



Jessica Jones Season One Discussion Guide

1. Jessica is unable to consent to the sexual contact she has with Kilgrave because she is not of sound mind. Do you know anyone who has been the victim of date or marital rape? (Please, do not reveal names or identifying details about this incident if this is not a personal experience.) What actions, if any, did the victim take after the incident(s)? Is there anything you think they could have done differently?
2. How would you define consent to another person? Is this a definition you would be able to articulate clearly to a potential partner?
3. In Season One, Kilgrave makes it very obvious he is stalking Jessica, but it is not always so clear. What do you think are some of the warning signs you or someone you know is being stalked? What do you think is the best way to approach a situation where attention is becoming threatening or uncomfortable?
4. One of the often repeated commands from Kilgrave to Jessica is to “smile.” Have you ever been told to smile by another person? What was the first thing you thought to say or do afterwards?
5. Jessica has a moment when she contemplates whether to team up with Kilgrave to stop him from using his powers for evil. Have you seen any real life examples where women were charged with the responsibility of their attacker’s actions?
6. It appears that Jessica’s first sexual interaction after Kilgrave was with Luke Cage. Can you think of other instances where movies, TV, or comics where a sexual trauma survivor’s first encounter after their experience has been handled? What was different about that story line versus Jessica’s?
7. Jessica uses whiskey to self medicate as she deals with PTSD. Do you think that drug and alcohol abuse amongst trauma survivors is well addressed within your community? Are there resources accessible to people regardless of income and background? What can be done to improve this situation?
8. Victims of domestic violence often report that they feel trapped by their partner and we hear so often about these situations ending in homicides. Why do you think this topic is so taboo and how does that make preventing escalation difficult, even when faced with death threats? What can we do to improve the crisis management and support systems in our communities to better serve the people who find themselves trapped in an abusive situation?