

Reading Group Guide for
Sincerely Yours: A Novella Collection
by Jane Kirkpatrick, Amanda Cabot, Laurie Alice Eakes, and Ann Shorey

Moonlight Promise by Laurie Alice Eakes

1. Camilla is running from potential danger stemming from circumstances not of her making. How is fleeing, rather than facing, the situation a wise decision? How is it the wrong one? If you have ever turned your back on difficult circumstances, were the consequences worth fleeing rather than facing the problem?
2. Nathaniel is goal-oriented, focused on making as much money as he can as fast as he can. Although working hard is usually an admirable trait, what physical, emotional, and spiritual obstacles does someone on Nathaniel's path face? If you or someone close to you have ever put work and financial security before everything else, what were the consequences?
3. Camilla withholds information from Nathaniel that affects his life. Is this wrong of her? Are lies of omission ever all right? How would matters have gone differently for all of them if she had been perfectly honest?

Lessons in Love by Ann Shorey

4. Merrie Bentley allows the deception regarding her gender to continue uncorrected. Would you call this a dishonesty or a necessity, considering the time period of this story? Share the reasoning for your response.
5. Do you think Colin Thackeray's participation in the deception was justified? How would you have had him respond, keeping in mind the issues at stake? Have you ever allowed your emotions to cloud your judgment on an issue? What was the outcome?
6. What do you think of Merrie's articles on marriage? Are the principles she espouses outdated or sadly lacking in today's world? Which of her articles did you appreciate most, if any?

One Little Word by Amanda Cabot

7. Lorraine experiences nothing but failure when she tries to be a cook and a laundress. Have you ever failed at something you thought you ought to be able to do? How did you react? Would you do something differently if you had the chance for a do-over? If yes, what would it be? If not, why not?
8. Jonah is obviously a talented carousel carver, and yet he plans to put that aside to return to England and what he considers his duty. Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?
9. Where do you think Lorraine and Jonah are living five years after the story ends? What are they doing? Are there any more carousels in their future?

A Saving Grace by Jane Kirkpatrick

10. What was Grace's desire as a woman and a friend? Did she accomplish the "sweetness to the soul" that the proverb promises?
11. What was Rebecca seeking by her stay at Wilderness Heights? What kept her there when her daughter's needs called out to her? What other false "foods" do we sometimes take in as a way to "fill ourselves up"?
12. Was Grace foolish or inspired by her plan to rescue Rebecca? How far would you go to rescue a friend? What risks have you taken to make a positive difference in the lives of someone you cared for?

General

13. The premise of each story is that a woman's life is changed by a letter. Do you think that could happen today? Why or why not?
14. Which of the stories was your favorite? Why?



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