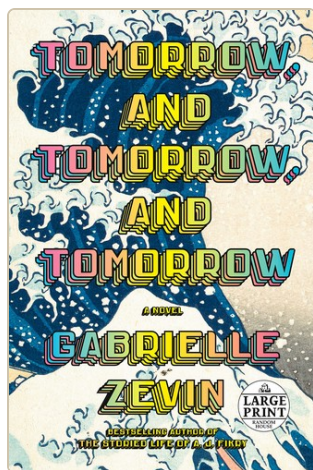


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



# Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Gabrielle Zevin

DEEP DISCUSSION NIGHT

A decades-spanning novel about two collaborators building video games together, Zevin's book uses play as a lens on art, identity, grief, and the strange intimacy of creative partnership.

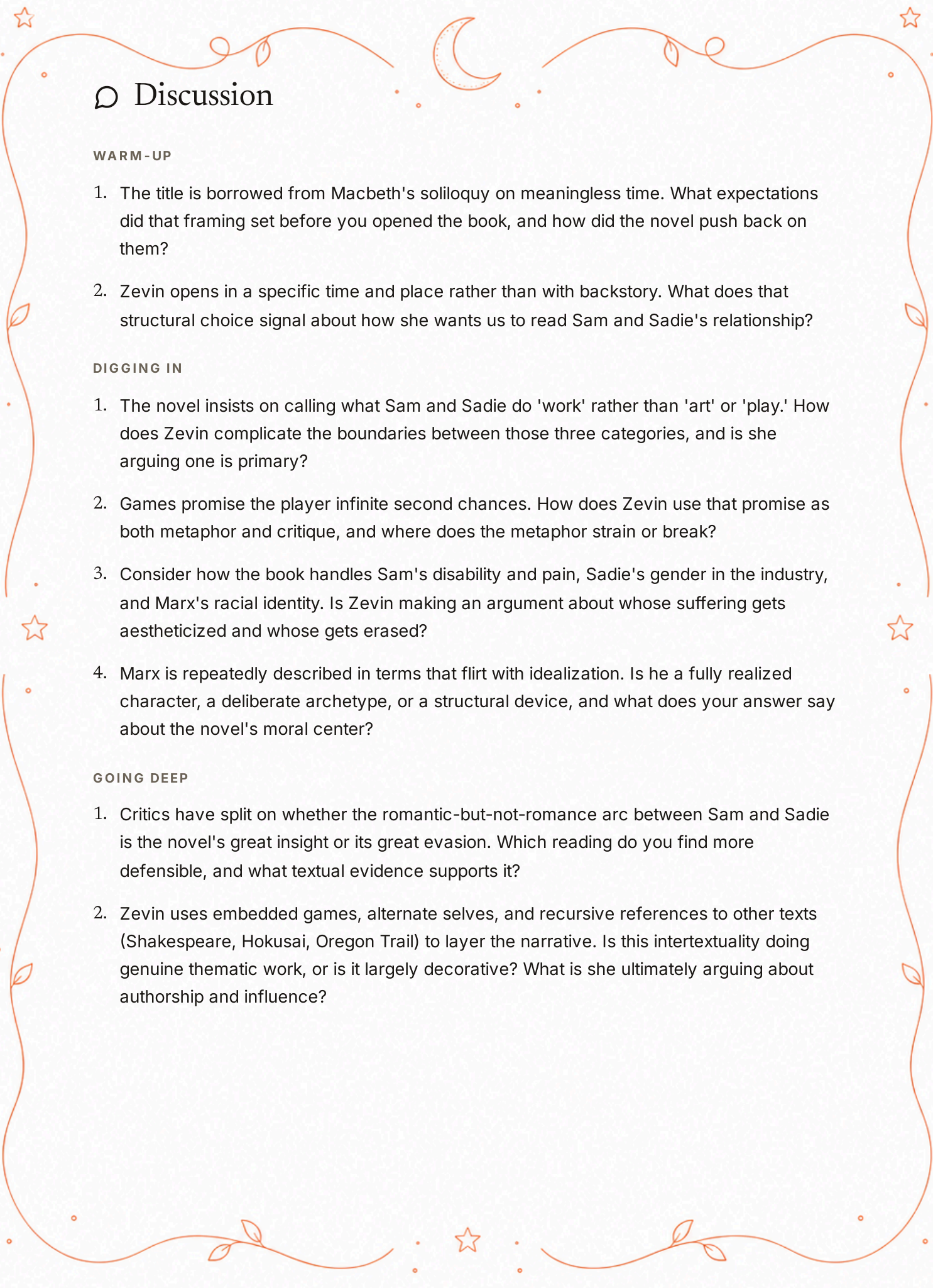
## A Serious Night on Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Bring the book, a flagged passage, and an opinion you are willing to defend. We are reading slowly and talking deeply.

