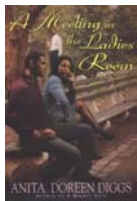


**Shades Of Reading:** Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

**Anita Diggs:** I'm a divorced woman who lives in Harlem. I have one daughter and enjoy r&b music and the theater. I am a former Senior Editor for Random House and also worked as an Editor for Warner Books. My first novel, A MIGHTY LOVE, was published by Kensington Books in March 2004.

**SORMAG:** Tell us about your current book?



**DIGGS:** A MEETING IN THE LADIES ROOM is about a book editor, Jacqueline Blue, who is romantically obsessed with a guy named Victor Bell who wants no part of her. Just as she is starting to come to terms with that sad fact, she is accused of killing her boss.

**SORMAG:** What is your favorite scene from your book?

**DIGGS:** I actually have two favorite scenes. The first occurs when Jackie gets a chance to have a one night stand with Victor. She feels that, although he will never become her man, if she could just have red hot sex with him one time, it will be a memory for her to hold on to forever. The second scene is in the courtroom when Jackie's lawyer is cross examining a white book editor. It gives the reader a real good look at some of the insulting book ideas that black book editors are confronted with on a daily basis.

**SORMAG:** What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

**DIGGS:** I would like every single woman who is currently chasing an unavailable man to simply STOP.

**SORMAG:** What type of publicity did you do for your book?

**DIGGS:** I plan to do a lot of speaking

engagements and public readings.

**SORMAG:** How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

**DIGGS:** A MEETING IN THE LADIES ROOM is the first novel ever published in the United States with black people working in book publishing as its focus. I had a responsibility so I just kept plugging away.

**SORMAG:** What made you decide to write mainstream fiction?

**DIGGS:** I didn't make a conscious decision to write a particular type of fiction. The story dictated the category and that is as it should be.

**SORMAG:** What was the best writing advice you received?

**DIGGS:** Tell the truth.

**SORMAG:** What books, newsletters, or articles helpful to you?

**DIGGS:** How To Write a Damned Good Novel by James Frey is the best book I can think of for writers trying to write commercial fiction. I read it constantly.

**SORMAG:** Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

**DIGGS:** poetsandwriters.com is good and I like keeping up with new works by African Americans on aalbc.com

**SORMAG:** Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

**DIGGS:** The day you start writing for the market as opposed to what is in your heart, the party is over. You cannot become a successful novelist by trying to follow the crowd.

**SORMAG:** How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

**DIGGS:** My email address is Glamourwins@aol.com

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

**SAPPHIRES AND OTHER PRECIOUS JEWELS**  
**Discover And Celebrate The Beauty Of Women Of African Descent**

**Terri McFaddin**

**Publisher: Water brook Press**

**ISBN#: 1-57856-599-5**

**Month Published: January 2004**

**Rating: 5 Stars - SUPREME**

**Reviewed by: Camellia M. Johnson**

What an awesome analogy! *"Sapphires And Other Precious Jewels"* gives extensive history about gemstones and amazingly ties it to African American woman characteristics. Not only is this a history lesson on gemstones but also McFaddin gives the reader some background knowledge of the biblical priest garment called the "ephod." The ephod has breastplate of 12 stones. Each stone has a meaning and its characteristics relate to women of color. I was fascinated with the analogy of the making of the gemstones and how the process relates so much to life.

McFaddin brings out how the making, cutting and polishing of gemstones apply to the same pressures of women of African ancestry. She gives her ideas of how to find God's plan for your life and how to identify your God given gift. She gives insight into a Black women's character such as: strength, weakness, self-esteem, confidence, anointing and talent. With these facets in mind she explores all 12 stones on the breastplate of the Priest's garment. The comparisons show just how much God loves us and the special time and consideration he took to hand craft each of us.

This book gives the reader a visual picture of just how much God loves us. The book will encourage and lift your self-esteem to know we are God's jewels. Though the book is written about African American women, I think God feels this way about ALL his children because he is no respecter of persons. I think this book will benefit every women of all colors because of the compassions of God it shows about his children.

**Fool In Love**

**Steven Ivory**

**Publisher: Simon & Schuster**

**ISBN: 0743252179**

**Published: December 2003**

**Mainstream**

**Rating: 4 Stars - EXCELLENT**

**Reviewed by: Eugenia Renskoff**

Fool In Love is a book made up of stories about life in the dating world as experienced by a young man. The book is divided into three sections: Part One: The Laws of love, Part Two: For Better or For Worse: The Blueprint and Part Three: In The Beginning: There was Awkward.

