

# Fools Rush In

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PLOT

Two relative strangers try to turn a one night stand into a marriage in this romantic comedy. Alex Whitman is a successful designer from New York City who is sent to Las Vegas to supervise the construction of a nightclub that his firm has been hired to build. Alex is a straight-laced type who, while enjoying a night on the town, meets Isabel Fuentes, a free-spirited Mexican-American photographer. Alex and Isabel are overtaken by lust at first sight and end up spending the night together; They spend one night together, and practice safe sex, but clearly not safe enough. When they do meet again, it's because Isabel has some news for Alex: she's pregnant with his child. That's when things get interesting. Alex and Isabel decide that they should do the right thing and quickly get married with an Elvis impersonator serving as witness.

After Isabel meets Alex's mom, and Alex is confronted by Isabel's father, both start to wonder if "doing the right thing" was just that, especially as Alex tries to balance his career in New York with Isabel's desire to continue working in Nevada. A clash of customs and ideas develops in their families and in their relationship because of their different cultural and national backgrounds.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Time	Theme	Discussion Questions
9:50	Culture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the different challenges in an intercultural marriage (relationship)?</li><li>2. Should people of different cultures marry or date?</li><li>3. Different faith marriages (relationship)</li></ol>
13:48	Family Pressure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Both of the families are pressuring Isabel and Alex to marry family friends (of the same culture). What problems does this pressure present?</li><li>2. What role should extended families play in setting up marriages?</li></ol>
23:40	Family Traditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How can family traditions affect relationships?</li><li>2. Are family traditions both old and new important?</li><li>3. What are ways to maintain family traditions while establishing new ones?</li></ol>
35:54	Love vs Infatuation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Alex says "You're the One!" Is there "the one"? If you miss the "one" is there a second?</li><li>2. Is love chemical and mystical? Or is it volitional (act of will)?</li></ol>



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*“What if finding the love of your life meant changing the life that you loved?”*

Time	Theme	Discussion Questions
39:00	Dating	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is dating “stupid”?</li><li>2. What does it mean today “to date”?</li><li>3. What are the purposes of dating?</li></ol>
39:00	Short Courtship/ No Courtship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How long should two people date before getting married?</li><li>2. What are the pros/cons of long-term dating/engagement?</li><li>3. What are the issues related to “hooking up”?</li></ol>
40:50	In Laws	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Isabel's dad confronts Alex. Is the practice of asking the father for permission to marry still relevant today?</li></ol>
49:58	Family Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Isabel's mom gives her some advice. “Marriage is about finding a middle ground... You have to pick your battles.” What does she mean by this advice?</li><li>2. Should you talk to your mom/dad about problems with your spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend?</li></ol>
55:50	First Impressions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Alex's parents show up and have a lot of stereotypes of Isabel. How should have Alex handled this situation?</li><li>2. Can a dating relationship/marriage be based on a lie?</li></ol>
60:30	Cultural Differences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. When the two families are together, they discuss Alex and Isabel's marriage. The fathers states “It is hard enough to make marriage work without adding to it.” Comment on this scene.</li></ol>
66:00	Divorce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is divorce really an easy option?</li></ol>
70:40	Compromise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What role does compromise have in a dating relationship? In Marriage?</li><li>2. What is the meaning of the squirrel/Canyon illustration?</li></ol>
79:45	Meaning of Love	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is family?</li><li>2. Isabel states, “Love is a gift not an obligation.” Comment on this quote.</li></ol>

### **Other Questions:**

1. Throughout the movie, list the differences in each families culture.
2. Of these differences, which issues would be the hardest to reconcile? The easiest?
3. Are there any similarities among the families?
4. If there had not been a pregnancy, is it likely that Alex and Isabel would have even dated? Gotten married?
5. How important is it for a child to be raised by two parents?
6. Does this marriage stand a chance in the end? What could the couple do to help its chance?



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