



Discussion Guide

Bound to be Dirty

by Savanna Fox (a.k.a. Susan Fox and Susan Lyons)

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Dirty Girls Book Club series, Book 3

[See also Book 1, *The Dirty Girls Book Club* (Georgia's story) and Book 2, *Dare to be Dirty* (Kim's story)]

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These questions are available for download (in PDF format) from my website.

Thanks so much for reading *Bound to be Dirty*. I hope you enjoyed it and I'd love to hear from you. I'm happy to provide bookmarks and autographed bookplates for any of my books. Just send me your name and address. Please visit my website for info on other titles, insights into how each book came about, excerpts, reviews, recipes, a monthly contest, and other fun stuff. You can also subscribe to my e-newsletter.

Now, let's talk about *Bound to be Dirty*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

1. *Lily's story*. Did you read either or both of the previous books in the Dirty Girls Book Club series? If so, did you think Lily would break up with her husband or did you figure he'd be the hero in her book? Did you have any expectations about their relationship? How did the book compare to what you thought might happen?
2. *Who is Lily?* Who was Lily when she first met Dax, and who did she become over the years they were together? What factors influenced her development? What are her strengths and weaknesses? What do you think of her relationship with her parents and her brother? How much influence should parents have on their adult children's lives?
3. *Who is Dax?* Who was Dax Xavier when he first met Lily, and who did he become over the years they were together? What factors influenced his development? What are his strengths and weaknesses?
4. *Young love*. Why did Lily and Dax first fall in love with each other? Do you think it was genuine love, or just teenage lust and attraction of opposites? How did their feelings change over the course of their relationship, and why?
5. *Their marriage*. Lily and Dax don't have a conventional marriage. How did it develop? What things do you think they might, or should, have done differently? Are there strengths to their marriage? What are the weaknesses? At the beginning of the book, did Lily think they had a realistic hope of making things work? Did Dax? What did you think?
6. *Marriage in general*. Many romance novels end with an engagement or marriage, and that's considered the "happily ever after." And yet a large number of marriages are unhappy and many end in divorce. What do you think it takes for a married couple to remain happy together and in love for decades? Every marriage is bound to face a few bumps along the path, so what do you think are the keys to surviving the bumps and moving on? Is there an ideal balance of independence and togetherness?

7. *Bound by Desire*. Books on BDSM are very popular these days. The club's choice of book raises a number of issues for the four women. What issues do they discuss and what viewpoints do they express? Do you read this kind of book yourself, or perhaps practice BDSM? If you had been a member of this book club, what views would you have expressed?
8. *The power of books*. How does the club's choice of book influence Lily and Dax's marriage?
9. *The first step*. On the first night Dax is back in town, why does he behave differently toward Lily? Why does she opt into the unusual sex play rather than stop him? How do their actions change the dynamics of their relationship?
10. *Christmas*. Why do they buy each other Christmas gifts? What do their gifts say about their relationship?
11. *Lily's family*. What do you think of the family dynamics in Lily's family (her parents, her brother and sister-in-law, Lily, Dax, Aldonza)? How do those dynamics change over the course of the book, and what factors contribute to the changes?
12. *Their ideal marriage*. At various points in the story, what do each of them secretly think would be the perfect marriage? What do they each think would be the "best case scenario" and why do they not believe that perfect is possible? What are each of their best case scenarios, and how do they differ? Why don't they discuss them earlier? When they do discuss them and realize that they differ widely (Lily wants kids; Dax doesn't), they break up. At that point, why don't they go ahead with getting a divorce? What brings them back together?
13. *Children*. Why does Lily want children? Why does Dax say he doesn't? What do you think of their reasons? If they had both persisted in their views, do you think they could have had a happy marriage?
14. *Lily's meltdown*. Proper, reserved Lily has a meltdown at one of the book club get-togethers. Why? In what ways is this scene a turning point for Lily?
15. *Dax's big surprise*. At the end of the book, Dax "kidnaps" Lily (for the second time). What's he trying to do, why does it almost go badly wrong, and why does it work out in the end? If he'd attempted something like this at the beginning of the book, do you think it would have worked?
16. *Sex*. What do you think of the things Lily and Dax tried? Are some of them a turn-on? Are others a turn-off? Why? And how about the sex in the book club novel, *Bound by Desire*?
17. *Character arc*. In most novels, the protagonists change and grow, and in a romance that growth is often at least in part a result of their interactions with and their feelings for their loved one. How do you see Lily and Dax changing, and how do those changes come about?
18. *Story structure*. How did you enjoy the structure of the book, where bits of *Bound by Desire* are interwoven with Lily and Dax's story, and the club discusses relationship issues that are raised for them by *Bound by Desire*?
19. *A happy ending?* What do you think of the decisions Lily and Dax are making at the end of the book regarding their careers and their relationship? Do you think they resolved things too quickly and easily or that they have earned their happy ending? What challenges do you think they'll face in the future and do you think they've developed the skills to deal effectively with them?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on some of these questions and issues! Email me at susan@susanlyons.ca. And don't forget to drop by my website: www.savannafox.ca. I'm also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SusanLyonsFox.