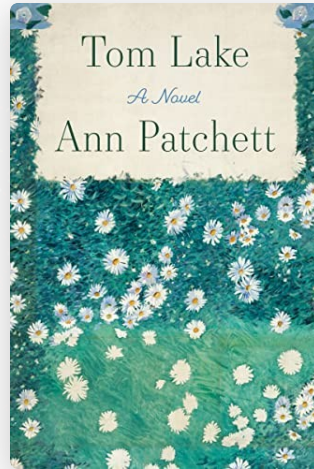


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



Tom Lake

Ann Patchett

🌙 COZY NIGHT

A mother shares the story of one transformative summer of love and theater with her grown daughters on the family cherry orchard, weaving memory, motherhood, and the roads not taken.

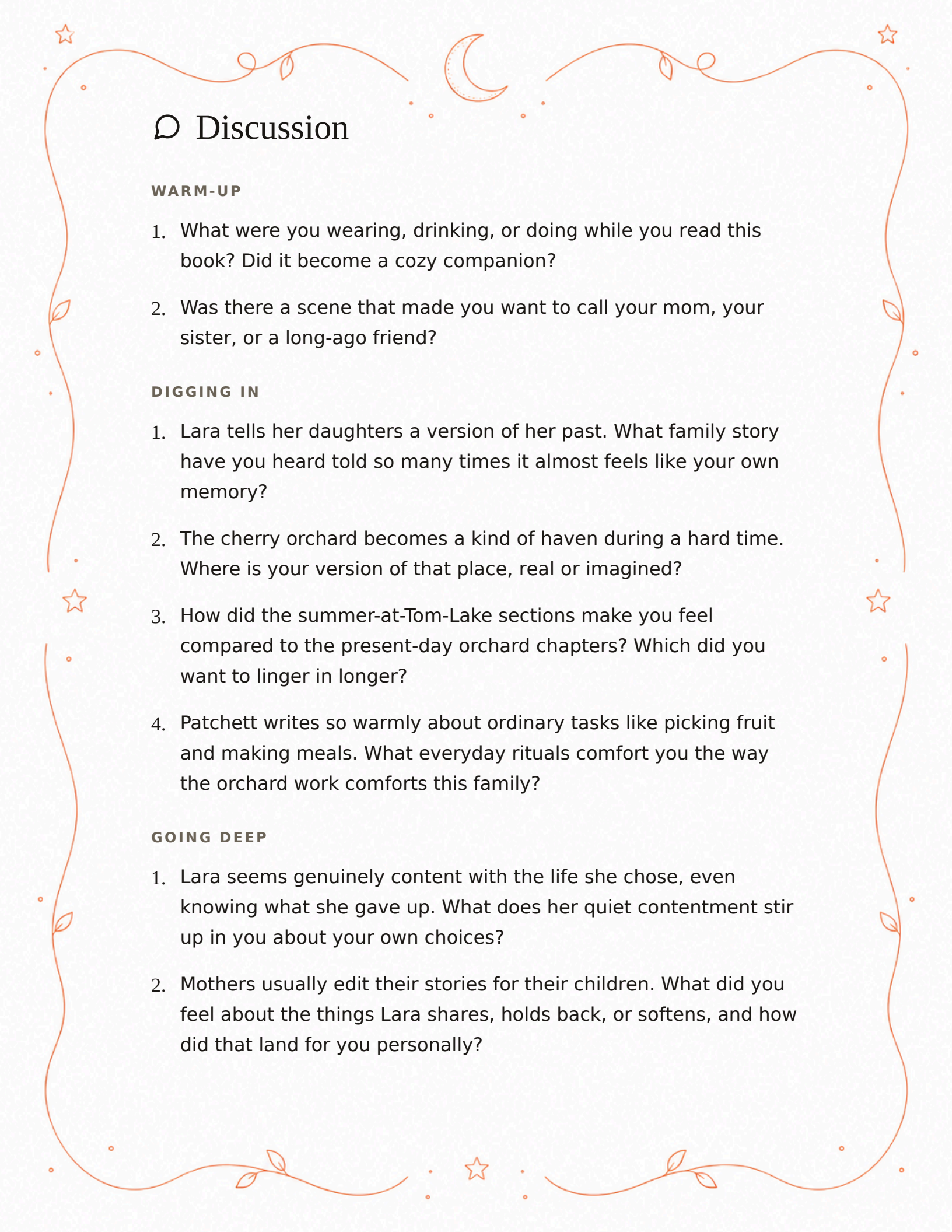
Come Sit by the Orchard with Us

A cozy evening of cherries, soft music, and Ann Patchett's Tom Lake. Bring slippers if you like, leave your hurry at the door.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: clubs who love gentle, literary family stories with a quiet emotional pull





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What were you wearing, drinking, or doing while you read this book? Did it become a cozy companion?
2. Was there a scene that made you want to call your mom, your sister, or a long-ago friend?

DIGGING IN

1. Lara tells her daughters a version of her past. What family story have you heard told so many times it almost feels like your own memory?
2. The cherry orchard becomes a kind of haven during a hard time. Where is your version of that place, real or imagined?
3. How did the summer-at-Tom-Lake sections make you feel compared to the present-day orchard chapters? Which did you want to linger in longer?
4. Patchett writes so warmly about ordinary tasks like picking fruit and making meals. What everyday rituals comfort you the way the orchard work comforts this family?

GOING DEEP

