

“One of those books you want to live in for a little while.” —Nina George, *NYT* bestselling author of *The Little Paris Bookshop*

THE
NEW YORK
TIMES
BESTSELLER

The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend

A Novel



KATARINA BIVALD

Reading Group Guide



1. Sara and Amy develop a close relationship through exchanging letters. Have you ever had a pen pal? How might a friendship conducted entirely through writing be different than an in-person relationship?
2. Even though we never meet Amy in person, we get to know her through her letters to Sara. How did her letters influence your understanding of Amy and Sara's relationship?
3. How might Sara's visit have been different if Amy had been alive when she arrived?
4. Why do you think everyone in Broken Wheel felt responsible for looking after Sara when she arrived?
5. Broken Wheel is a dying town, and a bookstore brings it back to life. How accurately do you think *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* portrays small-town America? Have you ever been to or lived in a place like Broken Wheel?
6. There is a strong rivalry between Broken Wheel and Hope. How do you think the residents of Hope viewed the people of Broken Wheel? How were their perceptions changed once the bookstore opened?

7. Sara arranges the books in her shop through unconventional genre names, including SEX, VIOLENCE, AND WEAPONS and FOR FRIDAY NIGHTS AND LAZY SUNDAYS. What are some creative categories you might use to group your favorite books together?
8. Why do you think Sara was so reluctant to return to Sweden? What was missing from her life that she found in Broken Wheel?
9. How did you feel about the progression of Sara and Tom's relationship? Were you happy with the status of their relationship at the end of the book?
10. Why do you think Caroline and Josh felt so much pressure to keep their relationship a secret?
11. *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* focuses on how books can change lives. How have books affected your life? Is there one book in particular that changed the way you see the world?
12. If you were to open a bookstore, what are some of the books you would absolutely have to have for sale?
13. Where do you think Sara, Tom, and the rest of the residents in Broken Wheel will be in five years? What do you think will have changed, and what will stay the same?