

HER NEW YORK MINUTE

READER'S GUIDE



BY DARBY BAHAM

*The following reading group guide for **Her New York Minute** includes an introduction and discussion questions for enhancing your book club. The suggested questions are intended to help your book club with prompts for discussion, however, they may contain spoilers. I recommend reading the questions only after you have read the book, but I hope they serve to enrich your conversation and increase your enjoyment of it.*

INTRODUCTION

Her New York Minute is the fourth book in Darby Baham's Friendship Chronicles series with Harlequin Special Edition. It tells the story of a young Black British woman, Olivia Robinson, who moves to New York with her eyes set on two things—taking the city by storm and getting the promotion she has her heart set on. What she doesn't plan on is meeting a guy who shows her what it's like to be loved just as she is at what she considers the exact wrong time. This book is for everyone who has mistakenly thought they were "too much" for anyone to love and those of us, especially Black women, who sometimes need a reminder to embrace the unexpected.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Readers originally met Olivia as a new friend of Robin's in *London Calling*. Like some of the other friends at the foundation of this series, she's a meticulous planner with certain goals in mind; it's just that hers initially have nothing do with love. In fact, she is pretty adamant at the beginning of the book that she is looking forward to experiencing her new, temporary city without the pressures of dating. All that starts to change when she meets Thomas before she even steps off the plane, however. What did you think of their meet-cute? Did you believe in their immediate connection? How sure were you that Liv would begin to let Thomas in despite her misgivings about dating?

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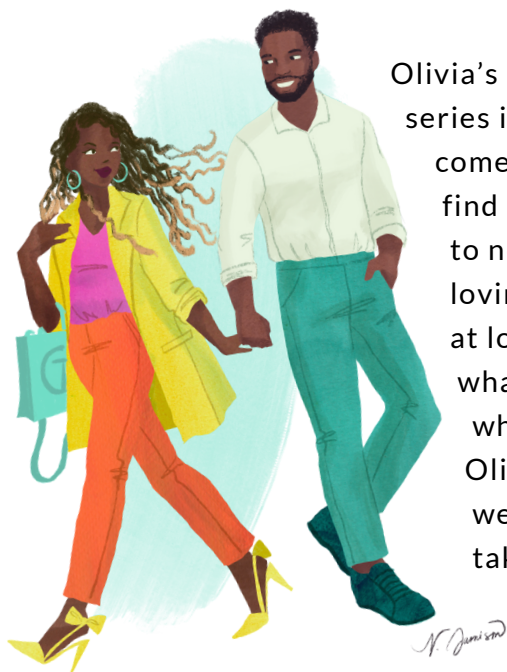
Olivia is all about her plans. But a major theme in the book is this idea of embracing life's surprises (i.e., the things you didn't expect to show up on your bingo card) that may be even better than what you planned. How do you handle the unexpected in your life? Do you embrace it immediately, or are you similar to Olivia, in that it takes some time for you, but eventually you learn to appreciate it?

Throughout the book, Olivia struggles with the fact that every guy she's dated before she meets Thomas has wanted to change something about her and made her believe that maybe she was just too much for someone to love as she is. Have you ever questioned whether there was something "wrong" with you when it came to love & relationships? If so, what helped you realize the truth?

There are several moments in the book when Olivia and Thomas just can't deny their chemistry, beginning even on the airplane when they met. What was your favorite moment with the duo? And did any of them have you smiling from ear to ear and ready to see how their happy ever after would come to be?

Olivia and Thomas spend a good portion of the book learning each other as friends, despite the obvious chemistry between them. Eventually, he admits to her that he wants more, and she's faced with the truth: she does, too. How do you feel about friends becoming lovers/partners? Is it the best of both worlds or do you think it's too risky to try?

Her New York Minute is the first book in the Friendship Chronicles series that's set in New York City, so as much as it's a love story about Olivia and Thomas, it's also a love story for New York. Readers get the chance to see different parts of the city through Olivia's eyes, whether that's more touristy locations like Bryant Park or local favorites like the bodega known as the originator of the chopped cheese sandwich in East Harlem. Did you feel the energy of the city as you were reading the book? Were there any places mentioned that you now want to be sure to visit?



Olivia's relationship to the original crew of *The Friendship Chronicles* series is explored in this book as well, in that she is someone who has come in fairly new to the group and in some ways is still trying to find her footing. And yet, over and over, the girlfriends are there to not only reassure her that she's important to them but also to lovingly push her to see what's right in front of her face: a chance at love that she shouldn't pass up just because it's now how or what she originally planned. Do you have close friends in your life who can challenge you in this way? And how did you feel about Olivia being introduced into the dynamics of the original crew; were you on board with her as someone who fit right in or did it take you some time to buy into it?