

### A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

January 2023

#### **DEAR READERS:**

Imagine this: Romeo never died, but Juliet did and has been reincarnated over and over. In every lifetime, Romeo finds her and falls in love, but he is also doomed to watch her die again. Fast-forward to modern day and the question: How do you love someone if you know their time is short?

Unfortunately, I know the answer to this question because I, too, am in love with someone who could die any day. Due to an incurable genetic lung disease, my husband had to have a double lung transplant. It was, in a way, like Juliet's reincarnation—another chance at life. Nevertheless, lung transplants are terribly fragile since they're exposed to the outside world with every single breath and organ rejection or other infections are a constant threat.

So my own story became the inspiration for *The Hundred Loves of Juliet*. Life is never a guarantee, but it is harder—much harder—when Fate inks that fact like a tattoo to your soulmate's chest. How do you love when grief might be around the corner? Do you put up walls, run away, decide to feel nothing rather than feel at all? Or can you find a way to stay despite knowing the inevitable?

And yet—because I am also an eternal optimist—this novel is suffused with hope and the joy of living in the present. It is a paean to true love, to soulmates who fill your days with sunshine, to family and friendship, and to the beauty of life itself.

Thank you for taking a peek at *The Hundred Loves of Juliet*. More importantly, thank you so much for adoring books and sharing your love of them. I am incredibly grateful for the book community and it is truly my honor to write stories for you.

**EVELYN SKYE** 

evelynskye.com

Instagram: @evelyn\_skye



Author photo © Erin Ashford

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Were you a fan of *Romeo and Juliet* going into the read? If so, what expectations did you bring to the table that enhanced or detracted from your reading experience? And if not, did this novel in any way change your mind about the *Romeo and Juliet* story?
- 2. Throughout the book, Helene notes what the "old Helene" would do and decides that she's a "new Helene." Have you ever pushed yourself to be braver than you felt and take new chances? What happened?
- 3. Sebastien observes that many incarnations of Juliet have different features. Do you think appearances are essential to developing a love story? What do you think of the author's approach to what attracts soulmates?
- 4. What makes Helene different from the previous incarnations of Juliet? Why do you think that is?
- 5. What about Sebastien? What has he learned across the centuries?
- 6. Did you find the past-life vignettes added to the narrative, or were they a distraction from the main action? Did one speak to you more strongly and, if so, why?
- 7. The chocolate-hazelnut cornetti plays an important role in Sebastien's memory of all his past loves. Are there any foods that bring back memories of specific parts of your life? If not food, what about songs or books?
- **8.** If you lost a loved one, would you want to meet their incarnation later in life? Why or why not?
- 9. How would this story be different if the roles of Sebastien and Helene were reversed? Do you think they would still find each other if neither of them had memories of the other?
- 10. What do you think happened at the end? Was the curse lifted, or not? Why do you think the author chose to end the book as she did?

## **PLAYLIST**

Listen to this compilation of songs about love, yearning, missed opportunities, and second chances inspired by *The Hundred Loves of Juliet* and curated by the author.

### Click here to listen on Spotify!

- 1. Amor Eterno Elisa Avaria
- This Is How You Fall in Love Jeremy Zucker, Chelsea Cutler
- 3. Glad You Exist Dan + Shay
- **4. Better with You** Virginia to Vegas
- 5. This Town Niall Horan
- **6. Fallin' All in You** Shawn Mendes
- **7. Anyone** Justin Bieber
- 8. Nervous John Legend
- **9. Borrowed Time** Esme Sanford
- 10. Till Forever Falls Apart Ashe, FINNEAS
- **11. The Reason** Hoobastank
- 12. Imagine Ben Platt
- **B.** I Choose You Sara Bareilles
- **14. Butterflies** MAX, Ali Gatie
- **15. Love Story** Taylor Swift
- 16. Just the Way You Are Bruno Mars

- 17. One Call Away Charlie Puth
- **18. Collide** Howie Day
- 19. If You Love Her Forest Blakk
- **20. Ghost** Justin Bieber
- 21. Moonflowers Donald Kutcher
- 22. ilym John K feat. ROSIE
- **Say You Won't Let Go** James Arthur
- 24. I Don't Want to Watch the World End with Someone Else Clinton Kane
- **25. Wherever You Will Go** The Calling
- **26. A Thousand Years** Christina Perri
- **27. Forever** Affinity88

