The Cozy Fantasy Book Club Questions Pack

Low Stakes, High Comfort - discussion cards for the books that look after you: comfort contracts, food & the table, work done well, homes, gentle magic & endings that restore

Free sample - two real pages from the pack: The Host's Quick-Start (p.3) and The Comfort Contract - Set A (p.9, four full cards: CC1 The Promise, Plainly Stated, CC2 The Kept Promise, CC3 The Good Ache, CC4 The Breach Test). The full pack holds 64 cards, 304 questions and 30 pages. Run a real cozy discussion night from the sample alone. Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

The Host's Quick-Start: A Cozy Discussion Night in Five Moves

Move 1 - The Charter (5 minutes). Read the two lines that protect the night, from the Spoiler Charter & Comfort Charter on page 4: the spoiler line ("we discuss up to the agreed point; anyone behind it is a full member, not a problem") and the comfort line ("we grade the book, never each other's need for it"). Ask who has finished, without apology from anyone who has not, and agree tonight's spoiler ceiling in one sentence.

Move 2 - The Opener (10 minutes). Play Card AW1 (page 23), The Anywhere opener: describe the book as a place to spend a week - weather, food, company, work - without summarising the plot. Every member can answer, finished or not, and the room learns in ten minutes whether tonight's book divided the table by place, by pace or by people.

Move 3 - The Two Sets (35-50 minutes). Play two themed sets chosen for *your* book using the picker in How to Use the Cards (page 5). Default pairing for a first cozy night: The Comfort Contract - Set A (page 9) - the pack's signature set - plus whichever of Food & the Table (page 12), Work & Craft (page 13) or The Place & Its People (page 11) your book is richest in. Deal the cards round the table; the person holding a card reads its questions aloud and answers first, briefly, before the table opens up.

Move 4 - Scores & the Vote (10 minutes). Fill in the Cozy Scorecard (page 27) line by line, by show of hands where the table splits: comfort, place, people, craft-of-work, food, restoration. Then take the vote on page 28 - a standalone next, or return to the same place in a series - with the total page count and the club's preferred stakes level written down *before* anyone votes.

Move 5 - Lightning & the Shelf (10 minutes). Close with one Lightning Round page (pages 25-26) read at pace, answers in one breath, no defences allowed. Transcribe the night's two record lines - the ending's verdict from Card EN4 and the small-calendar sentence from Card SR4, if played - onto Our Club's Cozy Shelf log (page 29), photograph the scorecard for the club chat, and confirm the next meeting date before anyone stands up.

Timing plans. *60 minutes:* Charter 5 - Opener 5 - one set played in full (pick the set your book is richest in) 30 - Scorecard only, vote by show of hands 10 - Lightning, one page only 10. *90 minutes:* the five moves as printed above. *120 minutes:* add a third themed set after Move 3 (Tension, page 16, or The Slow Middle, page 18, are the richest third sets), a break after Move 3, and both Lightning pages in Move 5.

If the room is quiet: shrink Card CC2 to a page-number round - everyone names one page where nothing was at stake and they read gladly - then defend those pages as a table. **If the room is split:** go straight to Card AW7, The Honest Mixed Review, and let the disagreement be the evening; it is a better night than polite agreement.

The Comfort Contract - Set A

The pack's signature set: every cozy fantasy makes a promise before page one is finished - you will be looked after here - and this set asks, with evidence, whether the book kept it.

CC1 - The Promise, Plainly Stated

Best moment: the opening card of any cozy night - name the contract before you judge it.

1. What exact promise did this book make in its first three chapters - not in its marketing, but in its tone, its pace and the size of its problems?
2. Which early scene told you the book would look after you, and what specifically in that scene did the reassuring - a person, a place, a meal or a sentence?
3. If a friend asked whether this book is safe to read on a hard week, what would you tell them it protects you from, and what would you honestly warn them it still contains?
4. Did the book ever state its comfort rules out loud - a character saying what will not happen here, a place where harm is refused - or did it keep the promise only by example?

CC2 - The Kept Promise

Best moment: core - the evidence round.

1. Name the moment you most trusted this book to land softly, and say what the book had done earlier to earn that trust.
2. Where did a problem that would have become a crisis in another genre get solved early, kindly or at human scale here - and did that smaller solution satisfy you?
3. Which character was protected by the story itself - spared a cruelty the plot could easily have dealt them - and did that protection feel like care or like the author looking away?
4. Point to one page where nothing was at stake and yet you kept reading gladly: what was the book giving you on that page instead of suspense?

CC3 - The Good Ache

Best moment: the set's hardest card - comfort is not numbness.

1. Cozy books are allowed to make you ache: which ache in this book felt like the good kind - the kind you would thank the book for afterwards?
2. Was there a grief, a loneliness or a regret the book refused to tidy away, and did leaving it untidy deepen the comfort or dent it?
3. Which character's sadness was handled most gently, and what did the people around them actually do - not say - that helped?
4. If the book removed every painful thing, what would be left, and would anyone at this table still want to read it?

CC4 - The Breach Test

Best moment: close the set with a verdict the table must record.

1. Did any scene break the comfort contract for you - a cruelty, a betrayal or a danger the book had implicitly promised to keep off the page?
2. If you found a breach, was it the event itself that broke trust, or the way the book lingered on it, joked about it or failed to repair it afterwards?
3. How quickly did the book work to restore safety after its roughest moment, and what did that restoration consist of - comfort, consequence, apology or time?
4. Give the set's verdict for the club record: promise kept, promise kept with one honest tear, or promise broken - and cite the page that decided you.

Host notes - The Comfort Contract - Set A: Play Set A before any other themed set on a first cozy night; CC1 names the contract every later argument will cite. Quiet-room rescue: ask CC2's last question round the table, one page number each, no defence required - the room warms itself listing pages it loved.