



Questions and Topics for Discussion
Yes Means Yes! Visions of Female Sexual Power and A World without Rape
edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti

For a printable copy of these questions, visit: beclibrary.org/book-discussion-questions

1. Who should read this book? Why?
2. Were there any particular experiences/essays that resonated with you?
3. Do you believe the “no means no” concept needs to be rejected in favor of a “yes means yes” mentality? What do each mean?
4. What is “Trial by Media” and how do you think it effects women who find themselves being the focus of public attention and/or prevents women from coming forward?
5. What additional issues do women of color and immigrants face in terms of sexuality and sex crimes?
6. Do you believe that educating all people to value female sexuality and pleasure leads to viewing women differently and ending rape? Why or why not? Is that even possible? Why or why not?
7. How does the book address what men learn as young boys that influences their sexual behavior and the way they treat women? How does society continue to contribute to this way of thinking and/or these behaviors?
8. The book addresses topics that some might consider taboo such as incest, BDSM, etc. Were there topics that made you more uncomfortable than others? Did you learn something about this topics as a result of the book?
9. While Jaclyn Friedman is an editor of this book, she has written others. Would you consider reading another by this author? Why or why not?
10. Given the breadth of topics covered in this book, do you think it has something to say for everyone who reads it? Was something missed?
11. Would you consider this a “modern feminist classic”? Why or why not?
12. Do you believe the book achieved the following effects? Why or why not?
 - a. Teaching men to treat women as collaborators and not conquests.
 - b. Encouraging men and women that women can enjoy sex instead of being shamed for it.
 - c. That our children can inherit a world where rape is rare and swiftly punished.

[Type here]

Do you have a good question to add to this list? Contact: reference@blueearthcountymn.gov