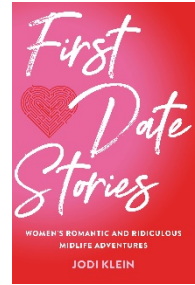


## Book Club Readers Guide

### ***First Date Stories: Women's Romantic and Ridiculous Midlife Adventures***

***By Jodi Klein***



### **About the Book**

Ellen meets Jim at a posh restaurant, hoping for an evening of fine wine and better conversation. Maria sets out on a walk with a man she's been looking forward to meeting. In *FIRST DATE STORIES*, these women, and others, enter into initial liaisons with well-honed expectations—and come out on the other side with extraordinary tales to tell.

Chances are, every woman in her mid-thirties and over who is seeking a loving companion or is partnered has a first date tale of triumph or disaster. Each of the candid and memorable stories Jodi Klein shares imparts a bit of wisdom—with the help of takeaway tips and inspirational quotes—to guide readers through what can be a baffling, intimidating, and sometimes lonely journey, as well as to entertain them.

*FIRST DATE STORIES* offers both uncoupled and coupled readers the reminder that being single should be celebrated, that not all first dates are created equal, and that every initial encounter has the possibility to become something long-lasting and wonderful.



## Discussion Questions

1. There are eleven short stories in the anthology. Which female protagonist in which story do you most identify with and why?
2. Have you experienced a situation while out on a date that is similar to what one of these women experienced? If the answer is “yes,” which story is it, what were the circumstances, and how did you handle things?
3. Six Dating Deterrents are discussed in the first chapter. Many of these deterrents not only keep midlife women from dating, but also impede them from achieving other personal and professional goals.
  - a. Have you encountered, or are you currently encountering, any of these deterrents?
  - b. If your answer is “yes,” which deterrents are you confronting? Please describe the challenge and any actions you are taking to overcome it.
4. The female protagonists’ girlfriend(s) play supportive roles in “The Winer, “A Night in the Desert” and “The Dame in Shining Armor.”
  - a. Discuss your assessment of these women’s involvement in the stories.
  - b. What role do you look to your girlfriends to play in support of the activities in your life that are important to you? These activities could be related to dating or something else.
5. The issue of boundaries, which is raised in a few of the stories, is most prominent in “Dinner Al Fresco.” People’s boundaries vary, as shown by Rita and Raj’s differing approaches to navigating interactions during the pandemic. If you’ve experienced a situation where you and another person have a different sense of boundaries, how did you go about communicating yours?
6. Which story is the most memorable? Why? If it had been you on that date, would you have handled anything differently?

7. The book's underlying theme is to "keep showing up" in life. What's an instance when you almost didn't show up (e.g. for an event, an appointment, a commitment, a new opportunity, etc.), but, when you did, something surprising happened?
8. What is your biggest takeaway from this book?

## **About the Author**

Jodi Klein knows what it's like to date longer and later in life. A demanding career and desire to find her "Mr. Yes" led to her becoming an alumna of nearly 400 dates over the course of 26 years. She created the podcast "First Date Stories," and founded the blog of the same name, to provide a platform for women in midlife to share dating tales and advice and find inspiration to continually open their hearts to love.

Jodi is an entrepreneur, a marketing executive and a real estate broker. She is a graduate of UC Davis and holds an MBA from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Jodi and her husband live in San Francisco.

To invite Jodi to join your book club's discussion, please contact her at  
[FirstDateStories.com/Contact](https://FirstDateStories.com/Contact)

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