

Discussion Questions



CHRISTMAS IN EAST KANSAS

Christmas Extravaganza 2018

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About the Book

East Kansas is the picture postcard of Christmas. Mountain peaks, wreath-covered storefronts and holiday music streaming into the streets. During the holiday season, ice skating on Miller Pond is the main social outlet for the town. To Olivia Miller, her hometown is the perfect place to live. But the town is dying, and there's only one way to save it.

Thomas Baker plans to spend another Christmas alone until he is offered a chance to supervise the construction of a new road. His excitement fades when he finds out the job is in East Kansas, the one place he swore never to return to. Besides avoiding one man who lives there, Thomas must protect his heart against the young girl who stole it fifteen years ago.

According to Thomas Baker, a new road through the mountains--and Olivia's pond--is the only way to ease the town's economic struggle. As much as she wants to hate the man hired to build the road and destroy her family's legacy, she also finds herself inexplicably drawn to him.

Just as Olivia and Thomas begin to kindle a relationship, history between their two families surfaces. The past threatens to kill both their futures as well as the road. Will this be the last Christmas for East Kansas?

TITLE: Christmas In East Kansas

Discussion:

Question 1: 1. Traditions hold a special importance for most families. In Christmas in East Kansas, Olivia has vowed to maintain her family's Christmas traditions regardless the cost. What traditions do you have for the holidays and how hard are these to maintain?

Answer 1:

Question 2: 1. In Christmas in East Kansas, progress to save the town will destroy the part of the town Olivia holds most precious. She must reconcile her own needs to the good of the town. Have you had times when your needs conflict with that of others? What did you do about it?

Answer 2:

Question 3: 1. Sometimes people are not who they seem. The public person is not always the private person. Olivia knows there is more to Thomas than he is allowing her to see. When she finally sees who Thomas really is, she is not prepared for the revelation. Have you ever thought you knew someone, only to have them disappoint you in some way? How did you handle this?

Answer 3:

Question 4: 1. Some of those in East Kansas believe a Christmas miracle happens every year for some deserving person in town. Others say there is no such thing. Knowing God can do anything, how do you feel about Christmas miracles? Do they happen?

Answer 4:

Question 5: 1. Olivia and Donna have been friends since college. Olivia shares her secret with Donna, and also her fears over the future. Do you have a friend who is there for you no matter what? How do you nurture and maintain that friendship? How would your life be different without that friend?

Answer 5:

Question 6: 1. Have you ever met someone who made such an impression on you that you cannot forget them? If you met them again and they had changed, how would you reconcile the old friend with the new?

Answer 6:

Question 7: 1. God tells us to forgive, and yet sometimes the pain is so deep that it seems impossible. Initially, Thomas is unable to forgive Mr. Goodman. How does Thomas and Mr. Goodman manage to overcome their anger against each other? Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to forgive, but found yourself unable?

Answer 7:

Question 8: 1. The English language seems extensive when trying to learn all the rules, grammar, and vocabulary. And yet, the verbal language often fails to communicate the truth. Several times in *Christmas in East Kansas* information is miscommunicated, intent misunderstood. Only by really listening can we discover the real message. Have you been the victim of a conversation that was misunderstood? How did you correct the error?

Answer 8:

Question 9: 1. Environment is such a personal thing. Some like the action of cities while others seek the shelter of smaller towns. Olivia is sure she will not survive in the city. What advice can you give to her, or someone else, who must leave their home and live somewhere else? How could Olivia have made the transition successful?

Answer 9

Question 10: 1. In the end, Olivia and Thomas both get their Christmas wishes. Did they get a Christmas miracle?

Answer 10:

