

Two Brides Too Many

by

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READING GROUP GUIDE

Note to readers: This discussion guide reveals crucial plot points and resolutions. If you haven't finished reading *Two Brides Too Many* and wish to discover the twists and turns for yourself, you might want to skip reading the group guide until you've finished the book.

1. Kat Sinclair and her sister Nell enjoyed a comfortable life in a well-appointed home with their father and two other sisters in Maine. By the end of Chapter One, that changes. Upon Kat and Nell's arrival in Cripple Creek in Chapter Two, they both move from one unsettling situation to another. What was their initial motivation for change? What circumstances did Kat and Nell face as the result of their father's job situation and his decision? Have you ever endured hardships as the result of the decisions and choices made by those around you?
2. What were Nell's expectations on the train? Would you call them realistic? Can you identify with her disappointment over unmet expectations?
3. After watching her intended, Patrick Maloney, enter a saloon with a prostitute on his arm, Kat follows and confronts him. Do you agree with her decision? Have you ever known someone like Patrick Maloney, who seems bent on self-destruction, hurting those trying to care for him? How would you attempt to help someone like this?
4. Lewis P. Whibley first enters the story in Chapter Four. What was your initial response to him? What were your expectations? What kind of role did Lewis play in Kat's journey? Have you ever known anyone like Lewis? What did you learn about yourself through the actions of the "Lewis" in your life?
5. Fires and disease were commonplace in nineteenth century mining camps. The fire depicted in Chapter Five devastated Cripple Creek. How did Nell and Kat initially and eventually respond to the crisis? Have you ever been involved in a fire, a flood, a tornado, or other such disaster? How did others help you?
6. On his way to Cripple Creek in Chapter Six, Morgan reflects on God's promise to the Israelites. God said He would do a new thing; that He would make a way through the

wilderness (Isaiah 43:19). Did you see God doing that for Kat, Nell, Morgan, and Rosita? How? Has He ever done that for you?

7. Kat and Nell's mother died when they were young girls. Throughout the story, their landlady Hattie serves as a mother figure for the sisters. Have you had someone like that in your life? Describe the instance and what it felt like.
8. *Two Brides Too Many* contains the stories of two very different courtships: Kat and Dr. Morgan Cutshaw, and Nell and Judson Archer. What obstacles did each individual and couple face in their growing affection for one another? What aspects of each relationship laid the foundations for a lifelong love?
9. I Samuel 16: 7 (NIV) says, "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." When do Kat and Morgan judge others by their appearance? What do they later learn about the people they had "sized-up" using appearances as the measuring stick?
10. When Nell learns Judson was robbed and wounded, she rushes to the hospital to see him, only to be told he doesn't want to see her. What would you have done in that situation? Nell chose to open a closed door and enter his hospital room unannounced. As a result, she and Judson both experienced embarrassment. Did you have to overcome any embarrassing moments in your own courtship?
11. In Chapters Two, Twelve, Twenty, and Thirty, Kat and Nell disagree with one another and experience tension in their relationship. What situations and relational elements often cause friction between sisters?
12. On several occasions, Boney Hughes steps into a situation as a "sent from God" helper. Name three or four of those instances. Was there a time in your life when a "Boney" stepped in to help, not asking for anything in return? Are you regularly serving as a "Boney" in the lives of others?
13. Kat forms relationships with many different people in this book, including Nell, Hattie, Rosita, Boney, and Morgan. What does she gain from each? How do different people fulfill different needs in our lives?
14. The character of Sister Mary Claver Coleman was based on a real reverend mother by the same name. The Sisters of Mercy, Sister Coleman among them, traveled to the United States from Ireland to serve communities in need of hospitals and schools. Through Nell wasn't of the Catholic faith, she served alongside the sisters in their relief efforts during and following the devastating fire. How do Psalm 113:7-8, Proverbs 14:21, Matthew 5:3, James 2:5, and 2 Corinthians 8:9 speak to this kind of service? What charitable organizations and ministries do you come alongside with financial support and a helping hand?

15. As biological sisters, Kat and Nell are equally on each other's nerves and in each other's hearts. What are some of the unique qualities of the sister relationship? How does this speak to the fact that, as Christians, we are sisters in Christ?
16. Which character's journey touched your heart most deeply? Why?

Mona is available for "Book Club Conference Calls," where she joins your book club for a pre-scheduled, 15-20 minute conversation via speakerphone. She also sends goodies to the group. For more information, please contact mona@monahodgson.com and request information on "Book Club Conference Calls."