

Restoration Summer Bonus Feature: Book Club Guide (Questions for Reflection):

Stories aren't just meant to be read. They're meant to be shared. My hope is that *Restoration Summer* gave you a glimpse of healing, restoration, and the quiet courage it takes to let someone truly see you.

Whether you're gathered with friends around the table, sitting on a porch with the ocean breeze nearby, or sharing thoughts over coffee or tea, these questions are here to spark meaningful conversation. Think of them as an invitation to linger a little longer with Vivian and Ethan and maybe reflect on the places in your own life that are still being restored.

***Restoration Summer* | Questions for Reflection:**

1. Vivian is introduced as someone who sees “beautiful bones” in a home but struggles to see anything whole or hopeful in herself. How does her profession mirror her emotional journey? In what ways is she both the designer *and* the project in need of restoration?
2. Ethan is described as steady, patient, and intentional, especially in contrast to Vivian's instinct to withdraw. How does his approach to love differ from what Vivian expects? Did his patience feel realistic or frustrating?
3. Both Vivian and Ethan carry the weight of past relationships that shaped how they view love and trust. Which character do you relate to more and why?
4. The house itself feels almost like a character in the story. What does the house symbolize for Ethan? For Vivian? How does its transformation reflect their personal journeys?
5. The house preserves these letters just as it preserves memories. How do the letters and the house work together as symbols of what's been left behind and what still matters?
6. Vivian resists emotional vulnerability, choosing control and professionalism instead. Have you ever used work, busyness, or control as a way to avoid something deeper? How did that resonate with you?
7. Ethan believes in showing up consistently, even when it's uncomfortable or uncertain. What does the novel suggest about the power of *presence* in relationships?
8. There's a tension between “playing it safe” and risking your heart. Where do you see each character choosing safety over connection and what finally shifts that?

9. The letters connect past and present, showing that love, regret, and hope aren't limited to one generation. How did this thread deepen the story for you?
10. Restoration isn't instant. It's layered, slow, and often messy. How does the pacing of their relationship reflect that truth? Did the slow build enhance the emotional payoff?
11. The idea of *home* is central to the story. By the end, what does "home" come to mean for Vivian? For Ethan?
12. If Vivian had written a letter she never intended to send—what do you think it would say? And who would it be for?
13. The novel suggests that what's broken isn't beyond repair. It just needs time, care, and the right hands. What part of that message stayed with you most?

Bonus Fun & Reflection Questions:

- **Casting Call:** Who would you cast as Vivian? As Ethan? Who perfectly captures that "steady, patient, quietly intense" energy?
- **Design Vision:** If you could redesign one room in the house, which would it be and why? What would your style be?
- **Before & After Moment:** Which scene felt like the emotional "turning point" for you?
- **Love Languages:** How do Vivian and Ethan each express love: through actions, patience, words, or sacrifice? Which resonated most?
- **Would You Stay or Go?** If you inherited a house filled with memories like Ethan did, would you restore it or let it go?
- **Dream Retreat:** Your book club is invited to stay at the restored house. What's on the itinerary?
- **Optional Bonus:** If you could write a letter to your past self, or your future self, what would you say?

Restoration Summer reminds us that healing doesn't happen all at once. Sometimes it comes quietly in steady presence, honest moments, and the courage to believe something broken can be made beautiful again.

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