

Group Discussion Questions for *Love Remains*

by Kaye Dacus

1. What expectations did you have when you began reading the book? Were your expectations met? What did you like best? Were you disappointed with anything in the story?
2. What did you learn that you didn't know before reading this book? Was there anything you didn't understand? Was there anything you expected to see but didn't?
3. We all have physical shortcomings—things we don't like about ourselves. What did you think about the physical appearance of Zarah and Bobby as they're described in the book?
4. One of the reasons Bobby left his job in California to return to Tennessee is because he was tired of constantly working undercover to solve cases—meaning having to live in a constant state of dishonesty to bring about justice. What kind of a toll do you think that would take on someone?
5. Zarah grew up being verbally/emotionally abused by her father. As an adult, she's gone through therapy to work on the issues that abuse caused. But there's always a little voice in the back of her head that tells her she isn't good enough, that she won't ever be successful. Why is it important that Zarah confront the truth of what her father did to break up her relationship with Bobby instead of just saying "it's nothing" and moving on?
6. Zarah's best friends, Caylor and Flannery, think that the best way for Zarah to handle her ex-boyfriend showing up is to start dating some absolutely gorgeous man to make Bobby jealous. Why is this bad advice? What advice would you give someone in this situation?
7. Forgiveness and justice are two major themes in *Love Remains*, and Bobby talks about them after they see the performance of *The Music Man*. Bobby believes someone who's wronged multiple people needs to face all of those people, not just the most recent ones he's hurt. Do you agree? Why is it important for someone who truly wants to reform and change his or her life to make amends to everyone he or she has hurt in the past?
8. Both Zarah and Bobby have very close relationships with their grandparents. How important are multi-generational relationships in your family?
9. After Bobby reveals to Zarah he's been investigating her and the agency she works for, he tells her that they can't be together until he finishes the investigation, otherwise it might compromise his case. How would you have reacted to that if you were Zarah?

What about when Bobby came to her in the kitchen after the cookout—somewhere no one would see them? Do you think this was realistic?

10. At the end, Bobby tells Zarah they have a lot to work on in their relationship and asks her if she's willing to take the time to do that. When she agrees, he proposes. Do you think he was acting in haste? Should they have waited to get engaged?

11. Family is an important theme in the book. When Zarah talks to Bobby about how her father no longer considers her part of his "family," Bobby tells her to look around her, at the other people in her life—such as her grandparents and her two best friends, whom he says are her "sisters." Do you have family-style relationships with people who aren't actually related to you? Are there people around you—college students or single adults separated from their families by geography, widows or widowers who're facing going on without their loved one, men or women recently divorced or separated, a new couple or family just moved into town—with whom you can start building family-style relationships?