



Discussion Guide

Holiday in Your Heart: A Caribou Crossing Romance
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Caribou Crossing Romance series Book 8
[Look for Book 1, *Caribou Crossing* (June 2013)
Book 2, *Home on the Range* (August 2013)
Book 3, *Gentle on my Mind* (September 2013)
Book 4, *Stand by Your Man* (June 2014)
Book 5, *Love Me Tender* (December 2014)
Book 6, *Love Somebody Like You* (October 2015)
Book 7, *Ring of Fire* (June 2016)]

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

Thanks so much for reading *Holiday in Your Heart*. I hope you enjoyed the eighth 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 *Holiday in Your Heart*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *Searching for "the one."* Maribeth had dated a lot of men but never found the magical click. Do you think there is a "one" out there for each of us? Or maybe several possible "ones" – and Maribeth just hadn't happened to have met any of hers?
2. *Settling.* Maribeth decided not to settle for anything less than true love. And yet many people marry people they've barely met (think of arranged marriages, for example). How do you think a person should decide when and whom to marry?
3. *Taking matters into her own hands.* What do you think of Maribeth's decision, at the age of thirty-nine, to opt for artificial insemination?
4. *Should he stay or should he go?* Should Mo have returned to Caribou Crossing, never contacted his ex-wife or son again, or perhaps sent written apologies? Do you relate to his motivation for coming?
5. *Alcoholism.* Mo says he's not an alcoholic; he's just "a bitter, angry man who was weak enough to seek solace in alcohol." Do you think that all "problem drinkers" are alcoholics, or do you think Mo's right? Do you think he was wise to stop drinking even if he isn't an alcoholic?
6. *Redemption.* Do you believe in redemption? What does a sinner need to do in order to redeem himself or herself? Do you think Mo is a redeemed man? Is Brooke a redeemed woman? Would you want people like them in your life?

7. *Making amends.* What do you think of the notion of making amends for past wrongs? Is it more for the sinner (e.g., a way of assuaging guilt) or is it as much or more for the person who was sinned against? Have you ever hurt someone and later attempted to make amends?
8. *Forgiveness.* Are there some things that can never be forgiven, or does forgiveness depend on the heart and mind of the victim? Have you ever been asked to forgive something very hurtful that was done to you? Or have you asked forgiveness of someone you hurt badly?
9. *Opposites?* At the beginning of the book, Maribeth and Mo seem like opposites. Are they? In what ways do they differ? Are there ways in which they're the same? What do you think draws them together: the differences, the similarities, or both?
10. *Loneliness.* In their own ways, both Mo and Maribeth started the book as lonely people. Discuss.
11. *That crazy singing dog.* What is Caruso's role in the book?
12. *Mo and Brooke.* What do you think of their developing relationship? Is it plausible, given their history?
13. *Maribeth and Brooke.* What do you think of Maribeth basically asking Brooke's permission to date Mo? What do you think of Brooke's response?
14. *Mo and Evan.* Why did Evan at first refuse to see Mo? Why did he later allow his father into his life and into his family?
15. *Do/don't go changing.* People often say that it's foolish to expect someone to change. But many romance novels are based on the idea of a character arc: that the heroine and/or hero face their own weaknesses and vulnerabilities and evolve into better, stronger people. What do you think: over the course of our lives, do we change? If so, what leads to these changes? How does Mo change in this book? How about Maribeth?
16. *Dreams.* Maribeth has always dreamed. When she asked Mo about his dreams for the future, he didn't relate to what she was talking about. Why did she dream, and he didn't? How did his approach to dreaming change over the course of the book?
17. *Perfect parents?* How did Maribeth's parents and grandparents influence her? How about Mo's parents? How does the big "revelation" scene with Robin affect Mo's view of parenting?
18. *The 80-somethings.* What role do Ms. Haldenby and Ms. Peabody play in the story? How about Maribeth's grandparents? Do you think that wisdom tends to come with age?
19. *If they'd never met.* If Mo and Maribeth never met, what would their lives be like?
20. *Favorite scene.* What is your favorite scene in the book, and why?
21. *The end.* This is the final book in the Caribou Crossing series. (But please do look for my next series: Blue Moon Harbor!) Did you find this story a fitting finish to the saga? Were there any characters you became interested in, whom you wished would have their own romances?

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.