

**Reading Group Guide for
The Key to Love
by Betsy St. Amant**

(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you've already read the book)

1. Bri and Gerard were opposites in every way—she, the girlie-girl, romance-obsessed, sweet-treats lover, and him, the macho, scorned-by-love, permanent Bachelor type who would be most likely to punch Cupid in the face. Yet somehow, they found their way to each other. Do you think opposites attract in real life as often as they do in fiction? Do you personally know some opposites who ended up together?
2. Have you ever met someone you immediately couldn't relate to, only to realize later you had more in common with them than you thought? Or maybe realized you had misinterpreted them all along, and they weren't so bad? What happened?
3. Bri's friend Casey had a whirlwind relationship with fireman Nate that culminated in a wedding the entire town celebrated. Do you think it's wise or unwise to have short engagements? What are some pros and cons?
4. Gerard had been scorned not only in love but also in his faith. Church prayer requests for his mother over the years had slowly morphed into not-so-well-meaning gossip. Have you ever been burned by a church member in this way? How do you handle it when Christians disappoint you?
5. Which character in the book do you most naturally relate to? Bri, Gerard, Casey, Charles, Pastor John, Mabel, or Agnes? In what way?
6. Bri and Gerard had a natural chemistry that repeatedly put them in near-kiss situations. Have you ever been in a near-kiss situation? How did it turn out?
7. Bri was a talented baker, just like her mom. What is your favorite French pastry? Petit fours, macarons, or something else?
8. Charles, Bri's scheming ex, was antagonistic for multiple reasons. Do you think he would have been so staunchly determined to purchase the bakery if Bri hadn't broken up with him? Have you ever had an ex or a friend seek revenge on you for a decision you made?
9. To Bri, her parents' love story was so high on a pedestal, no other relationship in her life had come close to reaching it. She was holding out for a love story like theirs and failed to consider that her own story might look different. Have you ever set a bar so high it was unobtainable? How would you suggest navigating the balance between being realistic with a goal but also not lowering your standards (especially in the dating field)?
10. Bri had a secret pizza date with herself on Fridays, where she was able to get away from the bakery for a while and indulge in some spicy pepperoni. Do you have a favorite "treat yourself" ritual you hold to?
11. Pastor John served as a voice of reason for Gerard and encouraged him back to the path he abandoned years ago after being burned by the church. Pastor John showed Gerard that not everyone has an agenda and that sometimes people in the church truly care for the sake of caring. Have you ever had someone model that for you? What happened?

12. Bri drove herself crazy trying to recreate her mother's recipe that contained a secret ingredient. Have you ever created a recipe with a secret ingredient or tried to figure out someone else's? What were the results?

Betsy St. Amant is willing to Zoom or Skype with book clubs as her schedule allows! You can contact her by sending her an email at betsy@betsystemant.com.