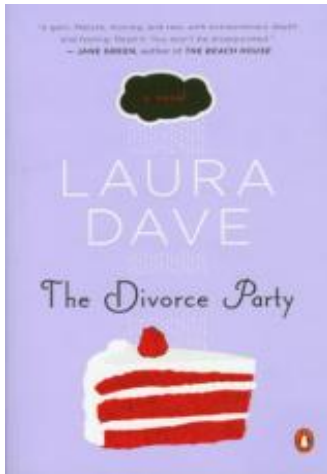


# The Divorce Party

by Laura Dave

---



## About the Book

Gwyn Huntington knows how to throw a party. And Hunt Hall, her postcard-perfect Victorian home in Montauk at the easternmost tip of Long Island, is no stranger to celebrations. But on the morning of her thirty-fifth wedding anniversary, she's putting finishing touches on the last party she'll host there. The last time she'll see Hunt Hall abuzz with caterers and bartenders. The last time she'll preside over a gathering of beautiful friends chatting in candlelight. The last time she'll fully play the role of Mrs. Thomas Huntington. Divorce parties have become commonplace, if not fashionable, in Montauk. But Gwyn is determined that hers will be different.

Just over one hundred miles away on the same morning, Maggie Mackenzie sits on the floor of her Brooklyn apartment attempting to organize her new life. A former travel writer, she's fallen in love with a wonderful man, gotten engaged, and is planning to start a business with him. Today is also the day she'll meet her fiancé's parents for the first time. She's feeling particularly uneasy about the occasion surrounding her first meeting with Nate's family.

**The Divorce Party** takes us into the lives of these two women at opposite ends of marriage. For all the differences between them --- distance, privilege, age --- Gwyn and Maggie have one thing in common: Each has found herself at a crossroads. Gwyn has been preparing for this day, the last predictable day before an uncertain future. Even though she's had time to come to terms with her divorce, she still can't quite believe her marriage is over. How can she move on when her marriage has defined who she is for the last thirty-five years? And for Maggie, the emotionally charged trip to Montauk shakes the foundation of her relationship with Nate and dredges up feelings she has spent her life trying to avoid.

In the end, Gwyn and Maggie face the same questions: How hard should you work to stay with the person you love? And when is it time to let go?

## Discussion Guide

1. Nate suggests that people with *some* money act differently than people with *a lot* of money. What does he mean? If you were to come into a large sum of money, in what ways would you expect it to change you? How would you want your life to stay the same?
2. Gwyn seems to place most of the blame for her marital problems squarely on her husband. How much responsibility does Eve bear? Do you think Gwyn should have been harder on her? How much responsibility lies with Gwyn?
3. Put yourself in Maggie's shoes. Would your trust in Nate be shattered? Do you think you'd be able to overcome your uncertainty about him? Is it ever best not to know the truth?
4. Do you think a divorce party is a good idea? Would you hold a celebration for a divorce or a break-up? Would you attend one?
5. How do you see Gwyn faring? What about her husband's relationship with Eve? How do you expect it to evolve?
6. Should Gwyn have confronted Thomas earlier? How do you think their story would have been different?
7. In what ways has Maggie been affected by her mother's leaving? What about Nate and Georgia? How have they been affected by their relationships with their parents?
8. Do you know women like Murphy? Why do you think she would make up a crazy story and make a stranger uncomfortable? Maggie could have avoided worrying about Murphy if she'd only confronted Nate about what Murphy said. If she'd come right out and asked him, do you think Maggie would have believed Nate's denial?
9. Music is woven throughout **The Divorce Party** and is ultimately critical to the book's resolution. Why is music such an important part of love stories?

## Author Bio

Laura Dave is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels, including **THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME** and **EIGHT HUNDRED GRAPES**. Her novels have been translated into 38 languages, and six of them, including **THE NIGHT WE LOST HIM**, have been optioned for film and television. She resides in Santa Monica, California.

---

### **The Divorce Party**

by Laura Dave

**Publication Date:** April 28, 2009

**Genres:** Fiction, Romance

**Paperback:** 272 pages

**Publisher:** Penguin Books

**ISBN-10:** 014311560X

**ISBN-13:** 9780143115601