

## Reading Group Guide for *After the Shadows* by Amanda Cabot

(*Spoiler alert*—these questions assume you've already read the book)

1. As the book opens, Emily returns home only to discover that her homecoming is far from ideal. Have you ever been in a similar position? How did you cope with it?
2. Emily hides the truth of her marriage from others. Do you agree with her reasons? If not, what would you have done differently and why?
3. Do you think the way Louisa reacted to Emily's plan to turn their home into a boardinghouse was excessive? Why or why not?
4. Craig's decision not to remarry was unusual for the time period, particularly since he had a son. How difficult do you think it was for him to not give in to the pressure others put on him to find a mother for Noah?
5. Much of the book centers on Emily's determination to learn the truth behind her father's death. Do you think her actions were reasonable? If not, what should she have done differently?
6. Why do you think some of the townspeople were opposed to Craig's teaching methods?
7. Do you agree with Emily and Craig's efforts to allow Beulah to attend school, even though it was revolutionary for the time period? If not, what should they have done?
8. The Dietrichs were, to put it mildly, difficult boarders. Do you believe Emily's ultimatum about Lizzie was justified? If not, how should she have handled the situation?
9. Alice and David fall in love at first sight. Do you find that realistic? If not, why not?
10. Were you surprised by Beulah's role in identifying the killer? If not, why not?
11. What clues did the author plant to help you identify the killer?
12. One of the lines in the book is, "Like a rock tossed into the water, Emily's return had created ripples." What ripples did you see? What additional ripples do you think will occur over the next two years?