**Reading level:** Moderate      **Pages:** 416

**Best for:** Clubs that like layered, character-driven literary fiction and arguing about what a book is really 'about'





## Discussion

### WARM-UP

1. The title is borrowed from Macbeth's soliloquy on meaningless time. What expectations did that framing set before you opened the book, and how did the novel push back on them?
2. Zevin opens in a specific time and place rather than with backstory. What does that structural choice signal about how she wants us to read Sam and Sadie's relationship?

### DIGGING IN

1. The novel insists on calling what Sam and Sadie do 'work' rather than 'art' or 'play.' How does Zevin complicate the boundaries between those three categories, and is she arguing one is primary?
2. Games promise the player infinite second chances. How does Zevin use that promise as both metaphor and critique, and where does the metaphor strain or break?
3. Consider how the book handles Sam's disability and pain, Sadie's gender in the industry, and Marx's racial identity. Is Zevin making an argument about whose suffering gets aestheticized and whose gets erased?
4. Marx is repeatedly described in terms that flirt with idealization. Is he a fully realized character, a deliberate archetype, or a structural device, and what does your answer say about the novel's moral center?

### GOING DEEP

1. Critics have split on whether the romantic-but-not-romance arc between Sam and Sadie is the novel's great insight or its great evasion. Which reading do you find more defensible, and what textual evidence supports it?
2. Zevin uses embedded games, alternate selves, and recursive references to other texts (Shakespeare, Hokusai, Oregon Trail) to layer the narrative. Is this intertextuality doing genuine thematic work, or is it largely decorative? What is she ultimately arguing about authorship and influence?

## ☕ On the table & to sip

### TO EAT

#### 🧀 Cheese and bread board

Simple, shareable, and easy to graze on so conversation never has to stop

#### 🍊 Bowl of clementines

A quiet nod to California and the book's recurring imagery of small, perfect things

