

Mr. Right-Swipe by Ricki Schultz
Discussion Questions

- ◇ This book tackles so many parts of being a modern, single woman: from navigating relationships with hitched friends, to the repetitive exhaustion of going on another first date (and another and another...). Did any of Rae's struggles resonate with you? What's the advice you would give yourself (or her) if you could?
- ◇ The book is clearly set in present day: in today's right-swipe/left-swipe online world. Despite that, do you think that the dating issues they discuss are likewise modern, never-before-tread? Or has it always been that way and just become more apparent now? Do you think these issues will remain relevant for years to come?
- ◇ Rae really gives that modern dating world a try, and goes on dates that range from spectacularly terrible, to decent, to wow. But ultimately, she ends up with someone whom she didn't meet on a dating app. How has that online dating world affected you? Has it worked? Is it everything it was dreamed up to be: endless possibility? Or do you miss how dating was before the #apps?
- ◇ Rae's had some difficult heartaches to deal with, from her parents' marriage to the dissolution of her own. Everyone has some baggage, even if it doesn't quite look the same as hers. Do you feel like Rae tackled her issues believably? How do you process your own baggage, and stop it from messing with your future?
- ◇ Rae and her students talk about unconditional love, à la Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*. Do you think unconditional love truly exists? Do you think it's a good thing, to love unconditionally? Or should there always be at least some conditions, or boundaries, in love?
- ◇ Rae says in the beginning of *Mr. Right-Swipe* that a "good man is hard to find." What do you think? Is it difficult to find a good partner? Or is that just the cynicism of dating (especially in today's app-crazy age) getting the better of her?
- ◇ Rae talks about "rules" that she has for dating men: e.g. not a guy in a band, never a guy in a band. Do you have any rules you've set for finding a partner? Has that helped or hindered? Do you think people should have a checklist, or is that just setting a person up for failure/disappointment?
- ◇ For a beautiful, if brief, period, Rae seems to have finally found the guy in James. But then he ghosts her, disappearing completely without explanation. Has someone ever

done the same to you? Have you? Has either experience changed how you approach dating? Which camp are you in: that we should expect and accept “ghosting,” or that we should change it by making ourselves an example and always giving an explanation?

- ◇ Rae’s friendship with childhood pals Quinn and Val is deep, but complicated; where once they could talk about everything under the sun, they each admit to feeling distant, like there are boundaries in their relationship. Do you think that these boundaries are inevitable? How are your relationships with your longtime friends: can you talk to your friends about everything under the sun, or do you also have some unnamed, untouched topics?
- ◇ On a similar note, have you found that romantic relationships affect friendships? How so? Do you think that they create distances that can’t be bridged?
- ◇ At the end of the book, Rae mends her relationships with her close friends and gets the guy, all by facing her problems head-on. Did you find her character arc ultimately believable? Would you have taken the same steps she did? Or would you have turned to the next chapter of your life and started over? How do you handle conflict?
- ◇ And finally, if you could name a main takeaway from the novel, what would it be? Has it changed how you approach relationships or friendships?