

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
JANUARY 2021 – “THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO” BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID

1. What did you think of Evelyn Hugo? Did you admire or disapprove of her behavior? Why?
2. Of the seven husbands, who was your favorite, and why? Who surprised you the most? Who was your least favorite?
3. From the beginning, Monique is confused as to why Evelyn has selected her to write Evelyn’s biography. While you were reading the book, what were some of your theories as to why Evelyn specifically chose Monique? Were you surprised upon learning of the truth behind her reasoning? What was your opinion of Evelyn in that situation, and of the way she decided to inform Monique?
4. As we find out by the book’s end, Celia St. James was Evelyn’s true love and not one of her seven husbands. Did you see this storyline coming? What did you like or dislike about Celia and Evelyn’s love story? Did their need for secrecy frustrate you while reading the book? Do you think this was a common occurrence in Hollywood, or do you think it still is today?
5. During Evelyn’s marriage to Harry Cameron, the two decided to have a child while upholding their relationships with Celia and John. Did you think that this was a smart decision? Connor naturally made quite an impact on Evelyn’s life, especially in accepting her mother for who she was and who she loved. How else do you think Connor effected the story? Were you surprised that the story led to Connor dying of breast cancer?
6. A pivotal moment in the book is after Evelyn has filmed an explicit sex scene with ex-husband Don Adler, unbeknownst to Celia. As a result, Celia leaves Evelyn and they don’t speak again for several years. There are many instances throughout the book where Celia and Evelyn get upset with one another, or where they have differing opinions on what they expect out of each other. Given the timeframe, do you think Celia and Evelyn had realistic expectations of each other? Did you agree more with Celia or Evelyn’s viewpoint on their relationship?
7. On page 147, Monique says, "I have to 'Evelyn Hugo' Evelyn Hugo." In your opinion, what does it mean to "Evelyn Hugo"? Can you think of a time when you might be/were tempted to "Evelyn Hugo"?
8. Evelyn offers some firm words of wisdom throughout her recounting of her life, such as "Be wary of men with something to prove" (p. 77), "Never let anyone make you feel ordinary" (p. 208), and "It is OK to grovel for something you really want" (p.192). What is your favorite piece of advice from Evelyn? Were there any assertions you strongly disagreed with?
9. At the end of the book, Monique realizes that Evelyn plans to commit suicide. Monique struggles with deciding on whether or not to stop her; ultimately deciding that it’s Evelyn’s decision if she would like to die. What were your thoughts during Monique’s decision making process? Would you have made the same decision if you’d been in her shoes?
10. Did you trust Evelyn to be a reliable narrator as you were reading? Why, or why not? Did your opinion on this change at all by the conclusion, and if so, why?

Extra Question: If you could meet and interview one celebrity at the end of their life, who would it be? What would you ask them?