

BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Wedding
People

The Wedding People

Alison Espach

☾ COZY NIGHT

A sharp, tender novel about a woman who arrives at a Newport hotel intending one thing and instead gets swept into the chaos and warmth of a stranger's wedding week. It's funny, surprisingly moving, and full of heart.

Come Be Our Wedding People

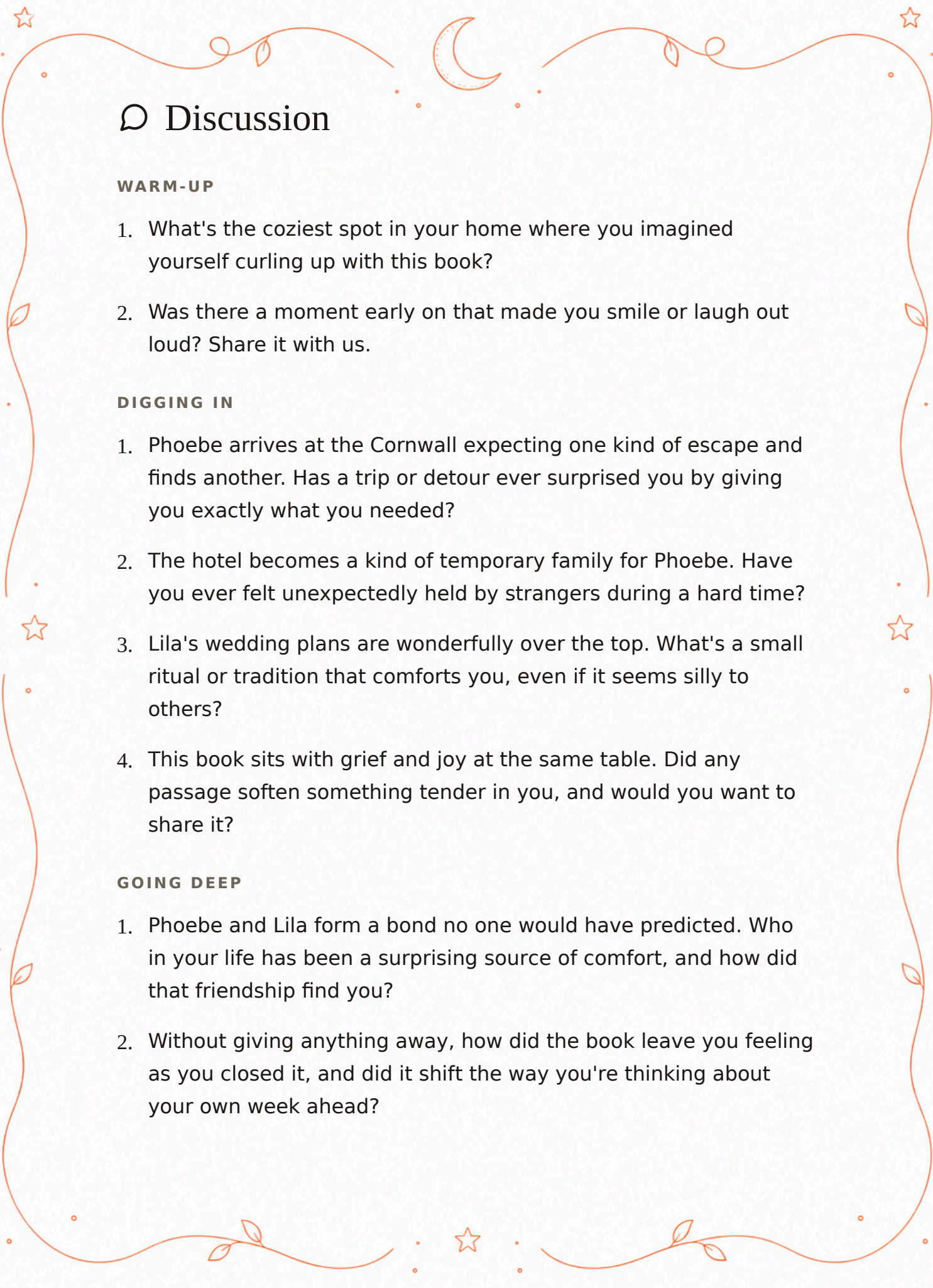
Pull on your softest sweater and join us for chowder, cider, and a warm chat about Alison Espach's *The Wedding People*.

