



# The Calendula Kitchen

A Book Club Guide

- Discussion Questions
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- Gentle Activities

Davilyn Atwood

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## A Book Club Guide

By Davilyn Atwood

Welcome to Marigold Harbor, a quiet place where kitchens become gathering spaces, friendships grow slowly, and new beginnings unfold gently. This guide is designed to help your book club reflect, discuss, and linger in the warmth of *The Calendula Kitchen*.

### About the Book

*The Calendula Kitchen* is a gentle, heartwarming story about beginning again, building community, and discovering that love and belonging often grow slowly, through shared work, quiet conversations, and everyday moments.

When Sylvia arrives in Marigold Harbor to rebuild her dream, she doesn't expect the small kitchen she opens to become a place of comfort for others, or that Quinn, with his quiet steadiness, will become part of her life in ways she never planned.

Together, they create something lasting, not through grand gestures, but through warmth, patience, and shared purpose.

### Discussion Questions

#### About Sylvia

1. What drew Sylvia to Marigold Harbor at the beginning of the story?
2. What fears or doubts did Sylvia carry with her?
3. When did you first notice Sylvia beginning to change?
4. What moment showed Sylvia stepping into her confidence?
5. How did Sylvia define "home" at the beginning vs. the end of the story?

#### About Quinn

1. How would you describe Quinn's personality?
2. What made Quinn's support meaningful to Sylvia?
3. Why do you think Quinn's presence felt steady rather than dramatic?
4. What were some small moments that showed Quinn's care?
5. How did Quinn change over the course of the story?

#### About Their Relationship

1. How did the slow-burn romance shape the story?
2. What moments between Sylvia and Quinn felt most meaningful?
3. How did their relationship grow through shared work?
4. Why do you think the quiet moments between them felt important?
5. What did you think of the final scene at the harbor?

## **About Marigold Harbor**

1. How did the setting influence the tone of the story?
2. In what ways did the town act like a character?
3. How did the community shape Sylvia's growth?
4. What aspects of small-town life stood out to you?
5. Would you want to live in Marigold Harbor? Why or why not?

## **Themes to Discuss**

### **Beginning Again**

Sylvia's journey centers around rebuilding her life. Discuss how starting over can feel both uncertain and hopeful.

### **Slow-Burn Love**

The relationship between Sylvia and Quinn grows gradually. Discuss why this kind of romance can feel especially meaningful.

### **Community and Belonging**

The kitchen becomes a gathering place. Discuss how community shapes healing and growth.

### **Quiet Courage**

Sylvia's strength develops slowly. Discuss how courage can appear in everyday choices.

### **Favorite Scene Discussion**

Consider discussing:

- The first morning Sylvia opens the kitchen
- The first shared baking moment
- The summer festival
- Quiet conversations at the harbor
- The final kiss and walk home

Which moment stood out most to your group?

### **Book Club Reflection Questions**

1. What part of the story felt most comforting?
2. What character did you connect with most?
3. What did you learn from Sylvia's journey?
4. What role did food and baking play in the story?
5. What does "home" mean in this book?

## **A Gentle Activity for Your Book Club**

Consider pairing your discussion with:

- Tea (chamomile or calendula)
- Fresh bread or pastries
- Cozy, relaxed seating

You may also try:

Sharing a simple recipe

Discussing favorite cozy reads

Reflecting on personal "new beginnings"

## **A Final Reflection**

*The Calendula Kitchen* is a story about quiet beginnings.

About kitchens filled with warmth.

About relationships that grow slowly.

About finding home where you least expect it.

As Sylvia and Quinn walk home together at the end of the story, they carry with them something steady, something built gently, over time.

Perhaps that is the heart of Marigold Harbor.

And perhaps, in small ways, it is something we all hope to find.

Thank you for reading

And for spending time in Marigold Harbor