

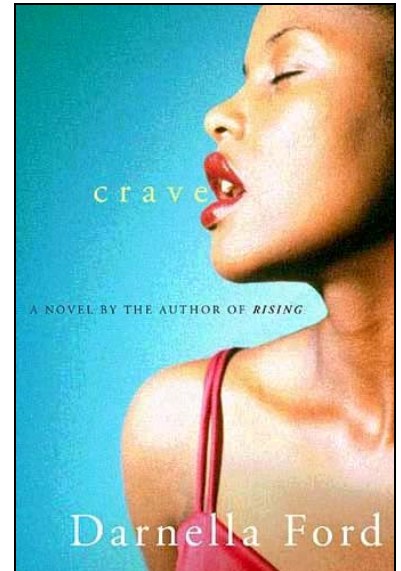
READING GROUP GUIDE

Crave

by Darnella Ford

St. Martin's Press

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Introduction to *Crave*

Dear Jesus,

Gerry didn't work out because Gerry didn't work. And after spending one night in complete darkness because "pretty didn't pay the light bill," Gerry and I broke up and are no longer speaking.

Marshall wasn't a viable suitor because when he finally revealed himself to me, I found out that his breasts were larger than mine because he used to be a she. Marshall and I are no longer speaking.

Keith could have been the one. I met him at a taco stand and I was certain he was the "It Man." He was beautiful, articulate, and one my favorite things on earth, employed. When I was in his presence he felt like the last man on earth. But on our first date I became extremely irritated by this simple fact: his wife kept paging him during our meal.

So, Jesus, I am down on my knees begging for mercy. I ask for an eligible, employed, nonviolent single man with no current wives or husbands who has more teeth than felony convictions to enter my world and escort me to the rest of my life. Amen.

---from Michael (a woman, craving her "It Man")

Praise for *Crave*

"Provocative, masterful and poetically written, Darnella Ford delivers an exceptional read."

-Kimberla Lawson Roby, bestselling author of *Too Much of a Good Thing*

"The 'fatal attraction' twist and the characters are superbly developed. . .enjoyable, insightful and entertaining read."

-Mary Monroe, national bestselling author of *God Still Don't Like Ugly*

"Darnella Ford's writing raises the standard of contemporary relationship fiction. She writes with a lavish, poetic confidence that challenges the intellect, stirs the heart and satisfies the soul."

-RM Johnson, *Essence* bestselling author of *Dating Games*

Reading Group Guide Questions

1. How would you categorize the relationship between Michael and her mother? Michael and her father? Would you classify them as a dysfunctional family? Explain.
2. Emotionally, did Michael need more than her parents could realistically provide? Would you classify her as a needy child?
3. What role did Mabel, the chicken-wing eating psychic, represent in Michael's life? Do you believe that Mabel truly had a gift to foresee the future?
4. Describe the relationship between Michael and Eddie. Why did Michael become so attached to this particular man? Do you feel that Eddie encouraged Michael's obsession? Explain.
5. What was the nature of Michael's relationship with Sky? Was sleeping with him a mistake? Why or why not?
6. What do you think brought Michael and Molly together? What do you think tore them apart?
7. Is Michael's story a representation of some of the basic challenges we all face in the pursuit of love? Explain.
8. If you had been a character in the novel, what advice would you have given to Michael regarding her situation with Eddie?
9. Have you experienced a craving in your own life? Explain.

About the Author

Darnella Ford is a Spoken Word artist and performs regularly in the Los Angeles area, where she lives. She is currently at work on her next novel.