The Romantasy Book Club Questions Pack

Discussion cards for the books where the magic system and the love story are the same plot - fated mates, morally grey verdicts, spice earned by the story & worlds worth ruling

Free sample - two real pages: The Host's Quick-Start, plus the complete Spice, Earned by the Plot set (four cards, sixteen questions). Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

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

The whole hosting system on one page (pack p.3) - the page a first-time host reads at 6 p.m. and hosts from at 7.

Before the night: pick two themed sets that match this book (a fated-mates book wants The Bond + Spice, Earned; a court-intrigue book wants Worldbuilding + The Morally Grey Verdict; a quest book wants Magic Set A + Danger, Stakes & the Third Act). Print those two pages, one Anywhere Deck page, scorecards for everyone, the Trope Bingo card (p.28) if your club plays it, and the Session Planner. That's the whole print job.

Move 1 - Set the spoiler line and the comfort line (3 minutes).

Before any book talk, run the Finished-the-Book? check from the Spoiler Charter (p.4): who finished, who stopped partway and where, who's riding on a reread. Then run the comfort check from the Spice & Comfort Charter (p.5): tonight's discussion level confirmed, any member's skip-topics noted without detail or debate. Three minutes now saves the whole night - and the member.

Move 2 - Open with a card anyone can answer (10 minutes).

Play one Anywhere Deck card, deal the Trope Bingo cards, or open with a gentle Lightning question. First questions must be opinion-only - no memory tests, no plot recall - so the person who finished at 1 a.m. and the person who finished in June are equal at the table.

Move 3 - Spend the middle on the book's twin engines (30-40 minutes).

Work your two chosen sets, two or three cards each - ideally one from the love-story side and one from the fantasy side, because the night's best argument always lives where they cross. Follow the heat: if the mate-bond mechanics catch fire, stay in The Bond and let Worldbuilding wait for next month. You are hosting, not invigilating - an unfinished set is a success if the room is loud.

Move 4 - Deliver the morally grey verdict (10 minutes).

Play one Morally Grey Verdict card (p.15). Appoint counsel for the defence - ideally the member who would never forgive him in real life - and let the room reach an actual verdict, by vote, recorded on the Session Planner. This is the ten minutes members describe to friends who then join the club.

Move 5 - Close with scores, favourites, the vote, and lightning (10 minutes).

Scorecards out (p.29): sixty seconds of silent scoring on both cards - the Spice Rating and the Magic System - then the averages and the night's favourites go on the Favourites & Vote page (p.30), where the club also decides tonight, in writing, what kind of romantasy comes next. Then end loud: a Lightning Round (p.26), first answer counts, nobody's dignity survives intact, and the bingo winner claims their prize.

Timing plans: 60-minute night - Moves 1, 2, one set in Move 3, skip the Verdict, keep Move 5. 90-minute night - as written. 2-hour finale night (series end, or the book the group chat has argued about for a month) - add Series & Standalone Mode (p.7) and play the full Endings set behind the gate.

The host's kit: the printed card pages - both scorecards + pens - bingo cards + something to mark them with - the Session Planner - one copy of the book itself, for settling "page beats memory" disputes - a mug or hat for Lightning strips.

You do not need to arrive with a verdict on the love interest. You need cards. The room will bring the verdicts - plural, conflicting, and defended like court cases.

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Spice, Earned by the Plot

The pack's signature set (pack p.14): the pack's whole argument in four cards - that an intimate scene, like a battle or a betrayal, can be audited. Was it earned? Run under the Spice & Comfort Charter (p.5) at all times: we grade the book, never each other. Questions marked * are the strongest on each card: if the night is short, ask only those.

Card SP1 - The Earned Audit

Best moment: the first spice card of any night.

1. Take the book's most-discussed intimate scene. What had the plot, the danger and the two people already paid before the book let it happen?

2. * Earned, inserted, or owed: was that scene the payoff of something built - a confession, a rescue, a surrender, a truth - or a chapter the schedule demanded? Page evidence for the build-up, or the absence of it.

3. What changes because that scene happened - a decision, a danger, a piece of knowledge, a line that cannot be uncrossed? If nothing changes, say so plainly and price the scene accordingly.

4. Move the scene ten chapters earlier in your head. Does the book get better, worse, or merely louder? What's missing at that earlier point?

Card SP2 - Character, in the Scene

Best moment: core.

1. * Are these the same two people inside the intimate scenes as outside them - same humour, same wounds, same way of asking and refusing? Where does one of them turn into a stranger, if they do?

2. What does a scene reveal that no conversation in the book could have - a trust, a fear, a history, a limit? Name the revelation, not just the scene.

3. Who is braver in these scenes, and who is more honest? Are they the same person? What does the gap tell you?

4. The after-test: does the book stay for what the scene did to them - the next morning, the next argument - or does it cut away from the consequences too?

Card SP3 - The Door Question

Best moment: core - the Charter card. Every answer is a taste, none is a ranking of the room.

1. Where does this book set its door - open, ajar, closed - and does it set it honestly, or promise one thing on the cover and deliver another?

2. * For this couple, in this scene: would more explicitness have said more, or less? Argue about the book's choice, in the book's own language.

3. Which scene in the book is the most intimate without being a love scene at all - a hand tended, a secret kept, a name finally used? What did it do that the others didn't?

4. The fade test: if every intimate scene faded at the threshold, how much of this love story survives intact? Name what is lost, precisely.

Card SP4 - Heat With a Job to Do

Best moment: closer / deep cut.

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1. * Find the scene where desire itself moves the plot - a bargain struck, a cover blown, a loyalty tested, a piece of information traded. Could any other kind of scene have done that job as well?

2. The repetition audit: which scene repeated an earlier one's work - and did the second time add escalation, tenderness, comedy, or only pages?

3. Score the book's balance honestly: heat, longing, and aftermath - which of the three does this author actually write best, and which do they rush?

4. The recommendation line: complete it for a friend, precisely - "Read it for the ___, expect ___ at the door, skip nothing / skip freely because the plot survives it." The table edits your line until it's exact.

Host notes (printed at the foot of the card page): This is the pack's signature set and the free sample - run it under the Charter (p.5) without exception: lights checked, craft language only, nobody's taste on trial. SP1 Q2 is the set's engine; insist the room separate "I liked it" from "the book earned it" - they are different scores, and the Scorecard (p.29) keeps them in different columns for exactly that reason. Quiet-room rescue: SP3 Q3, the most-intimate-non-love-scene - every room, at every light, can play it, and it leads back into the set sideways.

This free sample holds two real pages of The Romantasy Book Club Questions Pack (32 pages: a 9-page host guide - Quick-Start, Spoiler Charter & the Finished-the-Book? Protocol, the Spice & Comfort Charter, How to Use the Cards with the Quiet-Room Ladder, Series & Standalone Mode, Session Planner, Reader's Running Sheet with Bond Watch - then 64 cards in fourteen themed sets plus the universal Anywhere Deck, two Lightning Rounds with 48 one-line questions, a Trope Bingo card, two Scorecards (Spice Rating and Magic System), the Favourites, Verdicts & Next-Book Vote page and the club's Romantasy Shelf log - US Letter, A4 and tablet editions). Its shelf-mates are The Fantasy Book Club Questions Pack and The Horror Book Club Questions Pack, which share no questions with it. All live at pagelyra.vercel.app