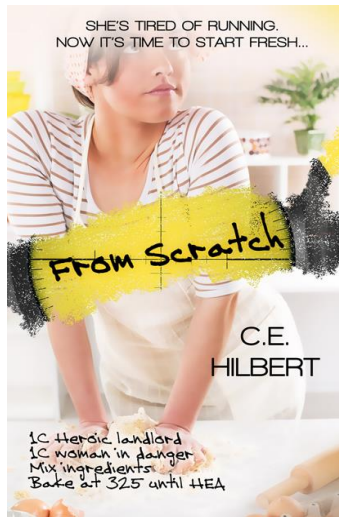


## Discussion Questions

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### FROM SCRATCH

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ISBN (e): [9781611164831](#)

ISBN (tp): 9781611164848

Imprint: White Rose Publishing

Publisher: [Pelican Book Group](#)

Pages: 290

eBook SRP: 4.99

Also Available in Paperback:

### About the Book

Maggie McKittrick loves everything about her new life in Gibson's Run, Ohio—Her charming bakery, her quirky customers, her distance from the past. Yes, she loves everything...except her new landlord. Police Chief Sean Taylor is like a piece of sand in an oyster—irritating, but with the promise of something beautiful. Despite Maggie's self-imposed man-fast, she wonders what kind of treasure she and the lawman could create together.

Sean Taylor likes to keep the peace, but his new tenant is making it nearly impossible to keep anything on an even keel— including his heart. Despite her sassy attitude, Sean is drawn to the beautiful pastry chef and has an overwhelming need to serve and protect her.

As Maggie and Sean draw closer together, her long buried dreams about her life are reawakened into a hopeful prayer...until a threat from her past promises to destroy their future.

Will Maggie be forced to run – again – starting fresh? Or will God answer her prayer and give her the happily-ever-after she's started from scratch?

TITLE: From Scratch

Discussion:

Question 1: Maggie remains true to her faith despite having a spiritual leader deceive and disappoint her. How is she able to separate the human acts from her relationship with God?

Answer 1: Maggie's faith is grounded in knowing God loves her - regardless of her name or life choices.

Question 2: Sean is the middle child. Out of his birth order, he feels a strong sense of duty to his community and his family. How do you believe that shapes his actions toward Maggie first as his tenant and later as his love interest?

Answer 2: Sean wants to maintain the distance to keep a sense of honor and "right" in their relationship. After he confirms his feelings internally, he wants to honor her by keeping their love safe and her safe.

Question 3: Maggie's inability to trust those around her forces her to lie. Have you ever been put in a position where you believed it was best to omit the truth to keep someone else or yourself safe?

Answer 3:

Question 4: The Taylor brothers are very different yet they compliment each other. How does the wisdom - both direct and through sibling teasing - teach lessons only achievable through a brother or a sister relationship?

Answer 4: Sean and his brothers keep each other grounded in the truths of love, faith and family. They have the ability to be honest with each other in ways that a friend may not have the same freedom.

Question 5: Both Sean and Maggie are essentially orphans. How do you believe that has shaped their adulthood and influenced how they approach relationships?

Answer 5: Both Sean and Maggie dealt with difficult losses at young ages, losses which required them to discover internal strength that they didn't know they had. Maggie reached out to others - Jack, Mitchell, Sam - to fill the gaps of security and love left by her parents but they all disappointed her in different ways making trust difficult in future relationships. Sean, conversely, had the support of his brothers, the Greys, his close friends, the town and even the police department - all of whom supported and loved him through the grief of loss. He never doubted that love could be renewed or restored because he'd already experienced it.

Question 6: Friendship - and the distinct bonds between women - is a theme throughout the story. What distinguishes Maggie's and Jane's relationship from Maggie's and Jenna's relationship? How can you relate to the different relationship nuances?

Answer 6:

Question 7: When Maggie first sings in public, she is overwhelmed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think she reaches out to Henry Grey for fatherly support in that moment?

Answer 7: Maggie has a different hole in her spirit than most. She lost the unconditional love and approval of her earthly father during a time when she needed ongoing support and encouragement. The simple gift of Henry telling her that her father would be proud of her granted her a deep wish she was unaware she even had.

Question 8: Both Maggie and Sean actively converse with God. How do you believe that ongoing conversation influences their actions?

Answer 8: At various points in time, it is through prayer that both Maggie and Sean have both large and small truths revealed to them.

Question 9: Sissy Jenkins is a gossip. Although gossip is a sin, her nosey tendencies gave Sean the information he needed to save Maggie. How does the transformation of Sissy's sin to an act of righteousness reflect Romans 8:28?

Answer 9 God can and will make good of all things - even those that are misguided.

Question 10: Maggie is often in emotional turmoil, shifting into extreme panic or fear do to the past decade of her life. How does the conclusion of the book allow her to feel the transforming grace of new life in Christ?

Answer 10: For the first time since she left Mary-Margaret behind, she is able to embrace who she is and who she was - not as two people but as one person. This is the gift we have in Christ. The old is new and renewed. We are the same persons and yet we are new creations in our Savior.

