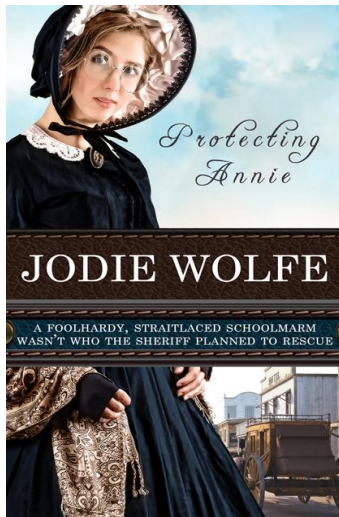


Discussion Questions



PROTECTING ANNIE

Burrton Springs Brides

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About the Book

After twenty years living along the trail as a deputy U.S. Marshal, Joshua Walker takes a job as sheriff in Burrton Springs, Kansas so he can be closer to his sister. Only problem is, she no longer requires his protecting.

After the death of her father, Annie McPherson needs a change. She accepts a position as schoolmarm hoping her past won't catch up with her. Life is good, except for the pesky lawman who creates confrontations at every turn and continually questions her ability to adjust to life in the west.

When the irritating schoolteacher's past and present collide, dragging Josh into the turmoil, he has to decide who he's willing to defend.

TITLE: Protecting Annie

Discussion:

Question 1: What does Annie refer to in most situations?

Answer 1: She either refers to her copy of The Everett Brothers' Overland Tourist Guide, or her many reference books.

Question 2: Why is Annie so private about her past?

Answer 2: She doesn't want people to know about her Scottish heritage for two reasons. Her experience as a child when her family had to leave Scotland, as well as how they were treated when they immigrated to America and people assumed they were Irish because of the foreign accent.

Question 3: What nicknames do Annie and Josh have for each other?

Answer 3: She calls him Mr. Outlaw in her mind, and he thinks of her as Miss Prim and Proper.

Question 4: In what ways does Gertrude end up helping Annie?

Answer 4: When Annie's spectacles are broken, Gertrude assists her in the schoolroom as well as helping with meals until Annie can see again.

Question 5: Josh eventually warms to the idea of a mail-order bride. How does he feel when she doesn't arrive on the stagecoach?

Answer 5: As much as he was resistant to the idea when Jules suggested it to him, he finds himself interested in having a wife and settling down. When his bride fails to show, he's disappointed.

Question 6: When faced with struggles in their past, how did both Annie and Josh respond?

Answer 6: They both responded by running away from the situation – choosing to ignore things and avoiding the situation when at all possible.

Question 7: What truths do Annie and Josh discover about the baggage from their past?

Answer 7: It's part of who they are – part of their story. They both need to learn to work through things from their past and instead choose to walk in who God created them to be.

Question 8: How does Josh react when faced with his greatest fear?

Answer 8: Because he's already started to address some of the hurts/pain in his past, he does a little better job of dealing with Annie's sickness although he still struggles with it.

Question 9: How did Josh learn to be who God created him to be?

Answer 9 By returning to the call God placed on his life to become a doctor. He recognizes that he's spent too many years running from who God made him to be.

Question 10: How was Annie protected?

Answer 10: In two ways, Josh protected her by putting her in jail. He also saved her when Bernard Sneed was trying to attack her in the jail.

