



Discussion Guide

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

Kensington Zebra; December 2014

Caribou Crossing Romance series Book 5
[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)]

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

Thanks so much for reading *Love Me Tender*. I hope you enjoyed the fifth 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 *Love Me Tender*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *The nicest guy in town.* That's what everyone says about Dave Cousins. How do you see him? What are his strengths and weaknesses, his dreams and fears?
2. *The wild goose.* Cassidy chose her tattoo when she was eighteen. What did it mean to her then, and what does it mean to her now? How do you see her personality: her strengths and weaknesses, dreams and fears?
3. *Hooking up.* Why is Cassidy interested in getting together with Dave? Why does he resist the idea at first? Why does he finally decide to go for it?
4. *Want to smack him/her?* A romance novel is often about character growth. Sometimes that means that, especially in the beginning, there are things about the heroine, hero, or both of them that make the reader want to smack them (figuratively, of course, to make them smarten up). They're being stupid, acting silly, being blind to what's obvious to the reader, or whatever. Were there times you wanted to smack Cassidy and/or Dave? Why?
5. *Overprotective?* Those close to Dave say he's overprotective. How did Dave get to be so protective of those he cares about? Is there such a thing as being too protective?
6. *Loss of the one you love.* For Dave, the loss of Anita was the biggest tragedy in his life. He doesn't believe he will ever recover from that, and love again. He can't even talk about her. Do you think that's a typical reaction to loss of a true love? Why does he have so much trouble finding joy in life again—or, as he puts it, why does he see the good stuff in his life through a gray fog?
7. *Never love again.* Why does Dave believe that he will never love again? How much of it is grief; how much is fear? Are there other factors that play into it?

(please turn over)

8. *Ms. Haldenby*. What role does Cassidy's landlady play in the story?
9. *Dave and his ex*. What do you think of Dave's relationship with his ex-wife Jess and her new husband? What issues arise for Dave in sharing Robin with her stepfather Evan?
10. *That special person*. What is it about Cassidy that shakes Dave out of his sad rut and makes him start seeing through the gray fog and enjoying life again? And what is it about Dave that makes Cassidy feel differently about him than every other man she's dated?
11. *Flying away*. From the beginning, Cassidy is in denial about any possibility that she might have her great grandmother's disease. When she receives the diagnosis of MS, she again denies it—and she leaves Caribou Crossing. What do you think of the way she leaves Dave and her other friends? Why does she run? What does she hope to achieve? Why has she spent her life flitting from one spot to another, never settling down or getting really close to people? Have you ever run away from something bad that's happened in your life? In retrospect, was that the best thing to do?
12. *Bringing her home*. Why does Dave go after Cassidy when she runs away? What emotions does he deal with when he decides to do it, and when he asks her to come back and let him help her? What emotions does she go through in making the decision to return, and why does she finally agree?
13. *Her big secret*. Why is Cassidy reluctant to tell people about her diagnosis? Can you relate to wanting to keep that kind of secret?
14. *Making plans*. Why does Cassidy resist making plans? How does she adjust to having a treatment plan and dealing with her disease? How do you think you'd handle a diagnosis like hers?
15. *"It takes a village" versus going it alone*. Why is it so important to Cassidy that she be self-sufficient and never be indebted to others? How does her opinion on this change, and what factors contribute to the change?
16. *Parents and kids*. Compare Dave's relationship with his parents and with his daughter to Cassidy's relationship with her parents, grandfather, and brother. How did Dave's upbringing and Cassidy's affect them as adults? How does Cassidy's relationship with her family change?
17. *Dave and Anita*. How did Dave's feelings about his deceased fiancée change over the course of the book, and why? Why did he put off reading her letter? Would he ever have read it, if Cassidy hadn't come into his life?
18. *Getting it right*. What do you think of the relationship between Cassidy's parents? Do you think they stand a chance of staying together this time around? Why, or why not? What do you think it takes to make a happy marriage?
19. *Sally Ryland*. What's your impression of Dave's friend Sally, and of their relationship? (Sally is the heroine of the next Caribou Crossing Romance, *Love Somebody Like You*, October 2015.)
20. *The gypsy versus the guy with roots*. When the book begins, Cassidy has perpetually itchy feet and Dave's feet are deeply rooted in Caribou Crossing. How did each of them become this way? Which one are you more like? By the end of the book, they seem to have "met in the middle." Do you think their compromise solution will work out in the long term? Will they live happily ever after?

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.