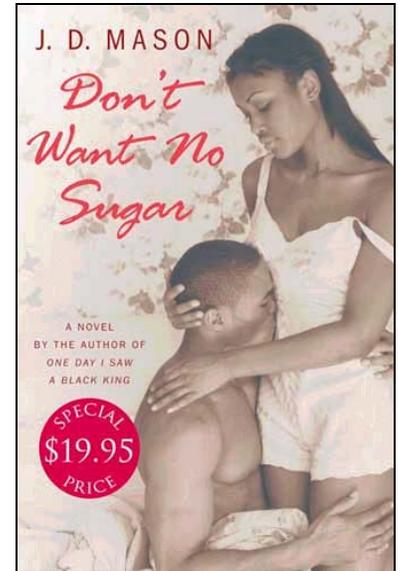


READING GROUP GUIDE

Don't Want No Sugar by J.D. Mason

St. Martin's Press

ISBN: 0-312-30158-8 (hardcover)



Introduction to *Don't Want No Sugar*

Everyone knew that Eula May had lost her mind over loving a married man. It was what drove her to kill herself and leave her only daughter, Roberta, in the care of the local mid-wife. So it was no wonder that Roberta became obsessed with Charles Harris the very first time she laid eyes on him. And she was willing to do whatever it took to make sure she was the only woman in his life. So when he is forced to marry her because of her unexpected pregnancy, Roberta feels that she has everything she ever wanted.

Women have always come easy to Charles, so he's wondering how he got saddled with a wife he doesn't love, two beautiful children and a longing for something grander. Then he meets the stunning Sara Tate and discovers a love almost as consuming as the one Roberta feels for him. This deadly love triangle will result in deception and murder, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

Reading Group Guide Questions

1. Roberta's dysfunctional behavior is prevalent throughout her life. How much of this behavior was possibly an inherited trait from her mother, and how much of it was a result of how she was raised by Miss Martha?
2. Being that he never really loved Roberta, and only married her out of obligation; do you believe that Charles was justified in his affair with Sara? Do you believe he would've ever left Roberta for Sara?
3. Roberta obviously suffered from a mental disorder that was evident to almost everyone who knew her, and excused by all as silliness or eccentric. Do you believe that the African American

community is growing more accepting of mental disease in our community and more readily and openly seeks treatment?

4. Miss Martha seemed to both love and loathe Roberta? What did you think of the relationship between Roberta and Miss Martha?
5. In writing this book, the author wanted to show that in the relationship between Mattie and Adam, Mattie was the manipulator in that relationship, and not as innocent as she wanted everyone to believe. Do you agree that she, in some ways, might've taken advantage of him because of his mental disability?
6. Sara, without trying, seemed to favor Adam over Moses. Why do you suppose that Sara never seemed to notice the way she doted on Adam in front of Moses?
7. Why do you think that Mattie never told anyone it wasn't Adam who raped her? Wouldn't it have been the right thing for her to do?
8. How much do you think that guilt played in Moses' decision to rescue his brother from the barn where the three men took him? And why do you think Moses wrestled so much with loving Adam and hating him?

About the Author

J. D. Mason is the author of *And on the Eighth Day She Rested* and *One Day I Saw a Black King*. She lives in Denver, Colorado, with her two children and is currently working on her next novel.