



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Marry in Haste: 15 Short Stories of Dating, Love & Marriage

By Debbie Young

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1) When this book was first published, the author was asked by one sceptical reader (before he had read it) “Is this going to be a feminist diatribe against marriage?” Is it?
- 2) How has this book affected your own view of dating, love and marriage?
- 3) What was your attitude to reading short stories before you read this book, and has reading a themed collection like this made you feel any different about them?
- 4) What can short stories do that novels can't, and vice versa?
- 5) Which stories gave you most cause for reflection? Which made you laugh the most? Which did you find most poignant?
- 6) Sugar-coated or acid drops – which description is the best fit for this collection?
- 7) Would you give this book to a single/engaged/newlywed/newly divorced friend, and if so, what would message would you write on the flyleaf when gifting it?

QUESTIONS ON EACH STORY

PART 1 - Seeking

- 1) **The Real Thing:** The workplace is now one of the most likely places to find a partner, and Jackie keeps hoping she'll get lucky there. Do you think she will?
- 2) **Houstraining Thomas:** What's harder to houstrain, a partner or a pet, and why does Clare assume Thomas must be a man?
- 3) **Old Flames, New Sparks:** Facebook – marriage wrecker or Cupid's messenger?
- 4) **The Matchmaker:** What is the difference between computer dating and arranged marriages, and why isn't society more tolerant of either?
- 5) **The Homecoming:** Can a marriage really work between two people whose attitudes to tidiness are at opposite ends of the scale, or is Suki and Harry's relationship doomed?

PART 2 – Committing

- 1) **The Way to His Heart:** As per Mrs Merton's famous interview question to Debbie McGee, "What first attracted you to millionaire Paul Daniels?", is home ownership turning in to a kind of modern dowry, which gives those with their own homes a head start over renters, and is it a good reason to marry?
- 2) **Presents Tense:** The wedding present list is a source of enormous stress to Kimberley, who worries about what guests will think of their choices. Did Kimberley and Stephen get what they deserved?
- 3) **Having Your Cake:** Victoria is determined to do things her way. What chances do you give this optimistic but naïve young woman of having a long and happy marriage with Malcolm?
- 4) **Snoring:** What starts out as an endearing eccentricity soon turns into a nightmare for poor Louise. Is her ultimate fate her own fault for ignoring the problem before marriage?
- 5) **An Appetite for Marriage:** Barney's new younger wife seeks to change him by slimming him down, but he hopes to have the last laugh. What do you think will happen next in their marriage if Tessa gets the job he suggests?

PART 3 – Enduring

- 1) **Granted:** A comment from a stranger is a wake-up call to the narrator irritated by her husband's slovenly habits. Have you ever had your mind changed by a chance remark from someone who didn't know you?
- 2) **Cook's Perks:** Are regular habits a strength or a weakness in Martin and Barbara's marriage?
- 3) **The New Coat:** Can such a controlling relationship ever be healthy and truly happy?
- 4) **False Economies:** Nurturing her secret running-away fund has given the narrator the strength to stay in her marriage with Brian. Is it right or wrong to have such secrets from one's spouse, either in financial matters or any other sphere?
- 5) **The Butterfly Clip:** With fewer couples getting married these days, and the average marriage lasting considerably less than 20 years in many countries around the world, are such long-term love stories likely to be seen only in fiction in future, or is there something we can do – or should do – about it?

To find out more about Debbie Young's stories, visit her website:

www.authordebbieyoung.com

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/DebbieYoungBN](https://twitter.com/DebbieYoungBN)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AuthorDebbieYoung/

She welcomes feedback and comments, so please feel free to contact her!