



Discussion Questions

Touch Me

by Susan Lyons

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Awesome Foursome Series, Book 3

[see also *Champagne Rules* (Feb/06), *Hot in Here* (Aug/06) and *She's on Top* (Feb/08)]

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

Thanks so much for reading *Touch Me*. I hope you enjoyed it and would 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, insights into how each book came about, excerpts, a monthly contest, and other fun stuff.

Now, let's talk about *Touch Me*.

1. *Career-driven people*. When the book opens, Ann has one primary goal in life: to build a brilliant career. It doesn't allow her time for – or, she doesn't make time for – much else. Do you know people like that? What's your approach to your own work/school/career?
2. *Versus laid-back*. Adonis takes a different approach to his career. A lot of people (including Ann's mom) would label him unambitious. What do you think? Do you like his approach to work and to life, or do you see problems with it? How would you feel about dating a guy like this?
3. *Pros and cons*. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being career-driven? Are they different for women than for men?
4. *The balancing act*. Adonis believes in balance in life, with lots of time for healthy activities and for family and friends. Ann's been so career-focused that the only time she's set aside is time with the Foursome. Slowly she comes to realize that, while she does want a successful career, she wants other things too. Can a woman in today's world "have it all"? What's the best way of achieving that balance? What are your own goals and priorities for your life, and how are you doing with your own balancing act? Is it different for a man? How so? Should it be different for women than for men?
5. *Women's lib*. Ann's mom experienced the early days of the women's lib movement and she's a strong feminist. What's good about that, and what's not so good – both for her and for her daughter? Adonis's mother also calls herself a feminist. How do the women differ? Is one right and the other wrong? How do you feel about women's lib and its influence on society? Do you consider yourself a feminist? If so, what does that mean in your life? If not, why not? How is feminism different today than back in the 1970s?
6. *Parental influence*. Both Ann and Adonis have strong parental influences. In what ways are these influences good, and in what ways not so good? Both of them want their parents to be proud of them. When the book starts, that's a big motivator for Ann. Adonis, on the other hand, has chosen a path his dad disapproves of. What do you think about the parent-child dynamics in both families? Is it normal for an adult child to want to please his or her parents, or should they "grow up and get over it"? How does parental influence work in your own parent-child relationship(s)? How might this affect other relationships in your life?
7. *Torn between two lovers*. Ann had almost given up on the idea of romance, because she couldn't see it fitting with her career goals. Now she has two men in her life. How do you feel about the way she deals with the situation? Do you sympathize? Could she have handled it better? If she was your best friend, what advice would you have given her?
8. *Finding Ms. Right*. How do you know which person is "the one"? Adonis wasn't figuring on settling down any time soon, but then he met Ann. How did he realize she was different than other girls? At what point in the book did you think he was really falling for her, enough that he might give up his gypsy way of life?

9. *Finding Mr. Right.* For Ann, David has some big pluses and one big minus. He's the kind of man who, on the surface, seems like her ideal match (at least he would be if he was divorced). She'd never even thought about hooking up with a guy like Adonis – in many ways he's her opposite – and when she gets together with him she thinks he'll just be a "booty call." Do you think it's okay for a girl to hook up with a guy "just for sex"? What do you think of both relationships, and the way they developed? When did you know which man she'd choose? Do you think she made the right decision? Adonis says, "How do you grow, if you're with someone who thinks exactly the same as you?" Do you agree? How did you see Ann changing and growing over the course of the book, and how did this influence her decisions about David and Adonis?
10. *Professional relationships.* In a recent study, 58% of respondents said they'd had an office romance. When is it, or isn't it, okay to have a relationship with someone you meet through work? Maybe it's all right to have coffee with a same-sex friend at work, but is it okay to sleep with your boss? Adonis violates his professional ethics by giving Ann a sensual (sexy) massage, but he justifies it to himself by saying he can't leave her aching, needy and demanding. Then he makes her fire him before they started dating – but still, he is dating a former client. As for Ann, she's involved with her former massage therapist, and also a senior lawyer at her firm. What do you think of their actions? How would you behave if you were in their shoes?
11. *Attraction of opposites.* Ann and Adonis are opposites in many ways. Why is it that opposites so often are attracted to each other? Has it happened to you? Can that kind of relationship work?
12. *Control.* At the beginning, Ann's all about being in control. Adonis isn't so blatant about it, but he does think his way is better. What do you think about their two approaches? What's your ideal for a relationship? Do you think the two of them can make their relationship work? Why, or why not?
13. *Goals and performance.* For Ann, much of life – including sex – is about peak performance to reach a goal. In sex, she feels like a failure unless both she and her partner climax. Adonis believes in living in the moment and enjoying the process. Do you relate more to one than the other? Which way is the best, or is there another approach that's even better? What do they learn from each other?
14. *Tantric sex.* What things about Adonis's style of love-making appeal to you, and what don't?
15. *Ann's personal style.* Why does she wear sexy lingerie under her business suits? Her clothing style changes over the course of the book. What meaning do you read into that? Did you notice that she made some changes at her condo as well? How do your style choices reflect the real you – or not?
16. *Hearing voices.* Ann has voices in her head. Do you ever hear those kinds of voices – perhaps criticizing your choices? How can you stop the past from limiting your present and future?
17. *David's behavior.* What do you think of the way David treated Ann and his wife? He wasn't exactly noble, but could you sympathize? What would you do if you fell for a guy like him?
18. *Never trust a man?.* That's Ann's mother's belief. Why does she have such strong feelings on this subject? Often, we form certain beliefs when we're young; as we get older, some people cling to their beliefs and others change. Which approach is better? How are you changing as you mature? Do you still hold some of the same beliefs as when you were young – and do any of them create problems for you now?
19. *Ann's relationship with her mom.* What's going to happen now? Will her mother write her off, once she meets Adonis? Or do you think they stand a chance of improving their relationship? Can an old relationship adapt to take into account one person's new beliefs?
20. *The Awesome Foursome.* What role do Ann's friends play in her life? Why does she devote time to them when she knows her mother doesn't approve? Which of the four friends do you most relate to, and why?
21. *Favorite scene.* What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
22. *The Foursome books.* If you've read other *Awesome Foursome* books, how did this one compare? Are you getting enough information about the other girls' relationships? Do you see any changes in the relationships within the Foursome?

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.susanlyons.ca.