#### ☕ Salted dark chocolate squares

Bitter-sweet, like the book; minimal effort, maximal mood

### TO SIP

#### ☕ Black coffee or strong tea (no alcohol)

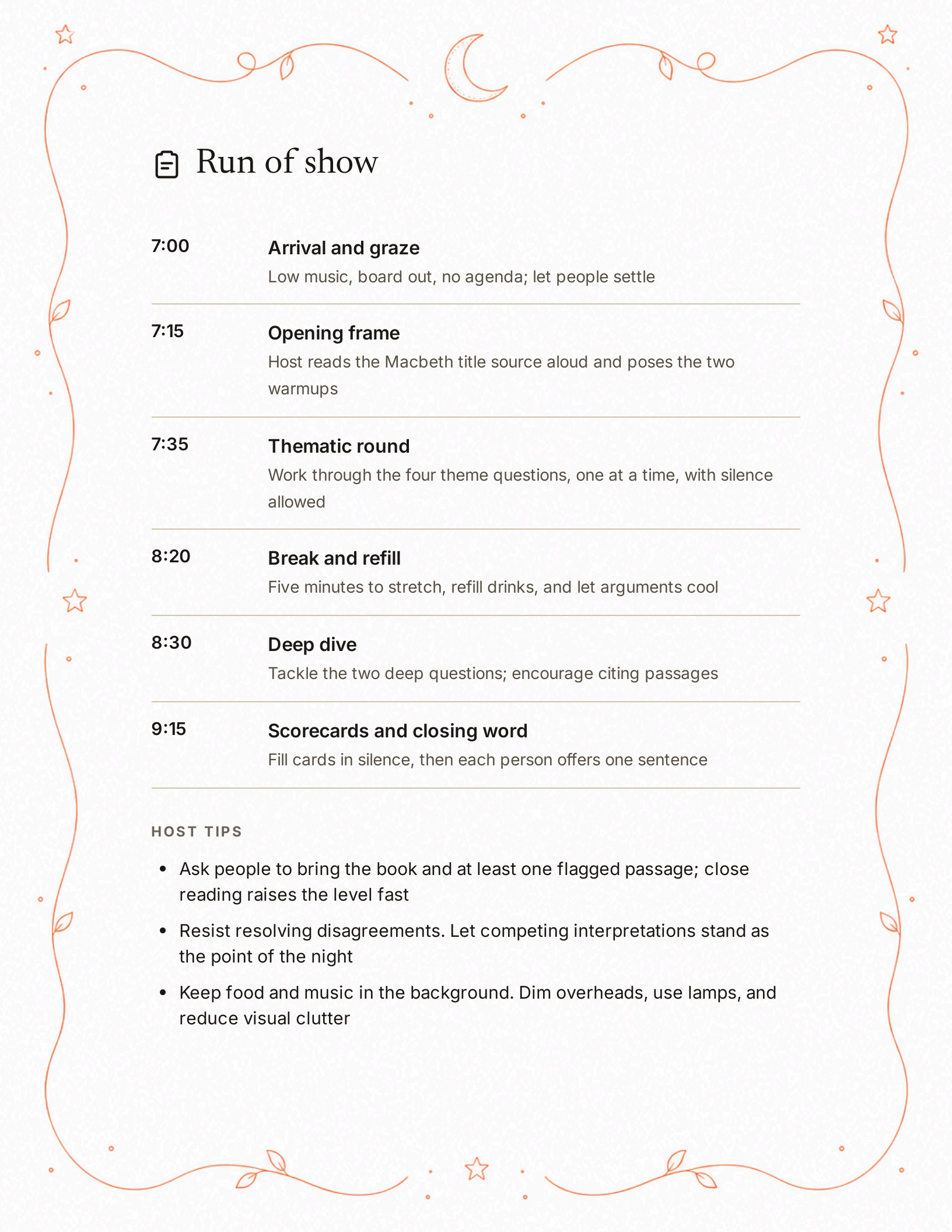
Late-night studio fuel for a serious talk about ambition and burnout

#### 🍷 Dry red wine

Unfussy, contemplative; pour and let the discussion lead

#### ☕ Japanese whisky, neat

A subtle gesture to the book's Hokusai motif; one bottle, small pours



## Run of show

**7:00**

### **Arrival and graze**

Low music, board out, no agenda; let people settle

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**7:15**

### **Opening frame**

Host reads the Macbeth title source aloud and poses the two warmups

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**7:35**

### **Thematic round**

Work through the four theme questions, one at a time, with silence allowed

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**8:20**

### **Break and refill**

Five minutes to stretch, refill drinks, and let arguments cool

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**8:30**

### **Deep dive**

Tackle the two deep questions; encourage citing passages

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**9:15**

### **Scorecards and closing word**

Fill cards in silence, then each person offers one sentence

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#### **HOST TIPS**

- Ask people to bring the book and at least one flagged passage; close reading raises the level fast
- Resist resolving disagreements. Let competing interpretations stand as the point of the night
- Keep food and music in the background. Dim overheads, use lamps, and reduce visual clutter



