



Discussion Guide

Caribou Crossing: A Caribou Crossing Romance
by Susan Fox (a.k.a. Savanna Fox and Susan Lyons)

Kensington Zebra; ISBN 9781420133363; June 2013

Caribou Crossing Romance series Book 1

[Look for Book 2, *Home on the Range* (August 2013) and
Book 3, *Gentle on my Mind* (September 2013)]

susanlyons.ca; susan@susanlyons.ca; [facebook.com/SusanLyonsFox](https://www.facebook.com/SusanLyonsFox)

These questions are available for download (in PDF format) from my website.

Thanks so much for reading *Caribou Crossing*. I hope you enjoyed the first story in the Caribou Crossing Romance series. I'm happy to provide bookmarks and autographed bookplates for any of my books. Just send me your name and address. Please visit my website for info on other titles, insights into how each book came about, excerpts, reviews, recipes, a monthly contest, and other fun stuff. You can also subscribe to my e-newsletter.

Now, let's talk about *Caribou Crossing*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *Is marriage the "happily-ever-after" or the beginning?* A lot of romance fiction ends with an engagement or marriage, which is commonly referred to as the "happily ever after." *Caribou Crossing* takes a different approach, starting with a couple who've been married for ten years. It traces their relationship from their wedding to the time of a tragedy in their lives, then moves forward from there. What do you think of this approach as compared to the stories that end with the engagement or wedding?
2. *Kept in suspense.* In the first part of the story, you know something has happened to Miriam, but you don't know what it was. Did that work for you? Would you have preferred that the story just be told chronologically, starting with the wedding? Or did the element of suspense make you more interested in turning the pages?
3. *Starry eyes.* Miriam and Wade were starry-eyed on their wedding day, anticipating a bright future, not imagining any obstacles in their path. Do you think that's typical of brides and grooms, or was this couple particularly young and naïve? What things should a couple think about and plan for before they get married? Or does too much thinking and planning put a wet blanket on the joy and optimism?
4. *Buying the ranch.* When Wade's parents decided to move, he and Miriam bought Bly Ranch. Was that a wise move? Would they have been better not to have? How would their lives have been different? Once they bought it, what should each of them have done differently, to give themselves a better chance at success?
5. *From girl to woman.* Describe Miriam's personality. What are her strengths and weaknesses? How does she change over the course of the story?

(please turn over)

6. *Just like a man.* Describe Wade's personality. What are his strengths and his weaknesses? Why did he always want to handle things himself? Why didn't he tell Miriam everything that was going on? Do you sympathize with him or would you like to whack him upside the head?
7. *Post-traumatic stress?* After her surgery, Miriam and Wade both feel deep grief, but they deal with things in very different ways. Should—or could—either of them act differently? Have you ever been in a situation that involved shock and deep sorrow—and, if so, how did you react in the beginning, and over time? Did you share with your loved ones, or crawl off to nurse your wounds in private?
8. *Communication and problem-solving.* As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that, though Miriam and Wade were teen sweethearts and loved each other very much, they have some problems when it comes to communication and problem-solving. Is that because they got together so young, without much life experience behind them? Do you think some or most marriages suffer from similar problems? How can a couple ensure that, over time, they keep sharing and working together?
9. *Jess and Evan.* Describe each of their personalities, and their dreams for the future. How do you think each of them got to be the way they are? What's your impression of their relationship? Why are they friends? Will they remain friends over time? Do you think a romance might develop at some stage?
10. *Evan's parents.* What opinion did you form of Evan's parents? What do you think is going on in their family?
11. *Home on the ranch.* Bly Ranch has a somewhat different meaning to each character in the story. What does it mean to Wade's parents, to him, to Miriam, to her mother, to Jess, and to Evan? Is there a place in your life that has special meaning, that you'd do almost anything to hang onto?
12. *Keeping the ranch.* Do you think Miriam and Wade make the right decision, when they agree to keep the ranch and try to make it work?
13. *Caribou Crossing.* What do you think of the community of Caribou Crossing? Would you like to live there? What are the pros and cons?
14. *Real or make believe?* Caribou Crossing is a made-up community. Would you have preferred the story to be set in a real town? What are the pros and cons of real versus made-up settings for romance fiction?
15. *Beginnings.* One of the themes of *Caribou Crossing* is beginnings. What are the various ones that occur? How do they mark stages in Miriam and Wade's marriage? What changes each time, and how is the relationship the same or different after each beginning?
16. *Your favorite thing.* What is your favorite part of this book, or favorite scene? What makes it special for you?
17. *Happily ever after?* At the end of the story, what have Miriam and Wade learned? Do you think they'll be able to meet future challenges successfully? Will their marriage grow stronger?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on some of these questions and issues! Email me at susan@susanlyons.ca. And don't forget to drop by my website: www.susanlyons.ca. I'm also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SusanLyonsFox.