

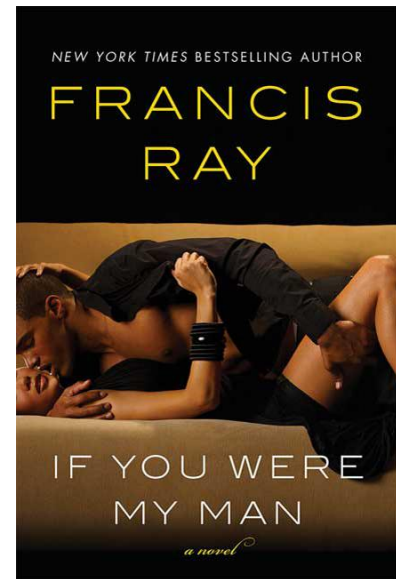
READING GROUP GUIDE

If You Were My Man

By Francis Ray

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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *If You Were My Man* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *If You Were My Man*.

About the Book

Natalya Fontaine has been the sole proprietor of the restaurant Fontaine since her husband died four years ago. She hasn't dated anyone in all those years, choosing not to open her heart again, or risk revealing her dark past. That is, until she meets Rafael Dunlap.

Rafael is a hostage negotiator with his own set of problems. Though he loves women, he vows he'll never marry because his job is just too unpredictable. He can't imagine leaving a widow and children behind. But his thinking and game plan of loving and leaving changes when he meets Natalya. Though she tries to resist him, Rafael sweeps her into a whirlwind romance. When the unexpected happens, and Natalya is forced to keep it a secret, she ends things with Rafael before he can break her heart. But when Rafael is in harms way, will Natalya resolve to tell him the truth before it's too late? Or will past demons keep them apart forever?



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About the Author

Francis Ray is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Grayson novels, the Falcon books, the Taggart Brothers, and *Twice the Temptation*, among many other romances. Her novel *Incognito* was made into a movie aired on BET. A native Texan, she is a graduate of Texas Woman's University and has a degree in nursing. Besides a writer, she is a school nurse practitioner with the Dallas Independent School District. She lives in Dallas.

Discussion Questions

1. Rafael wanted Nathalyia from their first meeting. Do you think a strong sexual attraction initially draws most couples together?
2. Nathalyia was wealthier than Rafael, yet money was never an issue between them. Would you date a man less successful than you? How important is income in a relationship?
3. Nathalyia was ashamed of her family and denied their existence. The decision came back to haunt her when her sister showed up at Fontaine. Is there ever a valid reason for turning your back on your family? Can anyone, no matter how dishonest or deceitful, be redeemed? Could Nathalyia's sister?
4. Clarice had a quick temper, a caring heart and a record of going out with losers. Why do you think some women have trouble finding good men? Do they settle? Are they impatient and just get tired of being alone, or are some men, especially the no-good ones, very persuasive?
5. Jake loved Clarice, but he didn't speak up because of the scar on his face and their fifteen year age difference. Have you ever cared for someone, but were afraid to tell him/her? If you didn't speak up, do you regret your decision?
6. Is there ever a good enough reason not to tell a man he's the father of your baby?
7. The road to happiness was not smooth for Nathalyia and Rafael or Clarice and Jake. Lies, secrets, fears, and insecurities all played a role in keeping them apart. When do you know you love a person and that love is worth the risk? Is it a feeling? Something he/she said or did?

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