

# Forever My Lady

by Jeff Rivera

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## About the Book

Dio Rodriguez grew up on the streets and knew all too well the hard, cool feeling of the barrel of a gun tucked down the back of his jeans. But his hard exterior softened when he met Jennifer. Jennifer understands Dio like no one else and makes him want to be a better man.

Suddenly a drive-by shooting lands Dio in a prison boot camp and sends Jennifer to the hospital. When Dio learns that Jennifer is pregnant, he realizes that he must find a way to turn his life around and return to his lady. But can trainee Rodriguez get his act together among the hardcases in prison? And will Jennifer be waiting for him if and when he does?

## Discussion Guide

1. Why do you think Dio was caught up in gangs instead of staying out of trouble?
2. In his letters, Dio insists he would rather work at McDonald's than return to his old ways. But Jennifer became a prostitute in order to survive on the streets. What do you think led Jennifer to make this decision? Did she have other options?
3. Dio and Jennifer fell in love at a very early age. Was it true love or was it puppy love? What is the difference between these two kinds of love? Why do you believe their relationship is one and not the other?
4. Simon comes from a wealthy background, yet he has just as many personal problems as the trainees who grew up poor. What kind of home environment do you believe Simon experienced? Why do you believe it led him to become so insecure?
5. Senior Jackson reveals that he lost a son to gang violence. What do you believe he saw in Dio that began their bond?

and led Jackson to become a father figure?

6. Louise is reluctant to say much about her estranged relationship with her husband. From what you know of her story, why do you believe she considers getting back together with him?

7. Why do you believe Groissant hates Dio and Simon?

8. Who in your life --- whether family or friends --- is most like one of the characters in the book?

9. Why do you believe young people should read this book?

10. If you were to recommend this book to one person in your life, who would it be? Why?

## Author Bio

Once homeless and living in his car, first-time novelist, Jeff Rivera writes passionate stories of those often forgotten and neglected by society. He believes even in the eyes of a gang member, even beneath the soiled clothes of a bag lady or behind the tears of a lonely kid in the back of the class, there lies a common thread that links us all, the universal human story. It is said, his personal mission is to help change the way the world thinks in a positive way through his stories.

Mr. Rivera currently lives in Miami, Florida. Adopted by his Filipino stepfather when he was seven years old, his ethnic background is Black American and Native American.

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