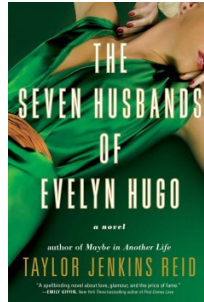


## Further Reading

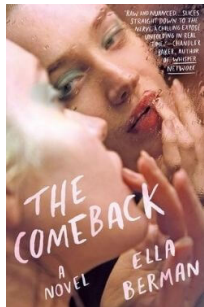
### **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo (Jun 2017)** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

When an aging and reclusive Hollywood icon selects an unknown magazine reporter to write her life story, the baffled journalist forges deep ties with the actress during a complicated interview process that exposes their tragic common history.



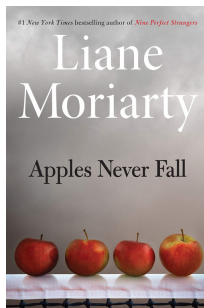
### **The Comeback (Aug 2020)** by Ella Berman

Returning mostly sober to Los Angeles after a year of self-imposed exile, a teen star decides she can no longer stay silent when she is asked to present a lifetime achievement award to the man responsible for her trauma.

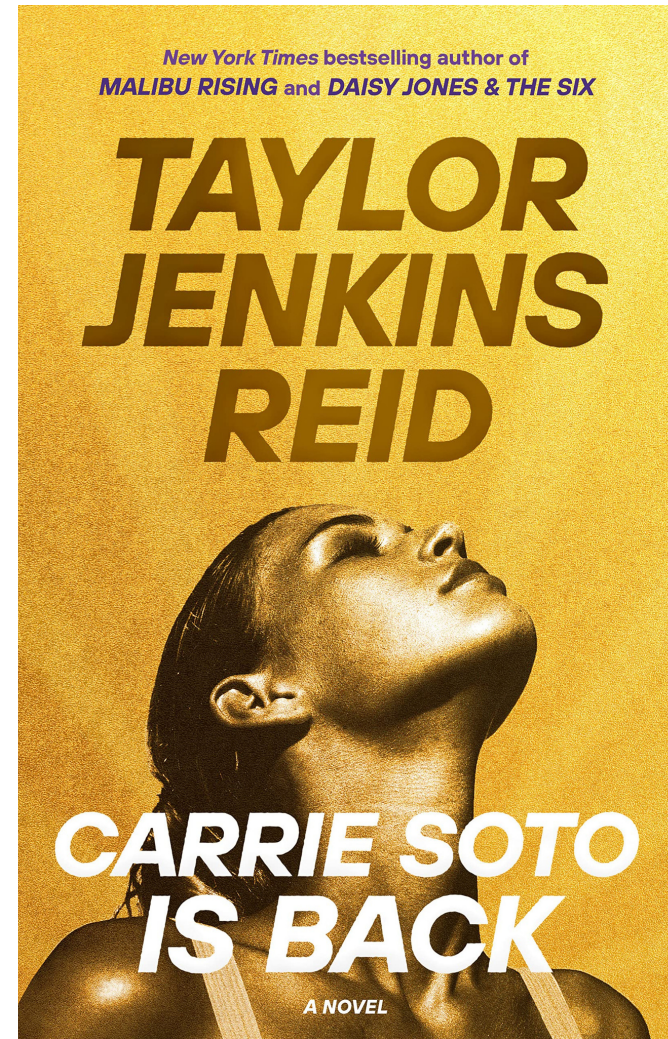


### **Apples Never Fall (Sep 2021)** by Liane Moriarty

A family of tennis stars debate whether or not to report their mother as missing because it would implicate their father in the new novel by the New York Times best-selling author of Big Little Lies.



## BOOK DISCUSSION





## Discussion Questions

1. Did you read *Malibu Rising*? Why do you think TJR decided to feature Carrie Soto in her own novel?
2. Why did Carrie decide to come out of retirement? What was she trying to prove?
3. We follow Carrie on her journey to return to the sport. Why did she want her father Javier to coach her again? What did her father teach her that no one else can?
4. Carrie is fiercely competitive and does not shy away from boasting that she is the best. When a male athlete exhibits this behavior, he is praised. But in Carrie's position, she's ridiculed. Why are women athletes treated different than male ones?
5. Carrie never tried to make friends with other tennis athletes. And while there is a competitive nature to it, we also find out she's afraid of getting close to anyone after losing her mother at such a young age. Let's talk about the impact of losing her mother on both Carrie and her father.
6. She eventually starts to train with Bowe Huntley, a bad boy of tennis that she once had a fling with. What did you think about their relationship? Are they a good fit? What did they both learn from each other?
7. For Bowe, not competing would be a disservice to himself. Even if he loses, he at least competed. But for Carrie, she feels that losing is the absolute worst thing in the world. Why does she feel like losing is the ultimate sorrow?
8. What was your impression of all the matches and the behind the scenes look at her thought process as she plays? Do you watch tennis?
9. Let's now talk about her dynamic with Nicki Chan. In what ways were they similar? And how are they different? When did Carrie start to view her differently than other competitors?
10. Javier falls ill and eventually passes away from a heart attack right before Carrie's big run in the US Open. How did losing her father change everything for Carrie?
11. Carrie does play Nicki and she loses. And Carrie completely accepts defeat. Let's discuss this character growth for Carrie.
12. How did Carrie evolve from the beginning of the novel to the end?
13. Carrie finally retires for good and becomes a coach, like her father. She is the coach for Nicki now and is still with Bowe. What are your thoughts about the ending? What happens next for Carrie?
14. Did you highlight any passages or did any quotes stand out to you?
15. What are some of the key themes that resonated?

Questions from [BOOKCLUBCHAT.COM](http://BOOKCLUBCHAT.COM)