

New York Times bestselling author of

SEVEN DAYS IN JUNE

**A LOVE
SONG**

a novel

FOR

RICKI

WILDE

TIA

WILLIAMS

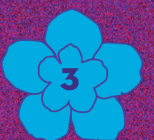
READING GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Harlem creates a vibrant, exciting backdrop for this love story, a place for creatives and artists to find themselves and flourish. Describe the ways in which Harlem has changed over time in the novel. Discuss how this neighborhood functions within the novel: what role does it play beyond just a setting?
2. Ricki feels like an outsider in her family, never quite fitting in or meeting their expectations. In what ways does this dynamic challenge Ricki to achieve her goals, and how does it hold her back?
3. The power of love and relationships is a central theme throughout the novel, and we learn that both Ricki and Ezra have had tumultuous romantic, platonic, and familial relationships. How is their romance different from ones they've had in the past, and how does it change their other relationships?
4. Ms. Della is Ricki's guardian angel from the moment they meet, providing her with the support and encouragement that Ricki's been missing. How is her outlook on life different from Ricki's? Who in your life has been a Ms. Della figure?
5. Ezra's past is a long and painful journey that takes him from one heartbreak to the next. Describe the mechanisms he's developed to cope with his grief. How does opening his heart to Ricki lead him on the path toward healing?
6. What does *A Love Song for Ricki Wilde* say about the power of love and vulnerability?



7. Ezra is preoccupied with the idea of legacy; and later, so is Ricki. How do they each leave their mark on the world? What does it say about what they value most?
8. Tuesday Rowe becomes Ricki's closest friend. Though she's fiercely confident in some ways, she's wounded in others. How did her years as a child star impact her adult sense of self?
9. There are almost one hundred years between Breeze's 1927 interview with Olive Randall and Ricki's 2024 interview with Clementine Rhodes. But the two journalists similarly imply that Black culture is given value when it's sanctioned by white people. How does Ricki push back on this idea? Discuss the ways you see his still happening in the world today.
10. Ricki and Ezra are described as the "two luckiest lovers in the world" (page 332). How would you describe their love story? Do you think their romance is entirely due to fate and destiny? Or, is it due to choices they made and personal growth?



Dear Reader,

I'm obsessed with big, brazen, iconic (and hot) Black love. Obsessed! It's the altar at which I worship, the spark that ignites every book I write. With *A Love Song for Ricki Wilde*, I set out to write a modern fairy tale featuring two passionate artists drawn to Harlem—and each other—whose lives are mysteriously, uniquely linked.

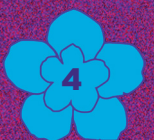


The story popped into my head one night, out of nowhere. As I wrestled with insomnia, I began lucid-dreaming of disparate ideas: Harlem Renaissance nightlife, a cursed musician, a free-spirited florist, destined soulmates, Leap Year magic, and a brownstone where the (literal) magic happens. I hopped out of bed and feverishly attempted to connect the dots.

I loved weaving a love story out of these elements. As a former beauty editor who delights in “soft” things—a rare flower, beautiful stationery, a swishy gown, a scratchy, ancient record discovered in a thrift store—I delighted in immersing Ricki and Ezra in the aesthetic-forward world of passionate Black artists. I hope you enjoy the ride, and their love, as much as I do.

xoxo,

Tia



PLAYLIST

VENUS DE MILO

Prince and the Revolution

AM I BLUE

Willie "The Lion" Smith

NATURE FEELS

Frank Ocean

HEART OF THE CITY

Jay-Z

AIN'T NOBODY

Chaka Khan and Rufus

NEED TO KNOW

Doja Cat

STARGIRL INTERLUDE

*Lana Del Rey
and the Weeknd*

L\$D

A\$ap Rocky

CREOLE LOVE CALL

*Duke Ellington
and Adelaide Hall*

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN

Fats Waller

WHERE DID YOU SLEEP
LAST NIGHT

Nirvana

LIVING FOR THE CITY

Stevie Wonder

VOODOO CHILE

Jimi Hendrix

SECRET GARDEN

*Quincy Jones ft. El Debarge,
Barry White, Al B. Sure*

SNOOZE

SZA

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

The Police



LISTEN

