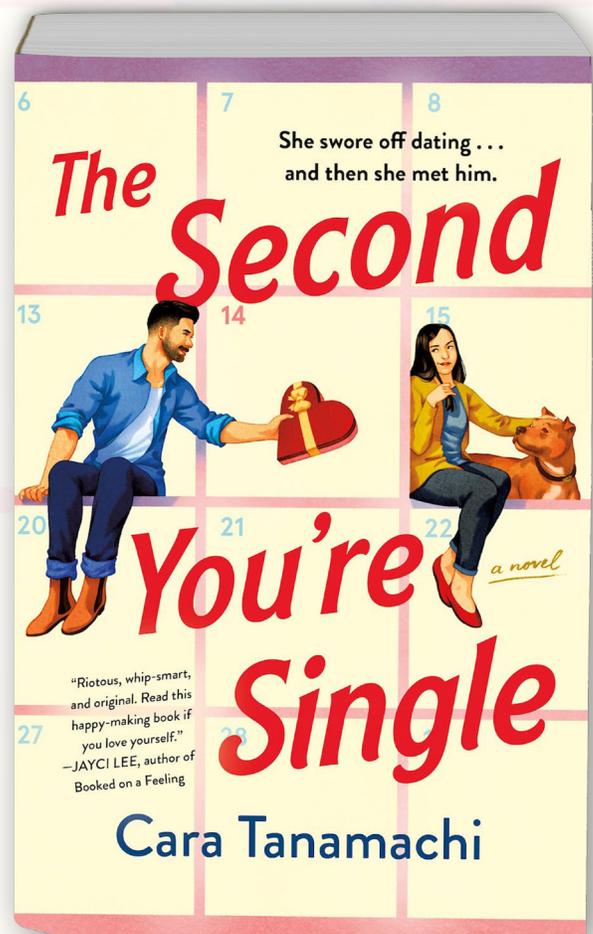


The Second You're Single

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of Sora's pledge to #GoSolo? Have you ever taken a break like this, either from romantic relationships or from other personal relationships in your life? How did the experience change you?
2. Sora is unfairly put on the receiving end of judgment from many people in her life—from her mother about her weight, from her sister about her lack of interest in doing things a certain way, and from her ex-boyfriends, who neglected and disrespected her. How do you think this has contributed to her motto that inertia is best? Would you have behaved similarly or differently if you were treated like this by the people closest to you in your life?
3. Put yourself in Sora's shoes. Would you give up your #GoSolo plan immediately when you met Jack or say good-bye to Jack and never hear from him again? What does it say about Sora that she tried to make both situations work?
4. What do you think makes Jack and Sora such a good couple? They have surface interests in common, but what deeper aspects of their personalities and their past difficulties have helped them to be stronger together in the present?
5. Discuss the idea of family in the novel—Sora's father's behavior when they were young, and how Sora, her mother, and her sister are often butting heads now. How does the novel show that relationships with family members can be some of your most challenging relationships, and yet some of your most supportive, too? Do you have any relationships in your life that can cause stress yet also support you when you need it?
6. Sora and Jack have very opposite ideas about love. Do you share Sora's attitude—that celebrating love is a scam, and relationships that are good are too good to be real or Jack's attitude that love is real and worth fighting for? How do you think your own experiences have affected your viewpoint?



6

7

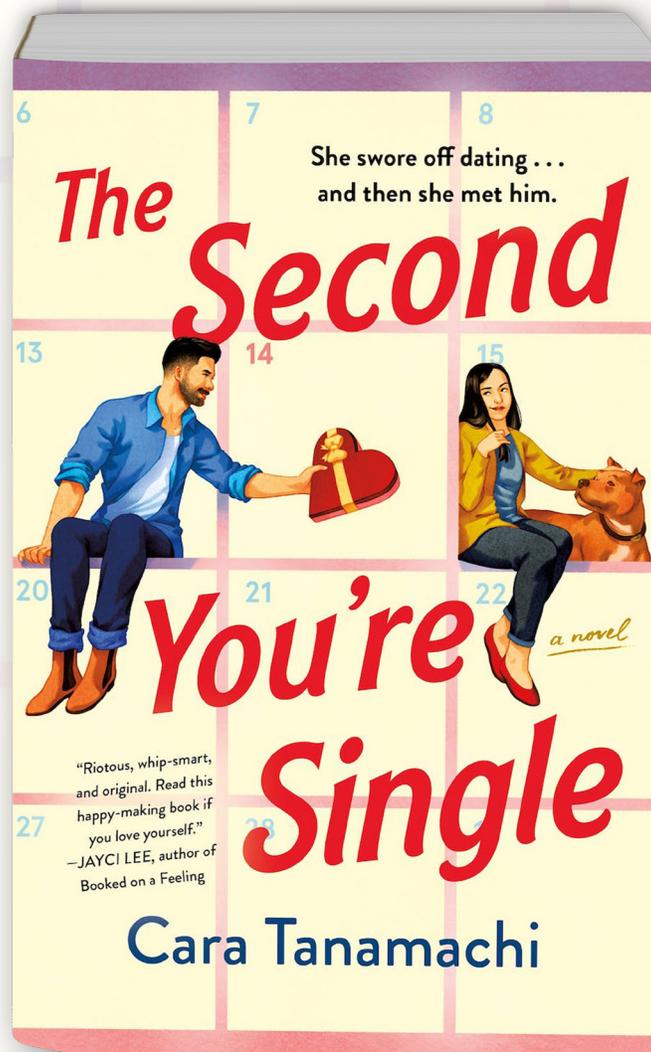
8

7. Do you think Sora and Jack deserved a second chance after their fight at the gala? Do you think they are stronger going forward?
8. Discuss Marley and Mal, the exes of the novel. Do you think Sora would have broken up with Marley had she not caught him cheating? Why do you think it was so hard for Jack to let go of Mal? What does it say about the ideas we as society hold about being in relationships vs being single, that they felt holding on to toxic people was better for them than being solo?
9. Grandma Mitsuye's antique Japanese ceramic bowl, with its cracks filled with gold, is one of the strongest metaphors in the book. What are some of her cracks, and what do you think is the gold that has helped repair them? What are some of your cracks, and what in your life has helped repair and reshape them?
10. Discuss the idea of "treating yourself" as being the adult in your life. How does Sora learn to embody this? Are there areas in which you took responsibility in your own life, and felt healthier for it?

13

20

27



ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN