

Leaving Coy's Hill
Book Group Discussion Guide

1. What do you think is the significance of the title of the book? What does Coy's Hill represent to Lucy? What parts of Coy's Hill does she take with her throughout her life and what parts of it does she leave behind?
2. Lucy had a challenging relationship with her father, and yet she always hoped she might make him proud. Do you think he was proud of her in the end? Why or why not?
3. And what of Lucy's mother? What did you think of the role she played in the family?
4. What was your reaction to the choice Lucy made when she was faced with the "No Negroes" sign at Independence Hall in Philadelphia? Would you have advocated for a different course of action, and if so, what would that have been?
5. Discuss the importance of Lucy's relationship with Nette. How was it different than her other friendships?
6. What do you think of the differing views on the 15th Amendment held by Stone, Anthony and Stanton? Do you agree with Lucy's decision? Anthony's? Were you aware of this episode in history previously? If not, why do you think that is?
7. Lucy suggests near the end that there's more than just the 15th Amendment that caused the rift in their relationship? Do you agree?
8. Has Lucy's version of this story changed your view of Susan B. Anthony's legacy in any way? Why or why not?
9. What was your opinion of Harry Blackwell as he attempts to court Lucy? Were you rooting for Lucy to accept his proposal? Why or why not?
10. One of Harry's arguments in favor of marriage is that Lucy's activist message will be more effective if she can be living proof of a woman's ability to be a wife and have a career at the same time. Do you agree with that?
11. Did your opinion of Harry change throughout the course of the book? Why or why not?
12. In the middle of her life, Lucy struggles with dark moods—we might recognize this today as depression. Did you find yourself sympathetic to her struggles or did you feel she had gotten exactly the life she had designed for herself?
13. What did you think of Alice and Lucy's relationship?
14. Were you surprised by the revelations in the letters from Florida?
15. What do you think of Lucy's decision to burn the letters in the end? Do you consider it an unwarranted erasure of the past, or a loving act?