



[The seven husbands of Evelyn Hugo]

By Taylor Jenkins Reid

First published in 2017

Genre & subject

Motion picture actors and actresses -- Fiction

Actresses -- Fiction

Recluses -- Fiction

Biographers -- Fiction

Women journalists -- Fiction

Synopsis

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now?

Monique is not exactly on top of the world. Her husband has left her, and her professional life is going nowhere. Regardless of why Evelyn has selected her to write her biography, Monique is determined to use this opportunity to jumpstart her career.

Summoned to Evelyn's luxurious apartment, Monique listens in fascination as the actress tells her story. From making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the '80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way, Evelyn unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love. Monique begins to feel a very real connection to the legendary star, but as Evelyn's story near its conclusion, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways.

Author biography

Taylor Jenkins Reid is the author of the New York Times Bestselling novels *Malibu Rising*, *Daisy Jones and the Six* and *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, as well as *One True Loves*, *Maybe in Another Life*, *After I Do*, and *Forever, Interrupted*. Her books have been chosen by Reese's Book Club, Read with Jenna, Indie Next, Best of Amazon, and Book of the Month. Her novel, *Daisy Jones and the Six*, is currently being adapted by Hello Sunshine into a limited series for Amazon. She lives in Los Angeles.

Discussion starters

1. What did you think of Evelyn Hugo? Did you admire or disapprove of her behavior? Why?

2. Did you find the book engaging right away, or did it take some time to engage you? Was it a page-turner?

3. Who was your favorite character? Why did you like them the most?

4. Did you like the structure of the book? Did the flip back and forth in time period enhance your reading experience?
5. The book was interspersed with news/blog article. Did the news help you appreciate what was going on in the story?
6. Each of the husbands had its own section with a moniker, such as Poor Ernie Diaz or Goddamn Don Adler. What are the significance of these descriptions? Are the characterizations from Evelyn? Do they sum up the chapter?
7. The book explored themes such as sexual orientation, gender, spousal relationship, friendship, betrayal, domestic abuse, the cost of fame to name a few. Which theme impacted you the the most?
8. What surprised you in the book?
9. Which of the seven husbands did you like the most? Who surprised you?
10. What did you think of Monique? Do you think she changed as a result of meeting Evelyn? Why?
11. Did you find the ending satisfactory?
12. Would you read another book by Taylor Jenkins Reid after reading this book?

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