

reading group guide

1. In the opening scene, Sophie is abandoned by Elena on the first day of their girls' trip. What would you have done if you were in Sophie's shoes? Do you sympathize with Elena? Why or why not?
2. Why is it so important for Sophie to always have a plan and a goal to work toward? Why does she abandon it so easily when she first meets Carson?
3. Carson's technophobia is rare in today's world. How do you think this influenced his burgeoning relationship with Sophie? Do you think Sophie found his technophobia to be a strength or a flaw? Why?
4. Sophie and Elena have been best friends since childhood. Why do you think their friendship has endured through so many years and so many changes in their lives? Do you have any friendships that have stood the test of time? If so, how are they similar to or different from Sophie and Elena's friendship?

5. In what ways does Sophie's relationship with her grandmother push her to be better? In what ways does it hold her back?

6. Discuss the significance of Sophie's favorite book, *The Wild Woman's Guide to Traveling the World*. What are some of the ways in which she identifies with it? How does it influence her throughout her life?

7. Do you think Sophie would have stayed in her job at McKinley if she'd never met Carson? Would she have ever followed her dream of becoming a tour guide? Why or why not?

8. How does Sophie's practical, disciplined nature work to her advantage when she starts her new tour business? How does it work against her?

9. Where do you see these characters in five years? Do you still see Sophie and Carson together? Is Sophie's Spontaneous Tours still in business? Is Elena still a swinging single?

10. Travel is Sophie's biggest passion. Talk about some of your favorite travel experiences. Where are some places you dream about going but have yet to visit?