Neva Hafta: A Novel

by Edwardo Jackson



About the Book

Meet Nick?young, single, handsome, and about to lose his mother to breast cancer. Upon hearing that she has only eighteen months to live, Nick decides that he wants her to see her only child get married before she dies. Backed by his friend and editor, Craig, Nick sets out to find a wife in a year's time, anonymously writing about his hell-bent search for love in a column for the San Diego Reader. In no time, Nick's hilarious struggles with a self-absorbed actress, a foreign med student, a driven political aide, and a down-to-earth movie star transform "Anonymous" into the talk of the town?and then the nation. Trapped by his faceless celebrity, burdened with an outlandishly single best friend, hamstrung by a floundering acting career, and overwhelmed by the fear of losing his mother, Nick becomes more and more desperate as time runs out. Can a man who was always convinced he would "neva hafta" settle for an uninspiring relationship find true love?on a timeline?

Discussion Guide

1. Nick is so focused on finding a spouse that he evaluates nearly every woman he meets as potential wife material. In his haste, he never really thinks about what he wants in a woman. Why does he find "the One" only when he stops looking for her? How does Tabitha compare to the women he was involved with in the past year?

2. In his marriage search, Nick dates as much as possible, but doesn't always let on to his real motives. Is he misleading the women he dates by not being completely honest with them? Is he using them?

3. Mal and Mia's marital problems are caused by a loss of trust in each other. Even though their separation occurred over a misunderstanding, was Malloy right to leave his wife? How hard is it to trust your spouse?

4. Nick bases his need to get married on a desire to give his mother one last happiness before she dies. But the harder he tries to find a wife, the less promising his marriage prospects become. Is his mother's illness enough reason to get

married? Are there any wrong reasons for getting married?

5. Is it ethical for Nick to use his experiences with friends as material for his column without telling them about it?

6. Many of Nick's female friends -- Queen, Chantel, Maya T -- see a tradeoff between relationships and their careers. As a result they choose to focus on their jobs now and leave marriage for later. Is this possible? Why isn't Nick content with the same?

7. Nick has his own set of dating rules, even if he doesn't always follow them. How true are his "cardinal rules of dating"? Is Nick's refusal to date women with children fair?

8. When Molly tells Nick she is pregnant with his child, he knows he has gotten about as far away from his marriage goal as possible. Why is Molly's accusation so devastating? How hard is it to have a child with a person you never intended to date?

9. Nick's friends Carlton and Jeannie marry within months of meeting each other and shortly after Nick meets Tabitha he knows she is the one he wants to marry. Can you tell immediately when someone is right for you?

10. Neva Hafta is as much about friendship as it is about finding a mate. How important are friends to Nick's life? How much are friends allowed to intervene in each other's lives?

Author Bio

Edwardo Jackson is from Seattle, Washington, and is the author of **Ever After**. He graduated from Morehouse College and is an actor and the copresident of JCM Entertainment, LLC. He lives in Los Angeles. You can visit his website at www.edwardojackson.com.

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