



“A delight.” —Taylor Jenkins Reid

# THE LAST Book Party

*A Novel*

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BOOK CLUB KIT



# THE LAST BOOK PARTY

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The Last Book Party* is the title of the book, but it is only a small part of the book. Did you expect this? Why do you think the book party is so important to Eve and the other characters? What does it represent?
2. Place is a large part of this book. Eve has a strong attachment to the Cape and has memorized most of the environment. Why do you think this environment is so soothing for Eve? What do you notice about the way she thinks differently about Florida versus the Cape?
3. Eve seems a bit naïve to the relationships and identities of many characters, but in chapter 8 she very clearly defines the difference between the editorial and publicity roles at the publishing house. Why do you think she can see these roles and personalities in work so clearly, but she has a harder time with people outside of work?
4. Eve is treated without as much respect or understanding because she is female. Even her boss hires a young blond man to replace Don, the editorial assistant, rather than promoting Eve to fill that position. Her parents accept her publishing interests as a holding pattern while she finds a husband. At the end of the book, when Franny calls Eve a "hiccup" and Henry looks at her as if she could be anyone, Eve realizes she really could have been anyone. Do you think the way she is treated as a woman by these characters is specific to 1987, or do you think these issues are still present today?
5. What other differences and similarities do you see between 1987 in the novel and today in terms of gender, career, relationships, and social values?
6. Eve's relationship with Danny seems to be another example of her feeling less important and less seen. Do you think this has as much to do with his excelling in his mathematics career as it does with their gender? Do you think their parents would have handled his depression differently if it had been Eve instead of Danny?
7. One of the books Alva gives to Eve is *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*. How does this book inform the current story with Henry and Eve? Why do you think Alva recommends this, other than to show a parallel house-building experience?
8. Eve mistrusts Jeremy from the beginning of the book until after the party. She even disregards his advice about taking the job with Henry. Why do you think she is immediately so suspicious of Jeremy when she is otherwise so nonjudgmental of other characters?
9. Jeremy challenges Eve's ideas about being a writer and how to write. He sees writing as hard work and not just dependent on the few moments when a story simply comes to you. He doesn't believe it's a gift the way that Eve and her mom describe it. Why do you think Eve created this idea of being a writer? Why does she seem surprised by Jeremy's feelings on the topic?
10. In some ways Eve seems much younger than twenty-five years old. How do you think Alva and Malcolm and her parents are trying to help or hinder her growth?
11. The book is structured by month until after the party. Why do you think the author chose to set part five one year later? What was your reaction to that shift?





