

Book Club Discussion Guide



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Stalker

By Brenda Hampton

About the author:

Hampton is a native St. Louis, with a gift and passion for writing. She maintained journals for several years, but it wasn't until she read Terry McMillan's *Disappearing Acts* that she considered taking her writing adventures to another level.

In 2002, Hampton completed her memoir, along with two fiction novels: *Two's Enough*, *Three's a Crowd* and *How Can I Be Down?* The following year, she completed thrilling sequels to both novels and additional bestselling novels followed thereafter.

Hampton is known for bringing the heat to readers, and her literary career is filled with many accomplishments. She is an *Essence Magazine* Bestselling Author, she was named a Favorite Female Fiction writer in *Upscale Magazine* by O.O.S.A., she is a 2009 African American Literary Award Nominee for her mystery novel, *The Dirty Truth*, and was awarded Best Female Writer by *Infini Promoters*. Her dedication to her career lead to a multi-book deal through *Urban/Kensington Books* in New York City, a publishing house that she refers to as her literary home.

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In addition to writing, and having an entrepreneur spirit, Hampton manages her own insurance business where she works as an Insurance Broker for many customers throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. She is also the founder of VOICES Books & Publishing, VOICES Books on Wheels and VOICES Magazine.

Source: Goodreads (<http://www.goodreads.com>)

About this book:

After a brutal divorce, Abigail Wilson vowed to never love again, but when Brent Carson crosses her path, she simply can't resist his good-guy persona that exemplifies perfection. From A to Z, Brent appears to have it all. Abigail falls head over heels for him--until the unthinkable happens. Brent's announcement, "I'm just not that into you," sends her on a downward spiral. She can't cope with ill treatment from another man, and now nothing would please her more than to see Brent making his way to the gates of hell. In a rush to get him there, Abigail takes on an unforgettable, head-shaking, and shocking role as . . . Mrs. Stalker.

Source: Goodreads (<https://www.goodreads.com/>)

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Discussion Questions:

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
2. Describe the main characters—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities.
 - Why do characters do what they do?
 - Are their actions justified?
 - Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family, or friendship).
 - How has the past shaped their lives?
 - Do you admire or disapprove of them?
 - Do they remind you of people you know?
3. Are the main characters dynamic—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?
4. Discuss the plot:
 - Is it engaging—do you find the story interesting?
 - Is this a plot-driven book—a fast-paced page-turner?
 - Does the plot unfold slowly with a focus on character?
 - Were you surprised by complications, twists & turns?
 - Did you find the plot predictable, even formulaic?
5. Talk about the book's structure.
 - Is it a continuous story...or interlocking short stories?

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- Does the time-line move forward chronologically?
- Does time shift back & forth from past to present?
- Is there a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints?
- Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way he or she did?
- What difference does the structure make in the way you read or understand the book?

6. What main ideas—themes—does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme.) Does the author use symbols to reinforce the main ideas? (See our free LitCourses on both Symbol and Theme.)

7. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?

8. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

9. If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask? Have you read other books by the same author? If so how does this book compare. If not, does this book inspire you to read others?

10. Has this novel changed you—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?

Source: *Lit Lovers* (<http://www.litlovers.com>)