the Pips

- 08 Feeling Good - Nina Simone

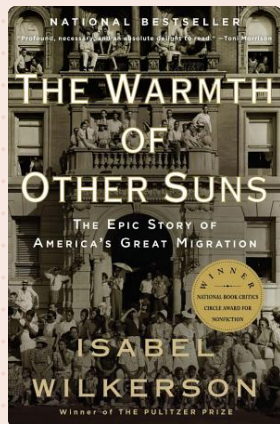


✧ Trivia

1. The book's title comes from a line by which famous author?
(Richard Wright, from his memoir *Black Boy*)
2. What years of the Great Migration does the book cover? (1915 to 1970)
3. About how many African Americans left the South during that time? (Nearly six million)
4. In what year was *The Warmth of Other Suns* published? (2010)
5. Which major nonfiction award did the book win? (The National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction)
6. Roughly how many people did Wilkerson interview while researching the book? (More than 1,200)
7. Wilkerson made history in 1994 as the first African American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize in journalism. Which newspaper was she writing for? (The New York Times)
8. The three central figures settled in which three cities? (Chicago, New York (Harlem), and Los Angeles)

□ Bookmarks

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

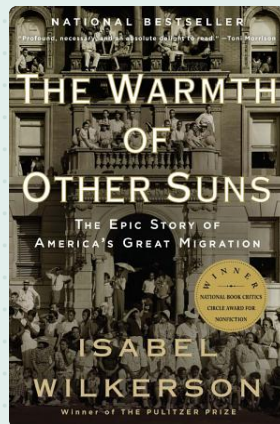


“Pack a little home, and carry it wherever you go.”

THE WARMTH OF
OTHER SUNS
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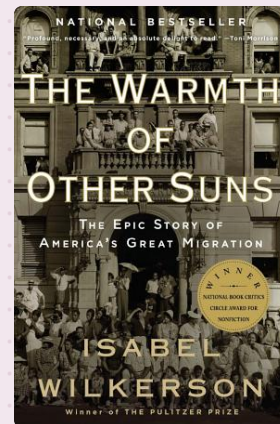


“A long train north, a warm light waiting.”

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OTHER SUNS
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“Every family has a road that brought them here.”

THE WARMTH OF
OTHER SUNS
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☆ Rate the book

Warmth of the Storytelling

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

People I Grew to Love

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Moments That Moved Me

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Felt Like Family History

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Cozy Reread Potential

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The person from the book I'd invite to dinner: _____

One comfort I'd pack for my own journey: _____

This book made me want to call: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

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



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