

Working together
is no piece of cake.



Do You Take This Man

"One of the steamiest, most
addictive, most satisfyingly hard-earned
happily ever afters I've read in ages!"
—New York Times bestselling
author Ali Hazelwood

DENISE WILLIAMS

Author of *The Fastest Way to Fall*

Book Club Kit

A CONVERSATION WITH *Denise Williams*

Thank you for reading *Do You Take This Man!* I hope this steamy, enemies with benefits rom-com provides great laughs, swoons, and discussion for your book club. I've included discussion questions for your group, and here are answers to the most frequently asked questions!



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Where did the idea for this book originate?

Back in 2007, I got ordained online so I could perform my friend's wedding quickly before he deployed. Since then, I've married several couples and writing a wedding ceremony is a lot like telling a love story . . . what better hobby for a romance author? I had wanted to write a tough heroine who didn't believe in love and it tickled me when my agent suggested I use my officiating in a book.

Does this book connect to your previous novels, *How to Fail at Flirting* and *The Fastest Way to Fall*?

Yes! RJ is one of Britta's best friends in *The Fastest Way to Fall*. In that book, you see what a fiercely supportive friend she is and get a peek at her competitive and take-charge spirit. Also in that book, RJ is interviewing for a job in North Carolina and she gets it! *Do You Take This Man* takes place in North Carolina, RJ's new home.

Why did you set the book in North Carolina?

At first, I wanted to set RJ's story far from her home base in Chicago. She isn't exactly lonely, but she is in a new place where she works a

lot and hasn't had time to build close friendships. That is something she and Lear have in common, even though he grew up nearby. Lear's childhood home where he visits Uncle Harold is based on Sylva, North Carolina where my great uncle and aunt lived. Uncle Harold is actually based on my great uncle, who passed while I was drafting the book. I loved writing those scenes because it felt like being back in that backyard or in their dining room doing puzzles.

What was it like writing characters who have such negative outlooks on love?

In all of my books, there are roadblocks to the characters finding love, but both RJ and Lear are actively antilove and antirelationship when the book begins. I actually had a great time writing these characters whose experiences shaped them to be unwilling or unable to recognize their own growing feelings. Watching them inadvertently break down each other's walls and continue to challenge each other made writing this book a joy.

Who is your favorite character in the book?

Tough question! I love RJ's snappy comebacks and Lear's sweet and sexy vibes. Writing Uncle Harold felt like being around my great uncle again and I've always wanted to give Gretchen from *How to Fail at Flirting* a bit of a redemption. My favorite character is a secondary one, though, and it's Lear's sister, Caitlin. I love how she so openly cares for her little brother and doesn't let him get away with undervaluing himself. She also has some great one-liners!



Discussion Questions

1.

The book includes several couples with a variety of weddings, from the gas station nuptials to destination ceremonies on the beach, to large, formal weddings in banquet halls. Which weddings were your favorite and why? Were they similar to your own wedding or the wedding you envision?

2.

RJ can be considered "difficult" for being a tough woman. Do you have personal experience with this characterization of strong women?

In professional and personal settings, what are the broader impacts of this?

3.

When Lear first meets RJ, he's convinced his nice guy and people-pleasing ways are a thing of the past and a cocky, dude-bro persona will protect him from future heartbreak. What defense mechanisms did you see in Lear's and RJ's behaviors? Did they connect to your own experiences?

4.

RJ and Lear's enemies with benefits arrangement makes for several steamy scenes. Do you enjoy seeing a relationship in a romance novel grow through physical intimacy or do you prefer for the emotional intimacy to be established prior to physical contact?

5.

RJ realizes Lear appreciates the things about her that other partners have just tolerated, such as her competitiveness, her straightforward nature, and her dedication to her career. Did this resonate with you? If so, how did you feel when you met someone who loved something about you that others didn't appreciate?

6.

Who have been instrumental mentors for you? Gretchen has the career that RJ wants to emulate, but she is also someone who advocates for RJ and holds her accountable for her own success. Is Gretchen the kind of mentor you would want?

7.

The song "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley plays a few times in the book and is a theme song to RJ and Lear's relationship. Weddings usually involve a lot of dancing . . . can you think of another song that might fit their love story? How about your own?