Blankets provided, feelings welcome.

Reading level: Easy

- **Best for:** clubs who love character-driven stories with heart, humor, and a good cry





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What's the coziest spot in your home where you imagined yourself curling up with this book?
2. Was there a moment early on that made you smile or laugh out loud? Share it with us.

DIGGING IN

1. Phoebe arrives at the Cornwall expecting one kind of escape and finds another. Has a trip or detour ever surprised you by giving you exactly what you needed?
2. The hotel becomes a kind of temporary family for Phoebe. Have you ever felt unexpectedly held by strangers during a hard time?
3. Lila's wedding plans are wonderfully over the top. What's a small ritual or tradition that comforts you, even if it seems silly to others?
4. This book sits with grief and joy at the same table. Did any passage soften something tender in you, and would you want to share it?

GOING DEEP

1. Phoebe and Lila form a bond no one would have predicted. Who in your life has been a surprising source of comfort, and how did that friendship find you?
2. Without giving anything away, how did the book leave you feeling as you closed it, and did it shift the way you're thinking about your own week ahead?

On the table & to sip

TO EAT

Mini lobster rolls on buttery brioche

A nod to the Newport coastal setting, served small and shareable for easy passing around the couch

Warm clam chowder in mugs

Classic New England comfort, perfect for sipping while you talk about Phoebe's seaside week

Homemade wedding cookies and a slice of vanilla cake

A cozy wink at the wedding-people themselves, sweet and forgiving

TO SIP

Hot spiced apple cider (no alcohol)

Warm, soothing, and the kind of drink you wrap both hands around

Champagne with a splash of elderflower

A soft toast to weddings, fresh starts, and the people we meet by accident

Earl Grey with honey and milk

A hotel-lobby kind of tea, calming and a little fancy



Run of show

7:00

Arrive and settle in

Greet guests with cider in hand, soft music playing, blankets within reach

7:15

Warm-up bites and small talk

Pass the lobster rolls and let the warmups break the ice gently

7:35

Chowder and theme questions

Move into the theme questions while everyone's cozy with a mug

8:15

Dessert and deeper share

Bring out cookies and cake, ease into the deep questions when the room feels open