## ♪ Playlist

*Pensive, melodic, slightly melancholy; background only, kept low*

- 01    Lovely Head - Goldfrapp

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- 02    Teardrop - Massive Attack

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- 03    Holocene - Bon Iver

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- 04    Mad World - Gary Jules

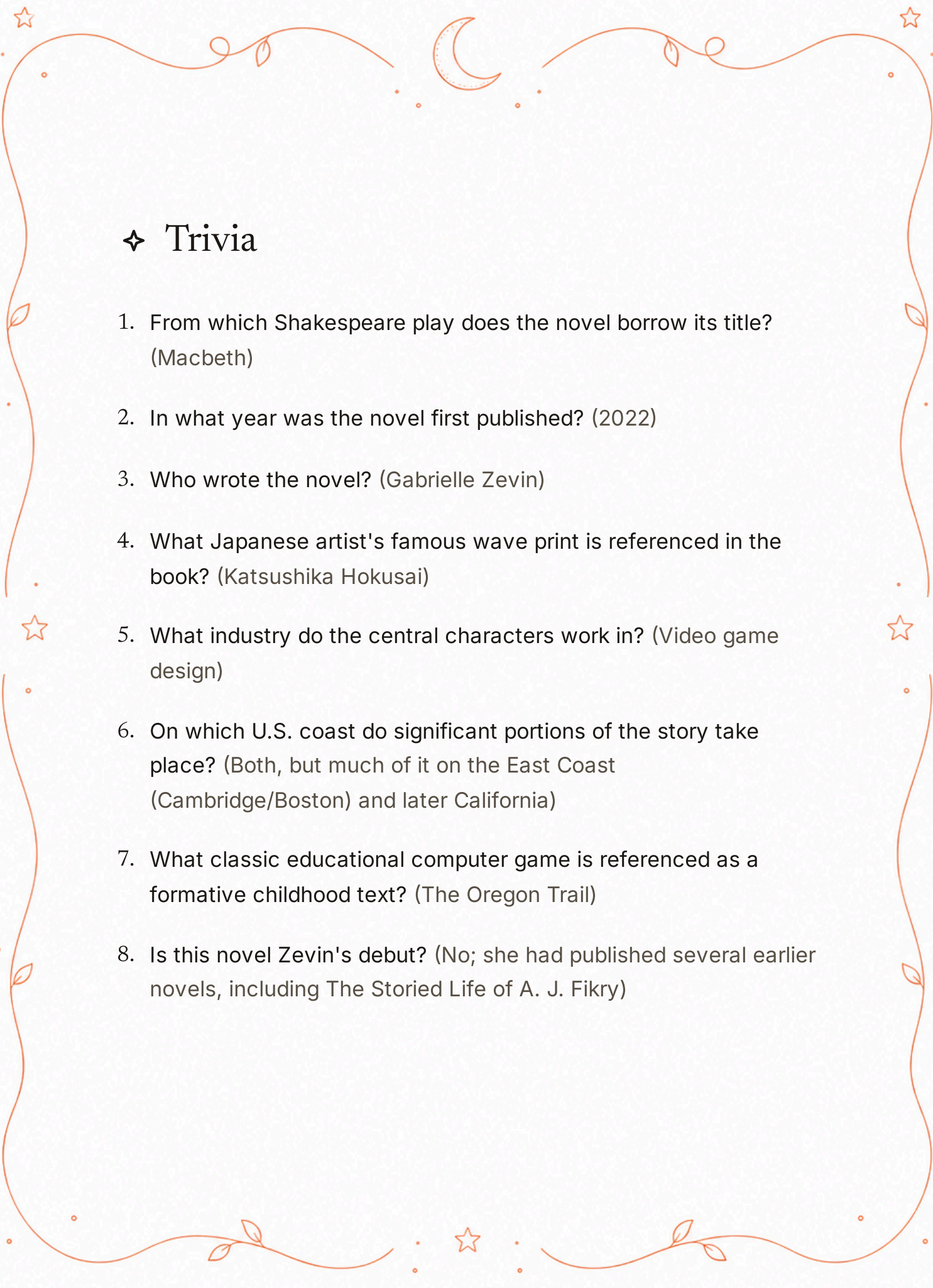
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- 05    Aerodynamic (Daft Punk) - Daft Punk

