AUTHOR IVORY HARLOW



BAR C RANCH: Love in the Dust

BOOK CLUB HOST GUIDE

Meeting Ideas & Inspiration, Activities, Discussion Facilitation Questions

Welcome to the Bar C Ranch. Come for the cowboys. Stay for the stories.

ivoryharlow.com





Welcome, Book Club Hosts

This guide is designed for libraries, bookstores, neighborhood clubs and online reading groups. The book contains ten connected stories, so your group can meet once after finishing the novel or host a chapter-by-chapter series.

Suggested 75-minute Meeting Agenda

0–10 min — Welcome, refreshments and Ranch Awards activity
10–25 min — First impressions of the book and characters
25–65 min — 5-7 questions from the Reading Round-up
65–75 min — 3-5 questions from the Facilitator's Question Bank, optional second activity
Recommendations for future reads
Optional group photo

Author Q&A Invitation

Interested in inviting author Ivory Harlow to join your discussion?
Email me at ivoryharlow@gmail.com or submit the contact form at ivoryharlow.com

Connect with me:
Amazon Author Central www.amazon.com/author/ivoryharlow
Goodreads Author www.goodreads.com/ivoryharlow
Ivory Harlow Blog ivoryharlow.com/blog

About the Book

Bar C Ranch: Love in the Dust

By Ivory Harlow
444 pages

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Also available in audiobook format

Thank you for bringing readers together around stories of love, belonging and second chances.



Meeting Ideas and Inspiration

Theme: A Night at the Bar C

Invite denim, boots, cowboys hats.

Welcome Message

Welcome to the Bar C Ranch. Come for the cowboys. Stay for the stories.

Simple Snack Recipes:

Bacon Ranch Cheeseball with Crackers
www.hiddenvalley.com/recipe/bacon-ranch-cheeseball/

Queso with Tortilla Chips www.ro-tel.com/recipes/sides-appetizers/rotel-famous-queso-dip

Cowboy Caviar www.mccormick.com/blogs/recipes/cowboy-caviar

Spiced Nuts www.mccormick.com/blogs/recipes/spiced-nuts

Cowboy Cookies www.southernliving.com/recipes/cowboy-cookies-recipe

Sweet Tea
luzianne.com/whats-brewing/the-ultimate-guide-to-making-southern-style-sweet-tea-sweetened-iced-black-tea/

Low-cost Décor

Use neutral linens/burlap, mason jars, gingham table cloths, bandanas, printed discussion sheets.

Soundtrack of the Ranch

George Strait – Amarillo by Morning
Cody Johnson – 'Til You Can't
Miranda Lambert – Settling Down
Reba McEntire – Consider Me Gone
Chris Stapleton – Starting Over
Brooks & Dunn – Neon Moon
Josh Abbott Band – She's Like Texas
Flatland Cavalry – A Life Where We Work Out
Pat Green – Wave on Wave
The Chicks – Cowboy Take Me Away
Alan Jackson – Remember When
Vince Gill – Look at Us
Shania Twain – Any Man of Mine
Midland – Drinkin' Problem
Zac Brown Band – Chicken Fried
Jon Pardi – Head Over Boots
Morgan Wallen – Everything he's ever written;)



Activities

Bar C Ranch Awards

Ask members to vote:

Which cowboy or cowgirl stole your heart? _____
Character with the biggest transformation_____
Favorite couple_____
Best Book Boyfriend _____
Most likable character _____
Least likable character_____
Best happily-ever-after _____

Tally votes and compare explanations.

Serious Activity: Found-Family Roundtable

Each person identifies a moment when a character felt accepted, protected or understood. Discuss why that moment matters.

Fun Activity: Who Am I - Bar C Edition

Write character names on sticky notes and place one on each guest's forehead. Everyone asks yes-or-no questions until they guess their character.



Facilitator's Question Bank

- Share first impressions of the book and characters.
- What connects these stories beyond their shared setting? 5
- How do the characters define success differently?
- When is love a catalyst for change, and when is it a source of stability?
- Which conflict(s) would have been solved by a frank conversation?
- How does the novel portray people building relationships at different stages of life?
- Which story best expresses the meaning of home?
- What does the title Love in the Dust suggest about the kind of romance you expect?
- What does a place need to offer before it can feel like home?
- What draws you to small-town or Western romance?
- What do you hope to find in an interconnected collection of love stories?

Reading Roundup

- Which character changed the most, and why?
- Which romance surprised you the most?
- How does the ranch operate as a found family across the stories?
- Where do you see the difference between forgiveness and forgetting?
- Which character's vision of a happy future felt most relatable?
- What role does humor play in the more difficult storylines?
- Which relationship best illustrates the idea of a second chance?
- How does the West Texas setting shape the characters' choices?
- What scene would you most like to see from another character's point of view?
- Which Bar C couple would you most like to revisit in a future story?