

Finding Love in Friday Harbor, Washington

by Annette M. Irby

Book one in the Washington Island Romance series

Book Club Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, Hunter is surprised by the professor his mother hired to help their family business. Does this turn out to be a good surprise or not? Do you like surprises? Describe a time when someone or something surprised you? How did the situation turn out?
2. Have you ever been on a whale tour? The author took a tour before writing this book and discovered the naturalists point out a variety of marine animals en route to the whales. Which marine animal would you most want to see and why? If you have a favorite, what is your favorite type of whale? Have you ever seen one in person?
3. Hunter made a promise to his father before he died. What was it? Do you think it's right that he try to keep it now that the opportunity has arisen, though his dad is no longer with him? What motivates him? What motivated his father to ask him to make that promise?
4. Cahill Touring is on the brink of collapse. Lauren and Hunter feel an obligation to do everything to keep it viable. Are there options they missed? Was Lauren's choice to involve a local university lab a good one? What about her choice to invite Mikaela, their old family friend? What motivated Lauren?
5. Mikaela's current goal is to launch a successful lab on the Big Island of Hawaii. Why does Mikaela agree to return to Friday Harbor before she heads to Hawaii? Do you think there's any part of her that feels there may have been unfinished business all those years ago where Hunter was concerned? Does she owe the family a debt she's trying to repay?
6. When Mikaela first returns to Friday Harbor, she stands at Lime Kiln Point State Park in the mist and gazes at Haro Strait. There she likens the kayaker in

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the channel to Hunter, based on the pattern of his stroke. Meanwhile, the kayaker likens the person standing on the slick rocks to Mikaela, who could never get close enough to marine life. Have they each carried feelings for the other for the past twelve years? Have you ever seen someone at a distance and felt that that person reminded you of someone you once knew? Were you right?

7. Hunter feels especially tied to Friday Harbor where he grew up. Have you ever felt tied to a location? If you moved away from your hometown, how far away do you live now? Are you glad you left? Hunter never left. If you stayed in your hometown, are you glad you stayed?

8. Hunter knows of a way to give Mikaela an up-close sighting of her favorite whale. Has anyone ever done anything grand for you? If so, what was it? Have you done something grand for someone else? Who, and why?

9. In order to keep his promise to his dad, Hunter will have to face pain from the past. Have you ever had to overcome past pain to achieve a current goal? Tell us about that time. Was it worth it? Does God work in those types of situations to help us heal?

10. When describing her spiritual relationship, Granny Belle says that God has become her Husband after her husband passed. Have you ever considered God as a Bridegroom? What Bible verses point to that revelation? How would you explain it to someone who has never considered a believer's bridal dynamic with Jesus?