1. Lara seems genuinely content with the life she chose, even knowing what she gave up. What does her quiet contentment stir up in you about your own choices?
2. Mothers usually edit their stories for their children. What did you feel about the things Lara shares, holds back, or softens, and how did that land for you personally?



On the table & to sip

TO EAT

Warm cherry crumble with vanilla ice cream

An ode to the Michigan cherry orchard at the heart of the book

Buttery rosemary biscuits with salted butter and honey

Farmhouse comfort food for a story rooted in a working orchard

Creamy tomato soup with grilled cheese soldiers

The kind of nurturing supper a mother makes while telling a long story

TO SIP

Hot spiced cherry cider (no alcohol)

Warm, fragrant, and orchard-inspired for a chilly evening of stories

Chamomile and honey tea (no alcohol)

A gentle pour for the book's quiet, reflective mood

Cherry bourbon smash

Muddled cherries, bourbon, and a splash of lemon for a soft grown-up nightcap



Run of show

7:00

Slow arrivals

Greet guests with a mug of warm cherry cider and let the playlist set a hushed, homey mood

7:15

Settle in with soup

Serve tomato soup and biscuits while people chat and unwind, no book talk yet

7:35

Warmup questions

Ease in with the two warmup prompts so everyone gets a turn before deeper waters

8:00

Heart of the conversation

Work through theme questions, encouraging personal stories over literary analysis

8:40

Dessert and deeper questions

Bring out the cherry crumble and tackle the two deep questions in a softer, candlelit moment