8:50

Trivia and bookmarks

Lighten the mood with quick trivia, hand out bookmarks as keepsakes

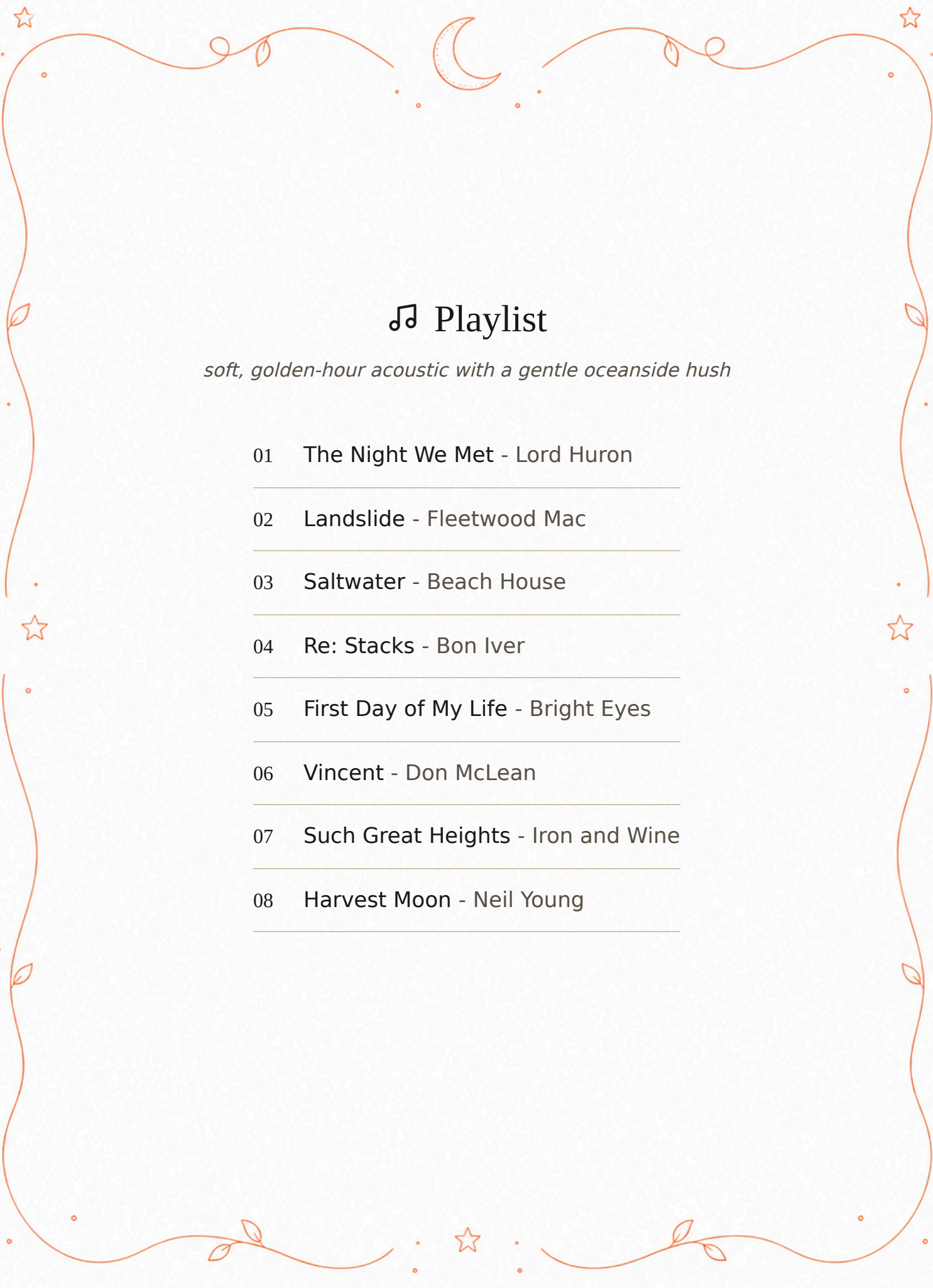
9:10

Scorecards and slow goodbyes

Fill out scorecards together, refill tea, let people linger

HOST TIPS

- Have extra blankets and throw pillows on hand so guests can really nestle in
- Keep lighting low: lamps and candles only, no overheads
- Let silences breathe; cozy nights work best when no one feels rushed to fill the air



