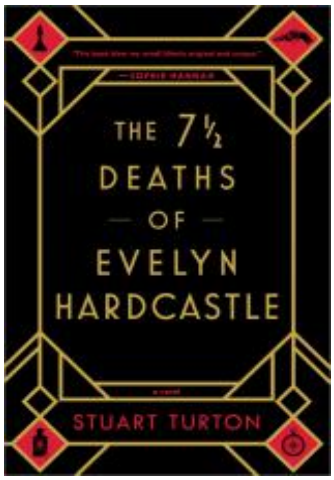
The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

by Stuart Turton



About the Book

At a gala party thrown by her parents, Evelyn Hardcastle will be killed. Again. She?s been murdered hundreds of times, and each day, Aiden Bishop is too late to save her. Doomed to repeat the same day over and over, Aiden?s only escape is to solve Evelyn Hardcastle?s murder and conquer the shadows of an enemy he struggles to even comprehend. But nothing and no one are quite what they seem.

Deeply atmospheric and ingeniously plotted, THE 7½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE is the most inventive debut of the year that twists together a mystery of such unexpected creativity it will leave readers guessing until the very last page.

Discussion Guide

1. What or who do you think are the deaths in THE 7½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE? Where does the half death enter the narrative?

2. THE 7½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE begins in a typically linear way, then shoots off in many different directions. How did the different narratives and perspectives enrich the story?

3. The mystery and escape in Blackheath is set up like a puzzle, and the reader plays along with Aiden as he puts the solution together. Were there any pieces you couldn?t find a place for?

4. Aiden Bishop has a backstory that readers will never know in full; however, what we do know is there is plenty of revenge, cruelty and questionable intentions wrapped up in who he was and why he entered Blackheath. With what you know about him, would you call him a hero? Why or why not?

5. Why do you think the Plague Doctor wears that particular costume, and how does it affect his relationship with Aiden? Is the Plague Doctor really the good man that the voice in Aiden?s head claims he is?

6. Annabelle Caulker, or Anna, is unmasked as someone very different from whom Aiden believes her to be. What do you feel she did to deserve her time in Blackheath, and how do you think Aiden was able to forgive her?

7. Were there any tactics Aiden didn?t think of that could have solved the mystery of who killed Evelyn Hardcastle? If you were in his shoes, or hosts, what would you have done differently?

8. The construct of Blackheath as a prison feels like something from the future, but do you feel this sort of punishment (and possible redemption) could one day be considered a viable solution for criminals? What do you feel the advantages are, and in what ways could this be considered even more cruel than a standard incarceration sentence?

9. No character is ever what they first appear, something Aiden remarks on a few times throughout the novel. Who was your favorite character, and why did they resonate with you particularly? Which character undergoes the biggest transformation, and were there any characters you started off liking or loathing and changed your opinion about?

10. Was there one host who felt more important, or can you see how each character, despite their vices, provided something crucial to the story?

11. As Aiden switched from host to host, his protection against their memories and personalities waned until he was feeling their lust, their disgust or their impatience. What characteristics do you feel are solely Aiden?s? Outside of Blackheath, what sort of man do you think he is?

12. What recurring symbols or themes did you see throughout the book, and what role do you think they played in the story or Aiden?s escape from Blackheath?

13. If you knew someone you loved had a devastating secret, would you choose to find out what it was or love them for who they?ve become? If you knew you did something terrible, would you want to remember or live with that shadow for the rest of your life?

Author Bio

Stuart Turton is a freelance journalist who lives in West London with his wife. Stuart is not to be trusted --- in the nicest possible way. He is the author of THE 7½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE, THE DEVIL AND THE DARK WATER and THE LAST MURDER AT THE END OF THE WORLD.

Photo Credit: Charlotte Graham

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