



Discussion Guide

Heat Waves

by Susan Lyons

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www.susanlyons.ca

susan@susanlyons.ca

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Susan-Lyons-Fox/134094693294553>

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

Thanks so much for reading *Heat Waves*. I hope you enjoyed it and I'd love to hear from you. I'm happy to provide bookmarks and autographed bookplates; 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.

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

General

1. *Playing favorites*. Who is your favorite couple? Which is your favorite love scene?
2. *The heroes*. If you could choose between Santos and Flynn, which one would you pick? Why?
3. *Secrets and lies*. Each couple has reasons for keeping their relationship a secret. Why do they feel so strongly about this? Do their reasons make sense to you?
4. *Time frame*. The two romances take place during the same week, and the story lines are interrelated. How did that work for you? Did you enjoy getting glimpses of each couple's relationship through the other couples' eyes?
5. *Cruising Greece*. How did you like the setting? Did it play a role in the story? Do you think that, for some or all of the characters, their story might have played out differently if they were back home rather than on a Greek island cruise boat?

Rock the Boat

6. *First love*. What do you think of Gwen's relationship with her husband? Why did they get together? Was it a healthy relationship? Would it have lasted if he hadn't become ill?
7. *Good grief*. When Gwen's husband was sick, she focused her life on him, and when he died, she was so distraught she could barely leave the house. Then she snapped out of it, and got on with her own life. Do you think she handled the situation well, or poorly? Do you believe that grieving goes through certain stages, or that it's an individual process?
8. *New love*. How is Santos different from Gwen's husband, and how does their relationship differ? Will it be a better one for Gwen—or do you think each relationship is equally good, just suited to different times in her life? What's the initial attraction between them, and what's the deeper, more long term one?
9. *Secrets*. Santos reveals to Gwen that he is working undercover, yet he doesn't identify his quarry. Why does he tell her as much as he does? Do you agree with how he handles this?
10. *The perfect job*. Gwen loves her job, though some people might think it strange for a recent widow to be a wedding planner. Santos loves his job, too. What appeals to each of them about their jobs?

Do you think they're good at their jobs? How does a person go about finding a job that suits them, so that they love going to work? Do you have a job like that?

11. *The control freak.* Gwen wants everything to be completely under control and run smoothly. Why is she like that? Is it a good way to be? Does she change over the course of the story? How does Santos's approach differ from hers?
12. *Finest features.* What do you like best about Gwen, and about Santos? Do they have qualities that annoy you? Would you like to be friends with them?
13. *Fears.* Santos says he doesn't want a woman getting serious about him and relying on him. Gwen says she doesn't want to take risks. Why does each of them feel this way, and what are they afraid will happen?
14. *Conflicting goals.* Gwen's goal is to have the wedding come off without a hitch. Santos's goal is to find out whether Flynn is a thief and, if so, apprehend him before he escapes. Those two goals come into conflict. How do Gwen and Santos handle that? Is it a good solution? How would you have dealt with that situation?
15. *A happy ending?* Do you think things will work out for Gwen and Santos? What have they learned over the course of the story? Do you believe their love will grow and they'll be able to deal with whatever problems come their way?

Making Waves

16. *Kendra's character.* If you had to describe Kendra, at the beginning of the story, with one word, what would it be? How did she get to be that way, and how does it play out in her daily life? Why did she come on the cruise? How does the cruise—and Flynn—challenge her to grow and change?
17. *Flynn's character.* What are Flynn's strengths and weaknesses? What influences have shaped his life and made him the man he is at the start of the story?
18. *It's all about connections.* What do you think of Kendra's relationship with her boss/mentor/relative Dorothy? Should a person go to work for a relative or friend?
19. *Innocent until proven guilty.* Why does Kendra come to believe in Flynn's innocence? How does this fit with her black-and-white thinking?
20. *Mixed emotions.* Flynn has a lot of emotions to work through when it comes to Kendra. What are they and how does he deal with them—and how does she respond?
21. *What's the attraction?* What attracts Kendra to Flynn, and vice versa? In what ways are they similar and in what ways are they different?
22. *The brother did it.* Were you surprised to learn who had stolen the money, and how it had happened? Can you relate to Flynn's reaction? How about to Kendra's? Would you have handled the situation the same way they did?
23. *Justice for all.* What's your opinion of the justice system? How well do you think it works for different kinds of people?
24. *The course of true love.* Usually, it doesn't run smoothly, and there are definitely some ups and downs for Kendra and Flynn. Discuss the development of their relationship. Do you think it sets a good foundation for a love that will keep growing?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on some of these questions and issues! Drop me an email at susan@susanlyons.ca. And don't forget to drop by my website: www.susanlyons.ca. You can also find me on Facebook by looking for Susan Lyons Fox. If you enjoyed *Heat Waves*, please also check out my two other destination wedding books: *Sex on the Beach* (Belize) and *Sex on the Slopes* (Whistler).