



MY  
LAST  
INNOCENT  
YEAR

**BOOK  
CLUB  
KIT**

**A NOVEL**

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## WELCOME TO THE BOOK CLUB KIT FOR MY LAST INNOCENT YEAR

Please note: In order to provide book clubs with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot of this novel—as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading the novel, you may want to wait before reviewing this guide.

1. How does the story benefit from being set against the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal? If you were setting this story in present day, what major news story might you set it against?
2. How do you imagine Isabel would have reacted after her encounter with Zev if Debra wasn't in their room?
3. How does Dean Hansen's handling of the situation feel dated? In what ways would his behavior mirror a dean's today?
4. "When I was older, I would find men like him too handsome for their own good, striding into bars and conference rooms like mortal gods." There are moments where adult Isabel interjects into the narrative. How does this further your understanding of Isabel?
5. Isabel's thesis focuses on the literary examination of domestic spaces in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, a novel that examines wealth and class. How do wealth and class play a role at Wilder College?
6. How does Isabel's crush and affair with Professor Connelly mask any emotional repercussions of her assault?
7. "You look so beautiful when you cry." This is what Professor Connelly says to Isabel before kissing her for the first time. How and why does her vulnerability appeal to Connelly?
8. Isabel deals with many older, adult men in her life: Connelly, Tom as his marriage is imploding, and her widowed father. How is she shaped by grappling with their emotional baggage?
9. How is Isabel's senior year her "last" innocent year?
10. How do Isabel's memories of her mother shape her present-day decisions?

