



Discussion Guide

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

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Caribou Crossing Romance series Book 4
[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 5, *Love Me Tender* (December 2014)]

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 *Stand by Your Man*. I hope you enjoyed the fourth 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 *Stand by Your Man*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *A cop and a woman*. Describe Karen as she is when the story begins. What's her self image? What are her values and how were they formed? What are her dreams? How about her strengths and weaknesses?
2. *A cop with no home*. Describe Jamal as he is when the story begins. How did he get that way? What's his self image? How does he envision the future? Does he have any dreams? What are his strengths and weaknesses?
3. *A recovering alcoholic*. What part does Jamal's alcoholism play in his life today? How does it affect his personality? How do you think he became an alcoholic and how did he recover?
4. *Jamal's secret*. What do you think of Jamal's decision not to tell anyone, including his employer, about his alcoholism? What do you think of Jake's decision to keep his friend's secret?
5. *Mutual attraction*. What initially attracts Karen to Jamal, and him to her?
6. *One magical night*. The first day they meet, they spend much of the night together, but without having sex. What happens during that night? Why is that night such a powerful influence for each of them? Do you think things would have been different between them if they had had sex that night?
7. *Karen's decision*. Although Karen is very attracted to Jamal, she won't have sex with him that first night. Why won't she? Do you think she's right? Do you think he understands her reasons?
8. *Reunited*. What brings them back together? Why does Karen agree to have sex with him this time, when she wouldn't before?

9. *Tell me no lies.* Jamal tries to avoid out-and-out lying to Karen but he does take pains to conceal his alcoholism from her. What's he afraid of? Do you think people in a serious relationship should always be entirely open and honest with each other, or is it okay to keep some things secret? If so, what kind of things and why?
10. *RCMP rules.* What do you think of the RCMP's rule that a member can't date her/his supervisor or even work the same shift as someone she/he is dating? In general, what do you think of workplace rules about nonfraternization?
11. *City boy or country boy?* What is Jamal's reaction to Caribou Crossing? Do you think he could be happy living in the country?
12. *Betrayal.* How do you think Brooke Kincaid (a recovering alcoholic herself) feels when she sees Jamal (who she knows is an alcoholic) holding a bottle of beer when he's with Karen? What makes her talk to Karen about it, and why doesn't she tell Karen that Jamal's an alcoholic? Why does she tell Jake that she saw Jamal with a beer? How do you think Jake feels when he goes to ream out Jamal for not telling Karen his secret? How does Jamal feel when Jake confronts him about it?
13. *Spilling the beans.* Why does Jamal decide to tell Karen about his alcoholism? What does he expect will happen when he does so? How does she react? What is she most upset about?
14. *I can do it on my own.* Jamal doesn't want to go to A.A. meetings or have a sponsor. He says he can stay sober on his own. What do you think of his attitude? How well is he doing? How does his attitude change over time, and why?
15. *Being principled versus being judgmental.* Is Karen merely a woman with strong values and high standards or is she too judgmental? How do her attitudes change over the course of the story?
16. *Telling the world.* Does Karen have any right to ask Jamal to tell the RCMP about his alcoholism, or to tell the world? Why do you think he decides to do it? Do you agree with his decision to share his secret? How do you think his life will be changed for having done so?
17. *Stand by your man.* How is this song relevant to Karen and Jamal's romance?
18. *Recognizing love.* How does Karen know that she's truly in love with Jamal? How does he know that he's truly in love with her?
19. *Happily ever after?* By the end of the story, Karen and Jamal are engaged. Do you think they're going to live happily ever after?
20. *Spouses and parents.* What kind of spouses and parents do you think they'll be? What factors will influence their behaviour as spouses and parents?

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.