

Book Club/discussion questions for *The Last Birthday Party*

- 1- Starting over is tough at any age, but definitely trickier as you get older. Talk about a quantum change you may have made in your life--or one that was made for you, as Jeremy experienced--and how it changed you in unexpected ways.

- 2- One of the themes of *The Last Birthday Party* is how sometimes our world is changing without us even knowing. How do you think Jeremy's marriage might have played out had he been more aware of Cassie's unhappiness?

- 3- Moving out of a home that you've lived in for many years can be traumatic. What was your experience making a particular move and how did it maybe surprise you?

- 4- Jeremy rewrites an old screenplay he'd put away and it leads to a career revival. Is there a creative endeavor you've gone back to that jumpstarted a new phase of work or pleasure?

- 5- Another theme here is how things that happen to us may seem bad at the time but can sometimes lead to good things. What were some "silver linings" you've experienced?

- 6- Movies are an important part of Jeremy's life and have proved touchstones for him in many ways. What movie or movies have impacted you over the course of your life and may have altered the way you looked at the world?

- 7- Annabelle finds love again for the first time since the death of her husband, but it's not an easy path. Talk about someone you know who fell in love after the death of a spouse and the journey he or she went on to reconcile the new relationship.

- 8- Matty is a kind of "serial dater" who, at first, doesn't seem interested in settling down. Then along comes Gabe. What was the moment that you--or someone you know--realized you/they were ready for a more permanent romantic commitment and why?

- 9- Joyce serves not only as Jeremy's mom but also his friend and conscience, especially with regard to how he handles things with Annabelle. As an adult, is/was there a particular area of your life where a parent continued to guide you--and how?

- 10- There are several story twists in *The Last Birthday Party* that may take readers by surprise. Which moment did you find most unpredictable and how did it defy expectation?