# A PLAYLIST

## FOR YOUR READING EXPERIENCE

Walk Like An Egyptian  
THE BANGLES

Once in a Lifetime  
TALKING HEADS

Coyote  
JONI MITCHELL

Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)  
EURYTHMICS

La Bamba  
LOS LOBOS

I Wanna Dance with Somebody  
(Who Loves Me)  
WHITNEY HOUSTON

Smooth Operator  
SADE

One Way or Another  
BLONDIE

Shattered  
THE ROLLING STONES

Alison  
ELVIS COSTELLO

Angel from Montgomery  
BONNIE RAITT

Don't Stand So Close to Me  
THE POLICE

True Colors  
CYNDI LAUPER

Touch of Grey  
GRATEFUL DEAD

Rock Lobster  
B-52S

Blue Bayou  
LINDA RONSTADT

Let's Dance  
DAVID BOWIE

Chain of Fools  
ARETHA FRANKLIN

Tom's Diner  
SUZANNE VEGA

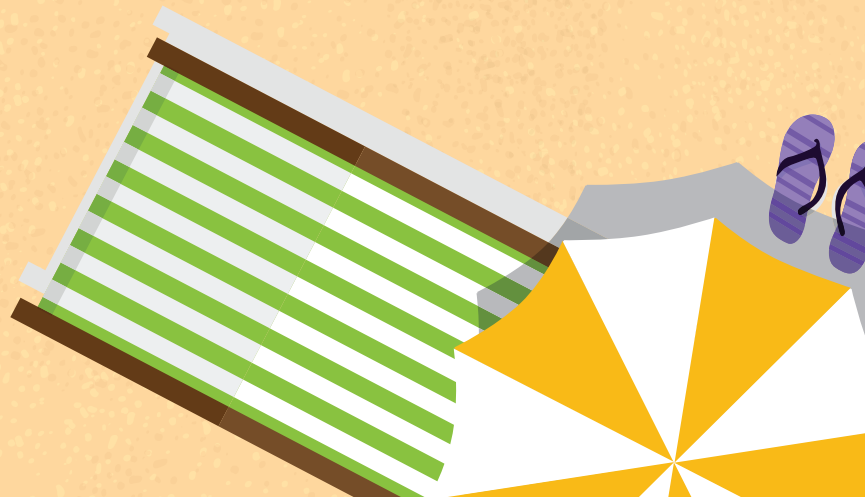




# THE LAST BOOK PARTY

## READING LIST: READ ALONG WITH EVE

1. THE THORN BIRDS by Colleen McCullough
2. WAR AND PEACE by Leo Tolstoy
3. I CAPTURE THE CASTLE by Dodie Smith
4. LOVE IN BLOOMSBURY: A MEMOIR by Frances Partridge
5. WUTHERING HEIGHTS by Emily Bronte
6. WINESBURG, OHIO by Sherwood Anderson
7. A WREATH FOR THE ENEMY by Pamela Frankau
8. CAPE COD by Henry Thoreau
9. WORLD'S FAIR by E.L. Doctorow
10. STONES FOR IBARRA by Harriet Doerr
11. MOBY DICK by Herman Melville
12. THE MOONSTONE by Wilkie Collins
13. RICH MAN, POOR MAN by Irwin Shaw
14. ANNA KARENINA by Leo Tolstoy
15. I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN by Judith Krantz
16. HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON by Crockett Johnson
17. MR. BLANDINGS BUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE by Eric Hodgins
18. ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM by Margaret Landon
19. CADDIE WOODLAWN by Carol Ryrie Brink
20. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Jane Austen
21. MARJORIE MORNINGSTAR by Herman Wouk
22. EXODUS by Leon Uris
23. THE SECRET OF THE HIDDEN CLOCK by Carolyn Keene
24. REBECCA by Daphne du Maurier
25. THE SECRET GARDEN by Frances Hodgson Burnett
26. SWEET SAVAGE LOVE by Rosemary Rogers
27. A LITTLE PRINCESS by Frances Hodgson Burnett
28. ROBINSON CRUSOE by Daniel Defoe
29. MIDDLEMARCH by George Eliot
30. INVISIBLE MAN by Ralph Ellison







# THE LAST BOOK PARTY

## READING LIST: READ ALONG WITH EVE

31. SCOOP by Evelyn Waugh
32. AMELIA BEDELIA by Peggy Parish
33. ZULEIKA DOBSON by Max Beerbohm
34. GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES by Anita Loos
35. HOUSEKEEPING by Marilynne Robinson
36. THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE by Gay Talese
37. TAKE FORTY EGGS: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO COOKERY AND HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT by Basil Collier and Helen Kapp
38. THE BLUEST EYE by Toni Morrison
39. LAKE WOBEGON DAYS by Garrison Keillor
40. PIPPI LONGSTOCKING by Astrid Lindgren
41. THE WOMAN IN WHITE by Wilkie Collins
42. WINNIE THE POOH by A.A. Milne
43. GOODBYE, COLUMBUS by Philip Roth
44. THE SCARLET LETTER by Nathaniel Hawthorne
45. BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY by Jay McInerney
46. THE GREAT GATSBY by F. Scott Fitzgerald
47. BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S by Truman Capote
48. THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD by Zora Neale Hurston
49. CROSS CREEK COOKERY by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
50. TOURIST SEASON by Carl Hiassen
51. JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL by Richard Bach

