



Book Club Questions
It Girl by Allison Pataki

1. By telling her own story in retrospect, Evelyn claims narrative control. What do you think she most wants readers to understand about her life—and about women like her?
2. How does the book peel back the glamour of elite New York society to reveal its moral contradictions, particularly in how it treats working-class women?
3. Evelyn repeatedly adopts roles-onstage, in art studios, in her relationships, and in society. At what moments does she feel most herself, and when does she feel most trapped by the roles others assign her?
4. The novel suggests that fascination can quickly turn into manipulation or even the desire for possession. What does the book argue is the true cost of fame and adoration? Do we believe that pop culture builds up its icons simply to tear them down? Discuss that common recurring phenomenon.
5. Compare the men who “collect” Evelyn—through paintings, jewels, marriage, or reputation. How does the novel distinguish between being seen and being known?
6. Evelyn’s mother is a complicated character. How would you characterize their relationship? Where do care and exploitation blur?
7. Characters like Leah, Violet, Penny, and Dinah play crucial roles in Evelyn’s survival. How do Evelyn’s female friendships differ from her romantic relationships?
8. Where did you find yourself drawing parallels between Evelyn’s world and modern celebrity culture and influencers?
9. How did the city of New York and this particular era play a role in Evelyn’s story? What did you learn about New York City at the dawn of the 20th century from this book?
10. What do you think Evelyn and Penny do once they arrive in France? Imagine and discuss a possible “next act” for these characters.
11. Which were Evelyn’s greatest strengths? Does your answer evolve as Evelyn grows over the course of this novel?
12. If you could ask author Allison Pataki one thing about writing It Girl, what would it be?

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