



## Discussion Guide

### *Sex on the Beach*

by Susan Lyons

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

Thanks so much for reading *Sex on the Beach*. I hope you enjoyed it and I'd love to hear from you. I'm happy to provide bookmarks and autographed bookplates; just send me your name and address. Please visit my website for info on other titles, behind-the-scenes notes, excerpts, reviews, recipes, a monthly contest, and other fun stuff. Now, let's talk about *Sex on the Beach*. I suggest you skim through the questions and pick the ones that interest you the most.

#### General

1. *Three couples*: Which couple's story did you like the best? Why?
2. *The heroes*: If you could choose among them, which one would you pick? Why?
3. *Time frame*: The three novellas took place during the same time period, the week before Danny and Bella's wedding. How did that work for you? Did you enjoy getting glimpses of each couple's relationship through the other couples' eyes?
4. *Bella and Danny's fight*: The fight was facilitated by Free. What were the pros and cons to the fight? Do you think it's good that the bride and groom had this squabble? Do you believe they're going to make it as a couple?
5. *The Everleighs*: What role do the elderly couple play in each couple's romance?

#### War of the Sexes

6. *Attitude toward marriage*: When Sarah and Free meet, she believes firmly in marriage and he thinks it's a ball and chain. Where do both their attitudes come from? How do they influence each person's behavior, and how do they change through the story?
7. *Biology*: Sarah believes that pheromones are a product of evolution, of centuries of Darwinian fine-tuning, honing the mating instinct. Do you buy into that?
8. *Saving his buddy*: Free made a promise to Danny, years ago, to "save him from himself" if he showed signs of losing his heart to another woman. Why did Danny ask this of him and why did Free promise? Why is Free so determined to keep his vow?
9. *The war*: Sarah and Free both clearly state their intentions in the beginning: she wants the marriage to happen and he intends to stop it. They declare war. What weapons do each of them choose?
10. *Secret sex*: Why do Sarah and Free choose to keep their relationship a secret?
11. *Free as matchmaker*: In the end, Free tries to fix the relationship he'd been determined to destroy. Why? Bella and Danny forgive him. If you'd been in their shoes, would you have forgiven him?

12. *A happy ending?* Do you think things will work out for Free and Sarah? What have they learned over the course of the story? Do you believe their love will grow and they'll be able to deal with whatever problems come their way?

### Sex With the Proper Stranger

13. *The closeted writer:* What do you think of Zane's reasons for not revealing that he's gay? How would you feel if you were his long-time partner, Graham?

14. *Zane as matchmaker:* Zane matchmakes Tamiko and Ric. Why would he do this, when he needs Tamiko to maintain his macho image?

15. *Tamiko's past and present:* Tamiko's had a hard life, and now she's reached career success. Discuss her past and how it's shaped her into the person she is today. Is she happy? What would make her happier? What does she value most highly?

16. *Ric's past and present:* What has Ric's life been like? Why would he be wary about getting involved with a woman like Tamiko?

17. *Secret sex:* Why do Tamiko and Ric keep their relationship a secret?

18. *Her sexuality:* How does Ric help Tamiko overcome her sexual problems and issues? Does this work for you?

19. *A happy ending?* Do you think things will work out for Tamiko and Ric? What have they learned over the course of the story? Do you believe their love will grow and they'll be able to deal with whatever problems come their way?

### Sexy Exes

20. *The break-up:* Why did Giovanna's and James's marriage go so wrong? Could they have saved it?

21. *The opposite of love:* What is the opposite of love: hatred or indifference? How do you think Giovanna and James really feel about each other at the beginning of the story? Why and how do they press each other's hot buttons?

22. *Secret sex:* Why do Giovanna and James choose to keep their relationship a secret?

23. *The make-over:* Why does James agree to let Tamiko make him over, especially when he never listened to Giovanna's advice about his clothing?

24. *Together again:* Over the course of the story, what things bring Giovanna and James closer together? How does their relationship change?

25. *The daughter:* How do you think Bella will react when she finds out her parents are together again?

26. *A happy ending?* Do you think things will work out this time for Giovanna and James? What have they learned over the course of the story? Do you believe their love will grow and they'll be able to deal with whatever problems come their way?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on some of these questions. Email me at [susan@susanlyons.ca](mailto:susan@susanlyons.ca). And don't forget to drop by my website: [www.susanlyons.ca](http://www.susanlyons.ca).

And watch for my next destination wedding book from Berkley Heat, *Sex on the Slopes*, set in Whistler, BC. It's scheduled for December 2010.