

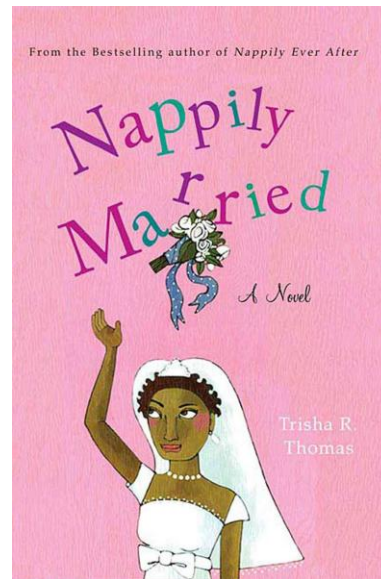
READING GROUP GUIDE

Nappily Married

By Trisha R. Thomas

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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *Nappily Married* 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 *Nappily Married*.

About the Book

Venus Johnston debuted with brazen personality and spirited humor in *Nappily Ever After* as she searched for the holy grail of marriage. Now she is back in *Nappily Married*, where marriage and motherhood are just the beginning.

Venus Johnston is blessed. Blessed with naturally wild spiral curls that would make Scary Spice jealous. Blessed with beautiful 2-year-old daughter Maya and loving husband Jay, who also happens to be a former rap star with his own multi-million-dollar clothing company. But after her long journey to love in *Nappily Ever After*, life as a stay-at-home wife and mother is no longer fulfilling. Against her husband's wishes, she applies for a PR job at a struggling city hospital, only to discover the main pediatric physician is her former fiance and her main competition for the job his wife, the woman he left her for. As Venus begins to excel in her work and spends more time away from home, Jay grows jealous of her former lover. Will Venus have to choose between the man of her dreams and her dream job?



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About the Author

Trisha R. Thomas is the author of *Roadrunner*, *Would I Lie To You* and the top selling *Nappily Ever After*, which was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work. With her debut novel optioned by Halle Berry and Universal Pictures for adaptation to film, she is currently at work on the Nappily series. She lives in Riverside, California.

Discussion Questions

1. Venus prides herself for going natural. Now she's back in "the chair" vulnerable and weakened by the fact her husband has cheated. Is it strange she would find solace in a beauty salon of all places?
2. Clint appears satisfied with his wife Kandi and his career as a Neo-natal Physician. When does it become apparent there might be more to his request for Venus to work with him than meets the eye?
3. Venus still harbors resentment toward Kandi for stealing Clint right from under her nose. Kandi equally resents Venus for being a constant threat to her relationship? Do you think the women are justified in their emotions? Why not be secure in their current relationships and leave the past behind?
4. Venus gets an early warning from her mother about letting another woman run her household. Venus considers Trina harmless and welcomes her excellent housekeeping, cooking, and nanny skills. Even when obvious closeness between Jake and Trina raise a red flag, Venus can't retreat from her focus on the hospital and having the final victory over Kandi. What is driving her? Ambition? Revenge? Possibly a hope to win Clint back?
5. Jake's company, JP Wear is slowly falling into bankruptcy. At a time when Jake needs Venus most, seems she's focused on anything and everything except him. Is Jake justified in finding comfort with another woman? Do you sympathize with his infidelity?
6. It takes a final catastrophe for Venus to wake up and realize she has foolishly sacrificed her husband and daughter for a fleeting moment of victory. Was it really the job she was after? Is there a time when you were driven by pure emotion unable to call on common sense?
7. In the final pages, Venus suspects Jake may be responsible for a heinous crime, yet she stays with him. She feels guilty for not having been there for him to deal with his crisis. Is that reason enough to stand by your man? Who do you think is actually responsible for the crime? Why?

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