

The Seven Husband of Evelyn Hugo

By Taylor Jenkins Reid

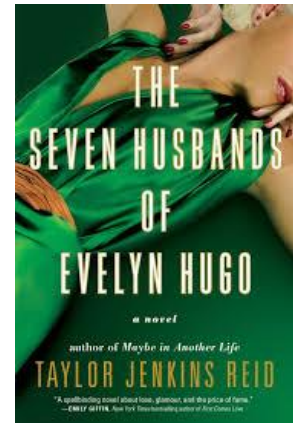
Reviewed by: Cheri Li, 16

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The Seven Husband of Evelyn Hugo follows obscure journalist Monique Grant as she covers the true, unrevealed life story of Evelyn Hugo, a famous and aging Hollywood star. The book is a recount of Hugo's scandals, love stories, and secret ambitions, encompassing the darker side of Hollywood and the actress herself.

I was not sure what to expect when I picked up a book about a woman and her seven marriages. However, as I continued reading the book, I appreciated the sincerity of both Evelyn and Monique's characters. The book does not sugarcoat the reality of Hugo's life as a popular star, exploring important and deep themes despite a deceptively shallow premise. The author does an excellent job of portraying the patriarchal exploitation of Hollywood, as well as the treatment of famous people of color and queer people. As a main character, Evelyn is deeply flawed, using power and secrecy to hurt those around her; at the same time, Reid illustrates how Evelyn was at times the victim, cornered by Hollywood and a traditional society.



This book was an excellent historical fiction book for older teens or young adults. Many of the historical portrayals of different sexualities and people of color were extremely impactful. For me, it was not difficult to understand or sympathize with Evelyn's struggles as a minority. At the same time, her story of fame and power created a sense of untouchable wonder that kept me so engaged. The mature themes were, at times, difficult to process, and the writing style was extremely brisk and straightforward, making a fast-paced novel. I would recommend this book to anyone 16 or older, for an engaging and meaningful read.

Recommended Titles:

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert