

*PRISCA DORCAS MOJICA RODRÍGUEZ*

**FOR  
BROWN  
GIRLS**

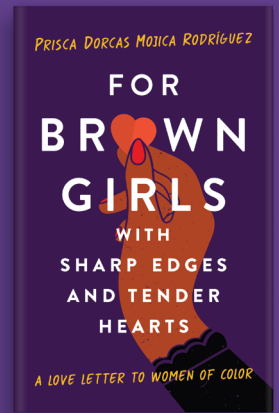
**WITH  
SHARP EDGES  
AND TENDER  
HEARTS**

*A LOVE LETTER TO WOMEN OF COLOR*

**THE  
READING  
GROUP GUIDE**



# READING GROUP GUIDE



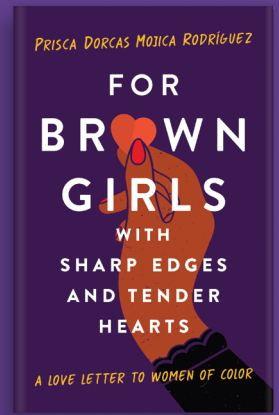
## CHAPTER 1: VOLUNTOURISM

- What is voluntourism? What did voluntourists expect from the Nicaraguans in exchange for life-giving goods?
- If you have ever visited a country that is not as wealthy as the United States, know that these countries do not end up poor without some help. How have the United States' interventions in other countries left them in ruin?

## CHAPTER 2: COLORISM

- “Mi mami tells me to get out of the sun. Mi mami tells me to put on sunblock.” Prisca explains how she was impacted by colorism from a young age. How does colorism affect Brown women differently than Brown men?
- What is horizontal violence and how is this violence normalized within BIPOC communities? How is horizontal violence normalized in your community?

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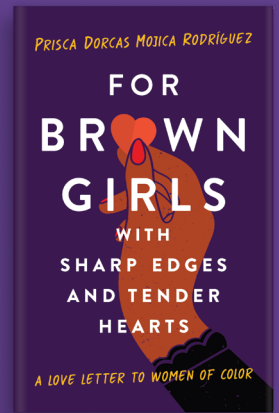
## CHAPTER 3: IMPOSTER SYNDROME

- How did Prisca cope with her growing imposter syndrome during graduate school at Vanderbilt? How did her body begin to show signs of feeling other to her peers? When have you experienced imposter syndrome?
- Even after learning how white supremacy promotes imposter syndrome, Prisca still feels its impact. How does she manage her imposter syndrome today?

## CHAPTER 4: MYTH OF MERITOCRACY

- After realizing the value AP students held at her high school compared to regular students, Prisca met with her guidance counselor to enroll in a full load of AP courses. What were some of the differences between how the school viewed the AP students and the regular students?
- Prisca thought working hard would pay off and was surprised to realize it didn't. When did you realize working hard wouldn't be enough? What were some of the privileges your peers have had access to that pushed them ahead?

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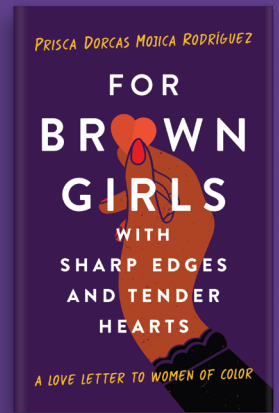
## CHAPTER 5: POLITICS OF RESPECTABILITY

- Black and Brown people need to play a game of respectability to succeed, to make white people comfortable. What are some examples of how Black and Brown people play the game?
- How did Prisca decolonize her perspective on Chongas? How does she reclaim and describe the Chonga identity now? What identities do you want to reclaim?

## CHAPTER 6: TOXIC MASCULINITY

- Prisca personifies toxic masculinity as the monster under her bed. What are some other examples she uses to describe it? How would you describe toxic masculinity?
- How does toxic masculinity impact how you view your parents and your relationship with them? How does it impact your view of yourself within your family dynamic?

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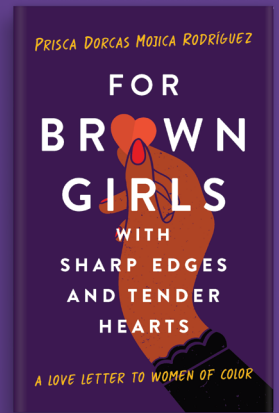
## CHAPTER 7: INTERSECTIONALITY

- Prisca shares a letter she wrote to her second husband when they were dating. Why was it important for her to address her intersecting identities and the power dynamics between her as a Brown woman and her white male partner? What intersecting identities are important for you to address?
- Prisca describes a time when she and other white students received an email from another white peer wanting to discuss how to deal with perceived aggressive behavior from a Black female professor. Why did the moment when she chose to tell her professor everything feel so impactful for Prisca?

## CHAPTER 8: THE MALE GAZE

- How did purity culture impact how Prisca and her siblings were raised? How did purity culture impact how you were raised?
- After her divorce, Prisca felt ashamed, devastated, and scared. She had annihilated all semblance of respectability according to her religious upbringing. How did she divest from the male gaze and find sexual liberation?

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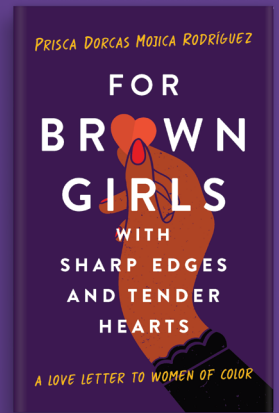
## CHAPTER 9: WHITE FRAGILITY

- When was Prisca expected to be the bigger person after experiencing racism or ignorance to maintain the comfort of White people around her? When have you been expected to be the bigger person?
- Why do many BIPOC begin to doubt experiences they've had with white people? What can BIPOC do to remind themselves that their experiences are real?

## CHAPTER 10: DECOLONIALITY

- How did Prisca's relationship with her mother evolve after she began to understand decoloniality?
- How is legitimacy granted by proximity to whiteness? What are some examples of legitimacy granted through proximity to whiteness?

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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What was your favorite chapter?
- What was the hardest chapter to read? Why?
- What generational wounds have you noticed etched into you?
- Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez. Why did she start going by Prisca instead of Priscila? Why does she want you to struggle with her name?