

Book Club Questions for *Love and Other Incurable Ailments* by Linda K. Sienkiewicz

1. Serenity struggles with anxiety, hypochondria, and unresolved grief. How do these conditions shape her choices and worldview throughout the novel? Did you find her relatable? Why or why not?
2. The love letters from Birdy set Serenity's journey in motion. What do you think the letters represented to her emotionally? Have you ever idealized a person or relationship from afar?
3. Serenity moves to Ocracoke, North Carolina, hoping to find love but ends up finding community. What does the island represent for her? How do her relationships with Emma, Quade, Jake, Birdy and Raf help her heal?
4. The islanders have a saying: "We don't judge. We just want to know who's sleeping with who." What does this quote say about the culture of the island, and how does it contrast with Serenity's former life?
5. Imagine Serenity hadn't found Birdy at all. Do you think she still would have stayed on Ocracoke and found happiness? What does this say about fate vs. choice in the novel?
6. Serenity's story deals with themes of identity, grief, reinvention, and acceptance. Which of these themes resonated most with you, and why?
7. Serenity's fear of dying young becomes a driving force. How does this fear transform throughout the novel? What does she ultimately learn about living fully?
8. Birdy turns out to be a far cry from Serenity's fantasy. What does her reaction reveal about her growth?
9. What role does Margaret Thatcher the cat play in the story? How do pets help us process loneliness, loss, or change in our own lives?
10. Jake is kind, grounded, and quietly supportive. How does Serenity's perception of him change over time?