Reader’s Guide for *The Whispered Word*

1. At the opening of the novel, the Secret, Book, and Scone Society members discover a stranger in Miracle Books. What are some of the stranger’s unusual attributes?
2. The members of the Secret, Book, and Scone Society discover Amanda Frye’s body while delivering Secret Kindness Bags to neighbors facing a tough time. What items would you want to see included in these bags?
3. What was your impression of Amanda’s Frye’s home? What struck you about the objects on her kitchen counter?
4. Virtual Genie is the newest business in Miracle Springs. Why might such a business thrive in today’s world?
5. The subject of absentee parents is raised several times in *The Whispered Word*. Which characters felt abandoned by their parents? In what ways?
6. Why does Hester feel so protective of Abilene?
7. Nora prescribes the following books to help heal from a heartbreak. Are there others you’d add to her list? *Heart in a Box*, Greg Behrendt’s *It’s Called a Breakup Because It’s Broken*, *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, Nora Ephron’s *Heartburn*, and *Porn for Women* by Cambridge Women’s Pornography Cooperative.
8. How do you feel about the relationship between Nora and Jed? What romantic things does he do for her?
9. Do you feel any sympathy for Kenneth Frye? What is he most motivated by? Have you ever met someone like him?
10. A significant clue is found inside a hollowed book. Have you ever owned a book safe? Do you hide things in usual places other than a safe or a safety deposit box at the bank?
11. How does food play a part in the novel?
12. What flavors would be in your custom Comfort Scone?
13. What was your reaction when Abilene finally shared her story with the Secret, Book, and Scone Society?
14. What mistake does Nora make that nearly gets her killed?
15. In the end, the appearance of Nora’s face is markedly changed. She opts not to have additional surgeries to correct the burns on her arm. Why does she make this decision?