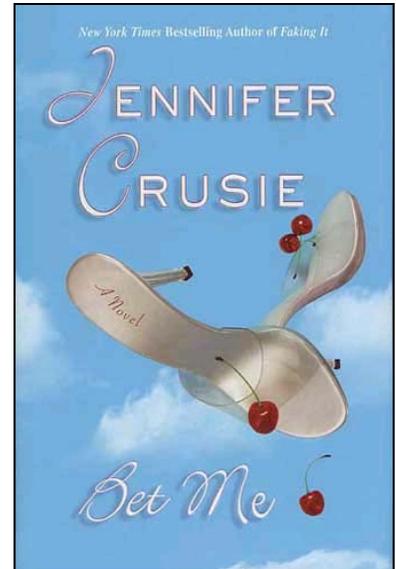


READING GROUP GUIDE

Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie



St. Martin's Press
ISBN: 0-312-30346-7 (hardcover)

Introduction to *Bet Me*

This is *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author Jennifer Crusie's novel about long shots, risk management, true love, and great shoes....

Minerva Dobbs knows how to work the odds.
Calvin Morrissey always plays to win.

But when they face off, neither one is prepared.
Because when real life meets true love, all bets are off. . . .

Minerva Dobbs knows that happily-ever-after is a fairy tale, especially with a man who asked her to dinner to win a bet, even if he is gorgeous and successful Calvin Morrissey. Cal knows commitment is impossible, especially with a woman as cranky as Min Dobbs, even if she does wear great shoes and keep him on his toes. When they say good-bye at the end of their evening, they cut their losses and agree never to see each other again.

But fate has other plans, and it's not long before Min and Cal meet again. Soon they're dealing with a jealous ex-boyfriend, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, a determined psychologist, chaos theory, a freakishly intelligent cat, Chicken Marsala, and more risky propositions than either of them ever dreamed of. Including the biggest gamble of all---true love.

Praise for *Bet Me*

"Bet you can't stop reading it. Absolutely, irresistibly hilarious." --*Kirkus* (starred)

For a complete listing of reading group guides visit: www.stmartins.com

Reading Group Guide Questions

1. A recurring theme in the book are elements from classic fairy tales. Can you identify some of them?
2. How does the author modernize or change the fairy tale elements from their classic form? What does she accomplish in the story by changing them?
3. Max Luthi, a fairy tale scholar, says that fairy tales are "unreal but not untrue." Does this apply to *Bet Me*?
4. What are the three theories of love propounded in *Bet Me*? Do you think any of them are valid?
5. How did the theme of food (forbidden, healthy, or otherwise) parallel the theme of love?
6. What role does music play in the novel?
7. How did Min and Cal subvert the stereotypical roles of hero and heroine? How do they reinforce them?
8. What are the most important ways Min grows and changes through the course of the novel? Cal?
9. What is the significance of weight in the novel? Did her weight issues make it easier or harder for you to see her as a heroine? How much does Min weigh and what size does she wear?
10. Did you recognize and relate to Min's reactions to her mother? How did their relationship change through the course of the novel? How did Cal's relationship with his mother change? What caused the changes?
11. Do you think Cynthie is capable of finding true love? If so, why? If not, why not? Do you think Liza is? Why or why not?
12. Who or what is the antagonist in this novel? Cynthie? David? Nanette? Fate?
13. What is the biggest moment of risk for Min? For Cal? For Liza? For Diana? For Bonnie? For Shanna?
14. Why doesn't the book end when Cal tells Min he loves her after the softball game? What hasn't happened in their story that must happen in order for the "happily ever after" to be believable?

About the Author

Jennifer Crusie is the *USA Today* and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tell Me Lies*, *Crazy For You*, *Welcome To Temptation*, *Fast Women*, and *Faking It*, all of which have been chosen by Romance Writers of America as among the Top Ten Favorite Books of the Year. She lives in Ohio.