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UCF Alumni Book Club

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V.E. Schwab

Book Discussion Guide

Book Description

France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets.

Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world.

But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name.

About the Author

Victoria “V.E.” Schwab is the #1 NYT, USA, and Indie bestselling author of more than a dozen books, including *Vicious*, the *Shades of Magic* series, and *This Savage Song*. Her work has received critical acclaim, been featured by EW and The New York Times, been translated into more than a dozen languages, and been optioned for TV and Film. The Independent calls her the “natural successor to Diana Wynne Jones” and touts her “enviable, almost Gaimanesque ability to switch between styles, genres, and tones.”

Book Questions

- If you'd heard a lot about this book, did it meet your expectations and what were your overall thoughts? If you hadn't heard much about this book, what did you think?
- Let's talk about Addie at the start of the novel. What are some of the key ways that she was ahead of her time?
- Did you like Addie? Was she a good protagonist to follow?
- While she goes through the absolute worst, Addie never gives in and lets Luc have her soul. What do you think kept Addie going throughout all the years?
- Why do you think Addie made this deal with Luc? If you could have the potential to live forever, would you take it?
- Who's story could you connect to more, Addie's or Henry's?
- Do you think that Henry was tricked? Luc showed up to Addie because she prayed and begged. Henry had drunk too much, Luc showed up during his lowest point and offered him an out, Henry wasn't in the right mind to make a decision and ends up making a deal. Pg. 380
- What are the best and worst things about Addie's invisible life? What is the emotional toll of being unable to imprint herself on the heart and mind of another person? When does it give her an advantage?
 - What did you think of the ways Addie was able to leave her impact on the world through art and music?
- The cruel twist is that going forward, no one will remember Addie, except for Luc. What did you think about how Addie's initial experiences with this curse? How was she able to survive?
- So let's discuss Luc in more detail. Was he a devil, angel, a god? Did you want to know more about him?
- Addie and Luc have an interesting dynamic. When did Addie stop hating him? Did they both ever truly care for each other, or was it a matter of convenience/power? Do you think Luc had a fascination with her? Do you think he visited others who made deals with him?

- What did you think when you found out that Luc was the one who had Addie and Henry meet, and it wasn't a coincidence after all?
- By the time, we get to Addie in New York in 2014, she's adjusted to her life—she gets by through stealing and knows that all relationships are temporary. Until she meets Henry. Let's talk about the scene when Henry remembers her.
- Were you surprised when Henry revealed he made the deal with Luc too or did you figure it out earlier?
 - Let's talk about his story and his deal.
- While Addie wants a life of adventure, Henry desires love. But his is also a curse because everyone is under a spell and not actually seeing Henry for who he is. Which "curse" do you think is better or worse?
- Do you think Henry and Addie were truly in love? Or were they bonded by their circumstances?
- Henry has only a year to live. But Addie makes a deal with Luc to keep Henry alive. Do you think she did the right thing?
- What did you think about the ending? What will happen between Addie and Luc? Will she ever break free?
- Do you think this book was set up for a sequel? What would you want that to look like?
- Living without a bank account or a phone or an address, Addie is reduced to pilfering and theft to quell her physical suffering. Is it a blessing or a curse that she only has to worry about momentary suffering, not survival? What new appreciation do you have for the ordinary things you count on to make it through difficult times?
- Did you like how the novel was written, flipping between past and present with Addie's life, and then also later tying in Henry's story and point of view?
- Did it ever wear on you while reading, knowing there was going to be time after time the minute someone leaves a room, that reset Addie became so accustomed to?
- What did you think of how Addie has to go about finding places to temporarily live?

- Favorite Scenes?
- “I [also] had to be aware of her own travel limitations because even though she is forgettable, she's not invisible. She wouldn't be able to go on anything that required identification, that she couldn't stow away on.” What are the roadblocks Addie would experience with traveling in present day? She wouldn't be able to fly, or rent a car, she could hitch hike, maybe take a bus? Do you think with the way current travel is, Addie would have eventually given in due to feeling so restricted?

Quotes for Discussion

“If no one heard it, did it happen?

If a person cannot leave a mark, do they *exist*?” – pg. 103

“Blink and you're twenty-eight, and everyone else is now a mile down the road, and you're still trying to find it, and the irony is hardly lost on you that in wanting to live, to learn, to find yourself, you've gotten lost.” – Henry pg. 226

“He had asked the wrong god for the wrong thing, and now he is enough because he is nothing. He is perfect, because he isn't there.” Henry pg. 291

Resources

Discussion Questions

<https://bookclubchat.com/books/book-club-questions-for-the-invisible-life-of-addie-larue-by-v-e-schwab/>

<https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/discusion-guides/9780765387561DG.pdf>

Author Website

<https://www.veschwab.com/>

Author Interview with Entertainment Weekly

<https://ew.com/books/author-interviews/ve-schwab-the-invisible-life-of-addie-larue/?fbclid=IwAR3adHb4Zhm575EbfMqZyV8JoY7B43jJd7P7Jyh4WpEqLmHGohB1qe3kwSw>

Audio Book Excerpt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1OOUf00APw>

Publisher website

<https://read.macmillan.com/torforge/the-invisible-life-of-addie-larue/>

- Interactive Map of all the locations in NYC
- Spotify Playlist