

Reading Group Guide for
The Spark of Love
by Amanda Cabot

(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you’ve already read the book)

1. As the book begins, Alexandra feels forced to make a major change in her life. If you were in her situation as a woman living in the nineteenth century, would you have made the decision she did? If not, what would you have done?
2. Gabe tells Sam, “The past is the past,” but then reflects, “even though it was often difficult to forget.” Even though he was speaking to Sam, he could have said the same thing to Alexandra. Discuss Alexandra’s past and the way it influenced her actions as compared to Gabe’s reaction to what happened to him.
3. Do you believe that the difference in Gabe’s and Alexandra’s ages when the critical events happened to them is part of the reason their reactions were different? Why or why not?
4. Alexandra is an only child. How do you think her life and her relationship with her father would have been different if she’d had siblings?
5. Two men are pursuing Alexandra, one driven by fear, the other greed. Which motivation do you believe was the stronger? What makes you say that?
6. The Gottlieb twins play a small but important role in Alexandra’s life. How do you think the story would differ if they weren’t in it?
7. Painting is one of the things that brings Alexandra peace. Why do you think that’s the case?
8. Sam tells Gabe, “You’re a protector, not an avenger.” Do you think he was right? Why or why not?
9. Alexandra’s father has very definite ideas of what she can and ought to be doing. Do you believe his views were typical for that time in America? If not, why not?
10. Were you surprised by Calvin’s reason for buying three ranches? Why or why not?
11. One of Reverend Coleman’s sermons marks a turning point for Alexandra. Did that feel realistic to you? Why or why not? Has a sermon ever changed the way you acted toward others?
12. When the book ends, both Gabe’s and Alexandra’s lives are headed in directions they could not have predicted when they boarded the stagecoach together. Did you find their new directions satisfying? If not, what would you have suggested they do differently?
13. What do you think Mesquite Springs will be like five years after the hotel’s opening? What changes do you believe are most likely?