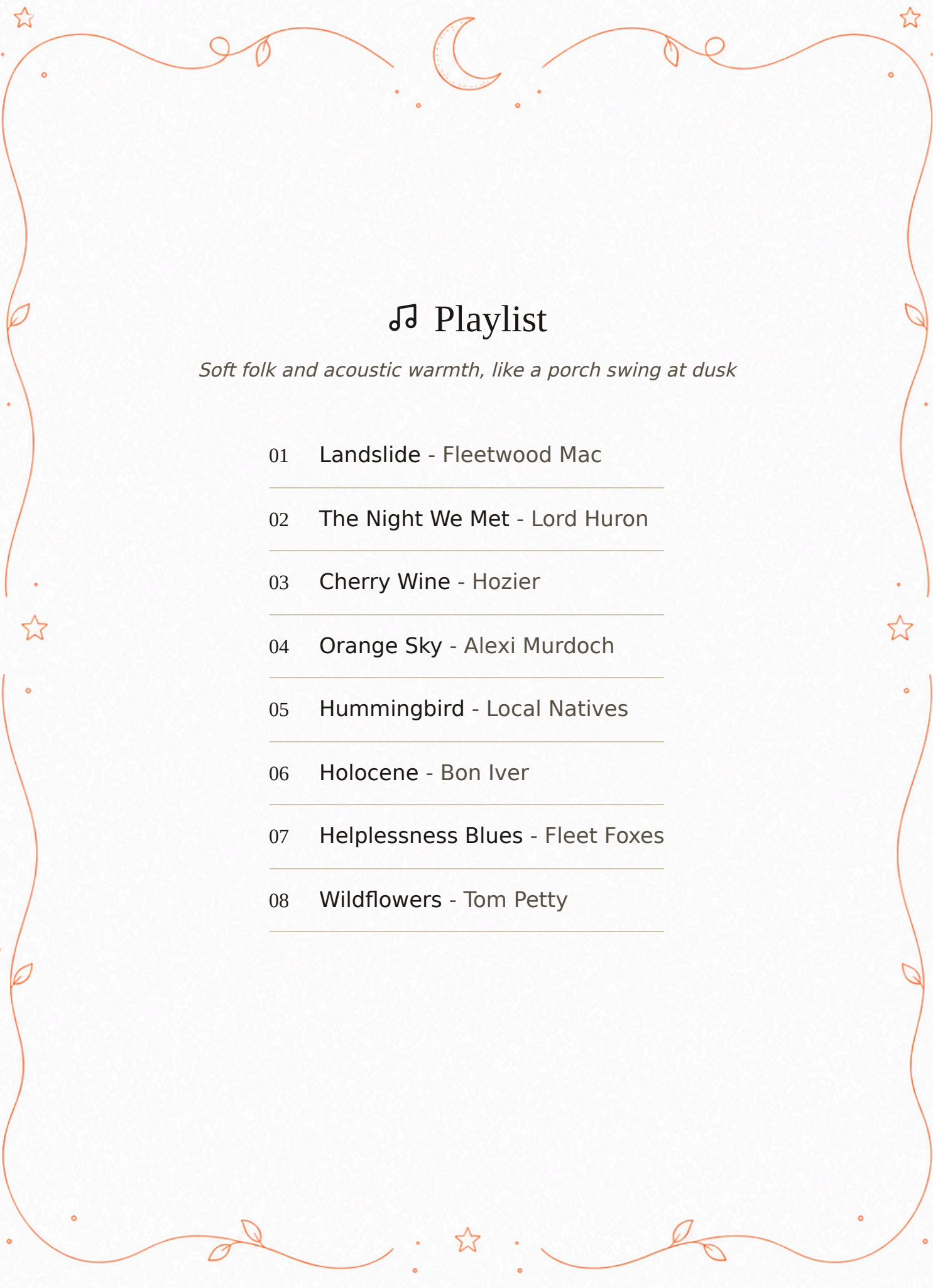
9:15

Trivia, scorecards, and goodbyes

Light, fun wrap-up with trivia and bookmarks to take home

HOST TIPS

- Dim the overhead lights, use lamps and candles, and put out throw blankets so people physically relax
- Let silences breathe. Cozy nights are about reflection, not rapid-fire debate
- Have a few extra copies of the questions on the table so quieter guests can read along and jump in