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- 06    Spiegel im Spiegel - Arvo Part

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- 07    Videotape - Radiohead

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- 08    Avril 14th - Aphex Twin

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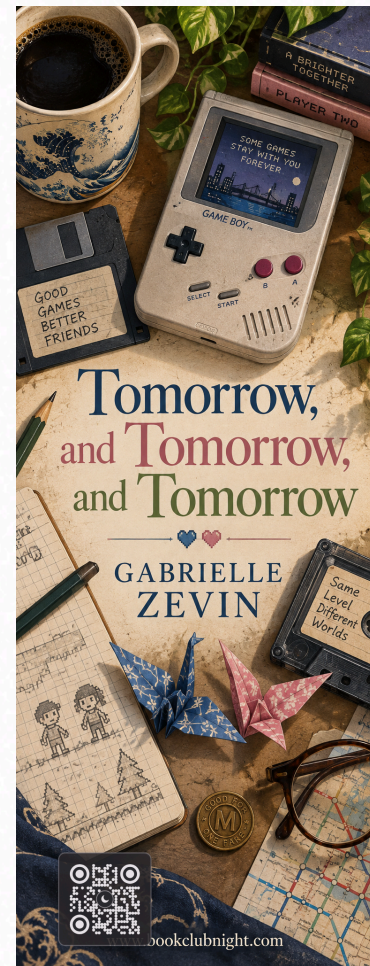
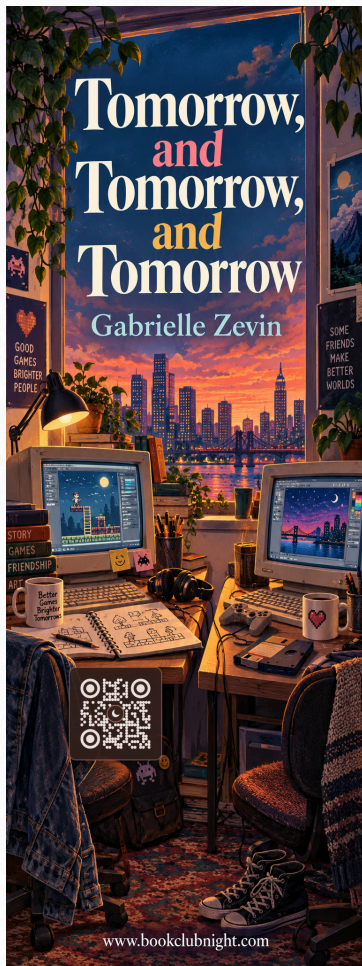


## ✧ Trivia

1. From which Shakespeare play does the novel borrow its title? (Macbeth)
2. In what year was the novel first published? (2022)
3. Who wrote the novel? (Gabrielle Zevin)
4. What Japanese artist's famous wave print is referenced in the book? (Katsushika Hokusai)
5. What industry do the central characters work in? (Video game design)
6. On which U.S. coast do significant portions of the story take place? (Both, but much of it on the East Coast (Cambridge/Boston) and later California)
7. What classic educational computer game is referenced as a formative childhood text? (The Oregon Trail)
8. Is this novel Zevin's debut? (No; she had published several earlier novels, including The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry)

## 📖 Bookmarks

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



## ☆ Rate the book

Thematic ambition ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Structural craft ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Character complexity ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Moral ambiguity ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Lasting resonance ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The strongest argument this book makes is: \_\_\_\_\_

The interpretation I am least sure about: \_\_\_\_\_

One passage I want to reread: \_\_\_\_\_

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