

Reader Discussion Guide: *Remember My Name* by Dean Raven

About the Book

After a life marked by struggle, Sheri Starling's chance encounter with a wealthy socialite and philanthropist catapults her from the dark end of the street to the bright lights of high society. But reinvention comes at a cost. As Sheri's two worlds collide, she's forced to confront what authenticity, friendship and redemption really mean. Sharp, witty and deeply human, *Remember My Name* examines how far we'll go to be seen—and what it takes to be truly known.

1. First Impressions

- What were your initial thoughts about Sheri? How did your perception of her change throughout the novel?
 - Did the opening chapters evoke empathy, discomfort, admiration—or a mix of all three?
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2. Themes of Reinvention and Identity

- Sheri's story is about transformation—social, emotional and moral. What does “reinvention” mean for her? Is it liberation, survival or performance?
 - How do class, gender and sexuality shape who gets to reinvent themselves—and who doesn't?
 - Can anyone truly start over, or does the past always follow?
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3. Compassion and Responsibility

- Sheri's small acts of kindness toward Danny and the women at Sephryn House are pivotal. What do these gestures reveal about her sense of responsibility and connection?
 - Do you think she makes the right choice in asking Danny to move out when her career takes off? Why or why not?
 - How do the novel's depictions of care and concern—especially between those society overlooks—contrast with the “charity” of the wealthy characters?
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4. Fame, Image, and the Machinery of Morality

- Gloria Meadows represents a world where philanthropy and performance blur. How does the novel use her character to critique celebrity culture, capitalism and inequality?
 - What does Sheri learn about the difference between *being a good person* and *looking like a good person*?
 - How does the media—or the gaze of others—shape the characters' moral choices?
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5. Power and Exploitation

- From the sex industry to celebrity circles, the novel examines systems where power is traded for survival. What parallels did you notice between these worlds?
 - How do gender, poverty and class dynamics play out in Sheri's relationships with men—her clients, her boyfriend and Danny?
 - How does Danny exercise power at the start of the novel compared with later on? How and why do the power dynamics change?
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6. Redemption and Self-Acceptance

- The novel ends with both triumph and reckoning. What does redemption look like for Sheri?
 - What do you think is in store for Sheri after the book ends? Do you feel she finds peace or will there be more disappointments?
 - How does the book align with traditional “happy ending” narratives, especially for marginalized people? What would an “unhappy ending” or unresolved ending have looked like for Sheri and Danny?
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7. Tone and Style

- How did the novel's use of satire and dark humour affect your experience as a reader?
 - Did you find the balance between empathy and critique effective? Were there moments when the satire hit too hard—or not hard enough?
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8. Contemporary Resonance

- What echoes of today's culture—social media fame, performative activism, economic inequality—did you see in the story?
 - How might this novel read differently if it were set in the 2020s instead of the turn of the millennium?
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9. Danny's Story

- Danny's trajectory parallels Sheri's in some ways. What does his story say about youth, vulnerability and chosen family?
 - Could Sheri have done more to help him—or did she already give everything she could?
 - What did Danny learn about relationships from his experience with Ben and Sheri? By the end, did he truly learn anything or did he simply regress to a state of adolescence?
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10. Final Reflections

- What moment in the novel stayed with you the most, and why?
 - If you could ask Sheri one question, what would it be?
 - What do you think the title *Remember My Name* signifies in the end—fame, identity, survival, or something else?
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Optional Activities for Book Clubs

- **Soundtrack of Reinvention:** Have members pick a song from the late 1990s/early 2000s that captures Sheri's journey or emotional turning point.
 - **Media Rewrite:** Discuss how Sheri's story would be told in a modern news cycle or social media post—what truths would be lost?
 - **Character Empathy Exercise:** Write a short letter from Sheri to Gloria, or Danny to Ben, one year after the end of the novel (or choose your own characters). What would they say to each other?
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Further information

- To inquire about or discuss any or the above, or more, please reach out to the author at contact@deanraven.online.
- Or visit Dean Raven at www.deanraven.com.