🎵 Playlist

Soft folk and acoustic warmth, like a porch swing at dusk

- 01 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac

- 02 The Night We Met - Lord Huron

- 03 Cherry Wine - Hozier

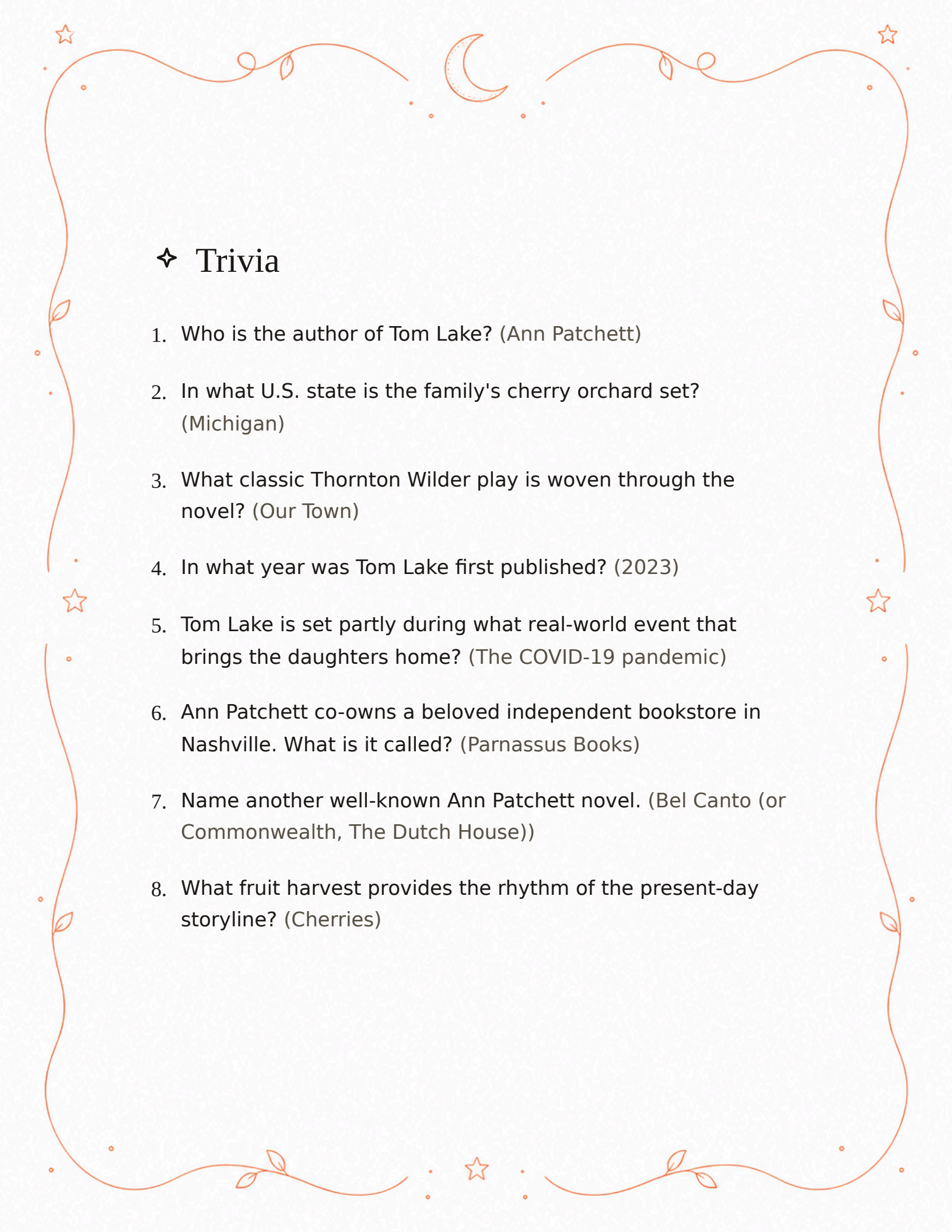
- 04 Orange Sky - Alexi Murdoch

- 05 Hummingbird - Local Natives

- 06 Holocene - Bon Iver

- 07 Helplessness Blues - Fleet Foxes

- 08 Wildflowers - Tom Petty



✧ Trivia

1. Who is the author of Tom Lake? (Ann Patchett)
2. In what U.S. state is the family's cherry orchard set? (Michigan)
3. What classic Thornton Wilder play is woven through the novel? (Our Town)
4. In what year was Tom Lake first published? (2023)
5. Tom Lake is set partly during what real-world event that brings the daughters home? (The COVID-19 pandemic)
6. Ann Patchett co-owns a beloved independent bookstore in Nashville. What is it called? (Parnassus Books)
7. Name another well-known Ann Patchett novel. (Bel Canto (or Commonwealth, The Dutch House))
8. What fruit harvest provides the rhythm of the present-day storyline? (Cherries)

📖 Bookmarks

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



☆ Rate the book

Coziness

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Emotional warmth

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Characters you'd invite to dinner

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Sense of place

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Lingering feeling

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I want to revisit on a rainy day: _____

Who I want to read this next: _____

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

Scan the code or visit **bookclubnight.com**

Book Club Night