



Discussion Guide

His, Unexpectedly

by Susan Lyons writing as Susan Fox

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Wild Ride to Love series, Book 3

[Don't miss Book 1, *Sex Drive* (Theresa Fallon's story) – a *Cosmo* Red Hot Read; Kensington Aphrodisia; Dec 2009; written under the name Susan Lyons

Book 2, *Love, Unexpectedly* (Kat Fallon's story) – an “emotionally compelling, sexy contemporary romance” (*Publishers Weekly*); Kensington Brava; April 2010]

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

Thanks so much for reading *His, Unexpectedly*. 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 *His, Unexpectedly*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *The title*. Do you think the title fits the book? Was finding love “unexpected” for Mark? For Jenna?
2. *Who is Jenna?* What's her life like, what does she want, how does she see herself at the beginning of the story? How do these change over the course of the story, and where does she end up? How does Mark influence that?
3. *Free spirit, hippie, butterfly, flake*. Jenna and her family have put some labels on her. Where did they come from? How true are they? Would she and her family apply the same labels at the end of the book?
4. *Who is Mark?* What's his life like, what does he want, how does he see himself at the beginning of the story? How do these change over the course of the story, and where does he end up? How does Jenna influence that?
5. *Back story*. As adults, our pasts shaped us. Strengths and weaknesses, hopes and fears, don't come out of thin air. What are Jenna's and Mark's strengths and weaknesses, their hopes and fears, at the start of the book, and how were these influenced by their pasts?
6. *Trust the universe*. Jenna's philosophy is that you should trust the universe because it will provide what you need. Do you agree? What does it provide for her, and for Mark?
7. *Strangers, or not?* What do you learn about both Jenna and Mark when they first meet in Marianne's Diner? In what ways are they different from each other? Do you see any common ground between them?
8. *Hitchhiking*. Jenna doesn't exactly hitchhike, but she does ask an almost-stranger for a ride. What do you think of her behavior? And of Mark's reaction? And what do you think of Jenna's willingness to trust her own judgment and hop into bed with pretty much any guy she likes?
9. *The romance of a road trip*. Jenna's a great believer in open roads and the possibilities they offer. How do you feel about road trips? In Jenna's case, this particular journey turns out to be way more than she ever anticipated. How so? And has anything similar ever happened to you?

10. *Growing up.* Mark grew up on a commune, and Jenna's envious, but he finds lots to envy in her own childhood. What was childhood like for each of them, and how did it influence them as they grew up? What was your own childhood like, and how has it shaped you?
11. *Mothers.* When Jenna and Mark talk about their mothers and grandmothers, what's your impression of each woman? When Jenna talks to her mom, then goes home and interacts with her, how do you view her mom? Does your impression change? Does her mom change?
12. *Birth order.* Jenna is the third of four sisters. How has that fact, and family history, shaped her personality? What's been the influence of birth order on her sisters? And how about you? What's your order in your family, and do you think that's affected you?
13. *Sisters.* How do you see Jenna's relationship with her sisters changing over the course of the story? What does she learn about herself and about them?
14. *Jobs.* Jenna's had a bunch of paid and volunteer jobs, while Mark has devoted himself to one career. What is it about their backgrounds and personalities that has led them to do this? What changes for Jenna over the course of the book, and do you believe the change will be permanent?
15. *To kiss or not to kiss?* When Jenna and Mark kiss each other, it's powerful, and disconcerting. How do they each feel about those kisses? Jenna begins to avoid the kisses. Why? How does Mark respond to that?
16. *Trust issues.* Mark has trust issues in part because he's never felt truly loved, and in part because Jenna reminds him of the mom who wasn't there for him. Jenna has trust issues because of her experience with her first love at the age of seventeen. Discuss their issues and how those affect their developing relationship.
17. *Friends and family.* What role does Mark's friend Adrienne play in the story? How about his grandmother? What role do Kat's sisters and mom play, and her friends Milos, Elizabeth, and Anna? What do each of these relationships reveal about Jenna and about Mark?
18. *Stops and detours.* Jenna and Mark are on a journey. How does their relationship develop each time they stop or take a detour?
19. *Butterflies.* How do they form a theme in this book? If you were to have a tattoo that symbolized your personality, what would it be?
20. *Jenna's secret.* What do you think about what happened to her when she was seventeen? Can you understand her behavior with her boyfriend at the time? How about the fact that she didn't tell her family? And that she changed her approach to love, relationships, and having kids?
21. *Deepest hopes and fears.* We all have them. What are Jenna's? What are Mark's? How are those revealed in the book? How do each of them deal with their hopes and fears as the story develops? At the end of the book, would you say they have different hopes, or maybe that they've finally let themselves acknowledge hopes that were always there, buried deep inside?
22. *A happy ending.* This is a romance novel, but it doesn't end with an engagement. Neither Jenna nor Mark believe in marriage. Does the ending work for you? Does it fit their personalities? Do you believe they're on the path to a happy future together, and why?

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.