

### Emma Cline's *THE GUEST* Random House Book Club Questions

1. What do you think happens to Alex in the moments after the book? Will Simon take her back? Will Dom catch up with her?
2. We are told very little about Alex's past. How does knowing so little about who Alex was before the book begins affect your impression of her? Of the book?
3. Do you think that Alex will ever be able to fully belong? Why or why not?
4. Do you have sympathy for Alex? What would you have done similarly or differently in her shoes?
5. What do you make of the book's cover? Is the hand on the cover asking for something? Is it offering something?
6. In what ways does the setting of *The Guest* influence the story? How might the book have gone differently in a different setting?
7. How might events have played out differently if Alex's phone had been working for the whole book?
8. Alex sees herself as someone who can read and manipulate others; at the same time, she is dependent on others' goodwill. Do you think that Alex is mostly a person who wields power or is powerless?
9. Alex meets other characters, such as Victor and Nicholas, who she recognizes as people like herself who exist to prop up the world of the economic elite. In what ways are Victor and Nicholas similar to her? In what ways are they different from Alex?
10. Although Alex sees the world as operating purely on exchange, occasionally she meets someone who treats her with genuine kindness, without expecting anything in return. Do you think that these interactions change Alex's perspective? How does Alex interact differently with different kinds of people?
11. Early on, Alex dents Simon's car. Near the end, Jack and Alex also get in a car accident. What do you think the parallel of these events means?
12. What do you think Alex's life will look like a year from now? Five years from now? Ten?