🎵 Playlist

soft, golden-hour acoustic with a gentle oceanside hush

01 The Night We Met - Lord Huron

02 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac

03 Saltwater - Beach House

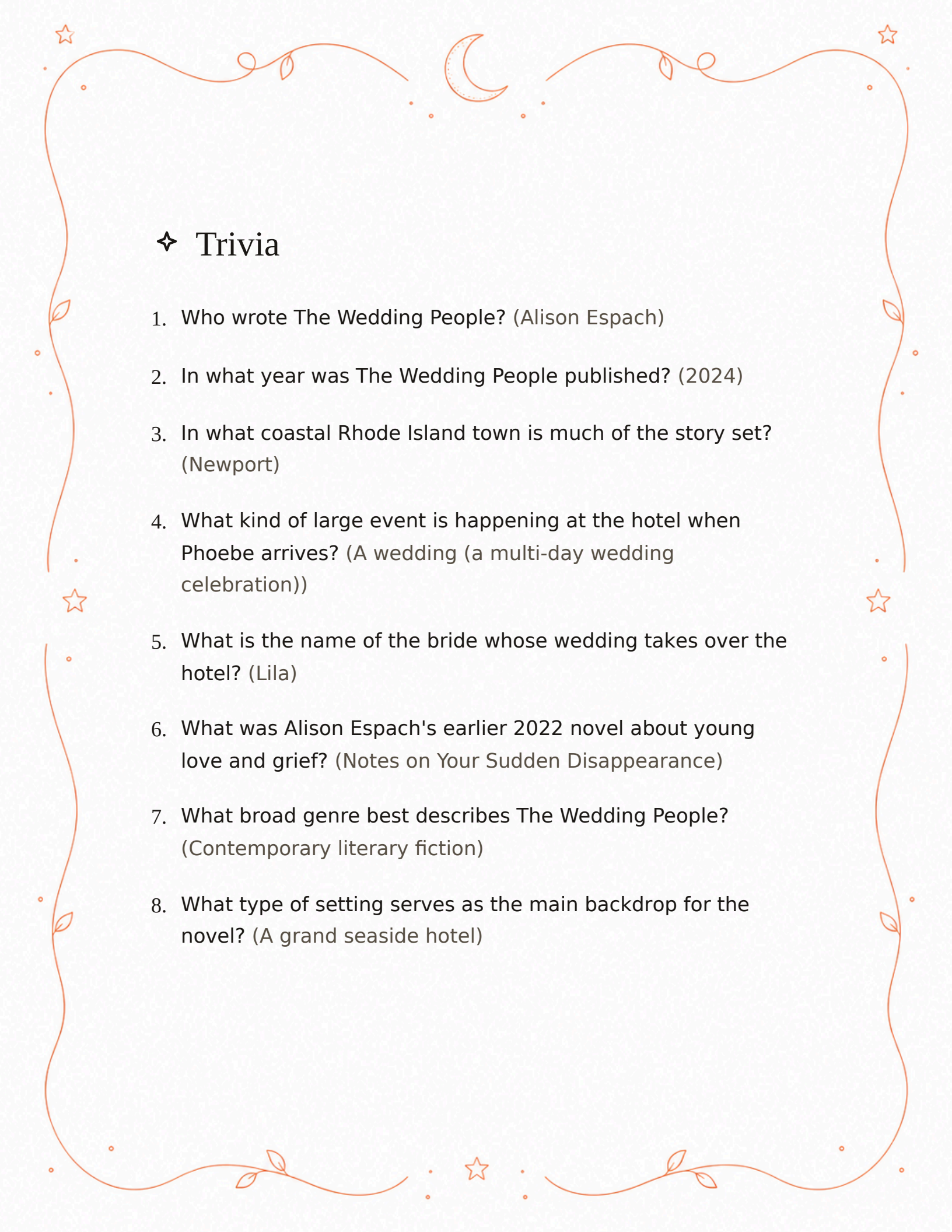
04 Re: Stacks - Bon Iver

05 First Day of My Life - Bright Eyes

06 Vincent - Don McLean

07 Such Great Heights - Iron and Wine

08 Harvest Moon - Neil Young



✧ Trivia

1. Who wrote The Wedding People? (Alison Espach)
2. In what year was The Wedding People published? (2024)
3. In what coastal Rhode Island town is much of the story set? (Newport)
4. What kind of large event is happening at the hotel when Phoebe arrives? (A wedding (a multi-day wedding celebration))
5. What is the name of the bride whose wedding takes over the hotel? (Lila)
6. What was Alison Espach's earlier 2022 novel about young love and grief? (Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance)
7. What broad genre best describes The Wedding People? (Contemporary literary fiction)
8. What type of setting serves as the main backdrop for the novel? (A grand seaside hotel)

📖 Bookmarks

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

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*“Sometimes a
stranger's joy
becomes your
soft place to
land.”*

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Alison Espach



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 The Wedding
People

*“The sea keeps
your secrets
and hands you
a fresh
morning.”*

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*“Stay for the
cake. Stay for
the people.”*

THE WEDDING
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☆ Rate the book

Coziness

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Heart

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Humor

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Comfort Reread Potential

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Made Me Feel Seen

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I want to wrap a blanket around: _____

Someone I'd hand this book to next: _____

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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Book Club Night