

Reading Group Questions

WARNING: These questions and discussion points contain spoilers. Please do not read on if you haven't already read *Right Behind You*

SUMMARY



Right Behind You tells the story of Jo Palmer, her partner Ash, and daughter Millie. Their life together is happy, although there is one issue that they seem unable to overcome – Ash's desire to marry Jo, and her refusal. She knows it is causing problems, but she is doing what she can to try to solve what she believes to be the underlying issue – Ash's concern that he might lose Millie, who is not his daughter, if their relationship were to fail.

But all of this seems irrelevant when the police turn up and arrest Ash, at the same time, taking Millie in for questioning. For a moment, Jo finds herself questioning everything she believes in. Imagine her horror when she discovers that none

of it is real – and that now both her partner and child are missing.

Tom Douglas together with his inspector, Becky Robinson, are worried that Millie and Ash have been kidnapped, but they have no idea why.

When Ash is found, hope is raised that Millie will be found quickly, but then slowly Ash reveals the truth about the motivation behind Millie's abduction, and Jo is left with a dreadful dilemma. Does she tell the police everything she knows, or does she trust Ash to recover her child?

Right Behind You is a story about love vs obsession. Which one will win, and how hard will Jo fight for her life?

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. When Jo sees the Tinder photograph of Ash, what do you think were her options? Do you agree with her decision not to immediately confront him? What would your first instinct be in a similar situation?
2. When Ash is arrested on the grounds of cruelty to Millie, for a moment Jo questions if that is possible. What might have motivated her uncertainty about the man she says she loves?
3. Throughout the investigation by the police, her trust in Ash appears to ebb and flow. Why do you think that might be?

4. Jo has refused Ash's many impassioned requests to get married. Was she right to put her lack of belief in marriage ahead of the wishes of her partner? How could she have handled it differently?
5. When Jo is talking to the police, she tells them that it has to have been Steve who took Millie. Tom is sceptical. Discuss the different views of Jo and Tom – were Jo's fears justified, or was Tom's more pragmatic approach the right one?
6. When Jo tries to follow Ash but Steve blocks the way, she eventually gets into his car. At the time she made that decision, how did you – the reader – feel? Were you able to predict whether it was the right decision, or the wrong one?
7. Ash is adamant that giving Ruth's name to the police could result in them losing Millie forever because of the mole in the investigation team. Should he have risked being honest with Tom and Becky, or was his solution the sensible one, given the danger to his daughter?
8. Jo decides not to tell Becky about the extra phone hidden in Ash's boot. Discuss her options, and your reactions to her decision?
9. When Tom's ex-wife, Kate, finds out about Jack, she believes it would be in Lucy's best interests to move to Australia to live with her. If you were Tom, what pros and cons would you come up with? Would you let your head rule your heart? Will he?
10. Jo is left with a terrible dilemma. If she wants to keep Millie happy and secure she will have to accept Ash's new baby with the woman who tried to steal her life. Discuss the many possible outcomes, positive and negative, which might arise in such an emotionally charged scenario. What would you do?