One of my favorite anecdotes is in Part One. It's called Off By A Table and it's quite amusing. The author and a friend are taken with two women at another restaurant table, but alas, it's not meant to be. I laughed when I read this story. Another good one is called Submissively Yours, also found in Part One.

The stories tell it like it is out there in the dating world. They're true to life, but funny and sometimes touching.

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**Rating For Books: (1-5 STAR SYSTEM)**

**1 Star — POOR**

**1 + Star — FAIR**

**2 Stars — OK**

**2+ Stars — GOOD**

**3 Stars — VERY GOOD**

**3+ Stars — GREAT**

**4 Stars — EXCELLENT**

**4+ Stars — EXCEPTIONAL**

**5 — Stars -SUPREME**

**A Woman's Worth****Tracey Price-Thompson****Publisher: Random House Publishing Group****ISBN: 0375506500****Published: March 30, 2004****Mainstream****Rating: 4 Stars-EXCELLENT****Reviewed by: Helen Banks**

The reader is quickly introduced to Bishop Johnson growing up in his parent's home, which is a house of prostitution. Slim William's home is the whorehouse and even Bishop, at a young age, knew what the young women that frequented the house were selling. Bishop's life changed when his parents died and he was shipped off to live with his grandparents. As a teenager Bishop got into trouble with the law and was sent to work in the Peace Corps until things "quieted down" in Alabama. Over the years Bishop matured and his grandmother died while his grandfather aged.

Bishop went to Kenya to help build an irrigation site and while there met and married Abeni, a member of the Kinaksu tribe. The Kinaksu practiced female circumcision and Abeni's mother found a surgeon that reversed the prior surgery, but Abeni always lived with an emotional and physical scar. Abeni and Bishop had a daughter named Hunnie.

Will Hunnie be subjected to the same practice of female circumcision as prior generations of Kinaksu women were?

As a reader I found myself reflecting on the parallels of prostitution and female circumcision. What is a woman's worth when prostitution and female circumcision are juxtaposed?

Read this intriguing story of romance, suspense and mystery to see the characters develop, evolve and triumph over life's adversities.

**Crave****Darnella Ford****Publisher: St. Martin Press****ISBN: 0312304072****Published: March 2004****Mainstream****Rating: 3+ Stars - GREAT****Reviewed by: Eugenia Renskoff**

Crave by Darnella Ford is a sassy, well-written novel about a young woman's life. It starts with her childhood and shows how traumatic events (the death of her father being one of them) shaped her life and later choices.

I like the heroine of Crave and the way she uses the first person narration technique because it creates immediacy. Eddie Matsen is a man who could change her life. Recommended.

**A Life To Remember****Azarel****Publisher: Life Changing Books****Published: August 2003****ISBN: 0974139408****Mainstream Fiction****Rating: 3+ Stars - GREAT****Reviewed by Kashamba Williams**

As slick and wayward, Divine Jones thinks he is, his current situation inevitably conquers what little power he held within. His love interest, family members and close friends are put to a test of love and commitment when he lands himself behind bars. Divine struggles daily with the challenges of living in prison, coping with the mistakes he made while in the corporate world. His success, while making a legitimate living on the outside, was grande. However, when greed slipped in, he made a costly mistake that led him to a State Penitentiary. Prison life for Mr. Divine Jones is surely a life to remember!

Though the ultimate plot was well-thought out, the outcome was somewhat predictable.

- Much success to this 1st time Author.

**Bodyguard****Andrea Jackson****Publisher: Genesis Press Inc.****ISBN 1-58571-106-3****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 1.5 Stars - FAIR****Reviewed by: Renee Motley**

Dominique Brandon, a successful image consultant, is being violently stalked. After a few terrorizing events, her brother wants to hire a bodyguard.

Bodyguard, Harris Knight, isn't sure about taking the case until he looks at the events happening around her. He is convinced that it is someone close to her who wants to harm her. She is devoted to her dependent family and refuses to believe they would harm her. They are from different worlds, but have to come together to find the stalker. Her world is one Harris would prefer not to be in. Both have a few skeletons in their closets and would prefer to keep it that way; yet they learn to deal with the skeletons of the past and grow closer together.

Ms. Jackson's is an excellent writer and has a lot of potential. Her characters were interesting and well developed and I found this to be the strongest point in the story. I was disappointed with the correlation of this story to the movie, "The Bodyguard." Unfortunately, for this reviewer I saw the movie while reading this novel and saw numerous parallels between the two. I would have preferred more diversions from the movie. It could have been a good read, but I couldn't get the Whitney Houston tune and the movie out of my head while reading this story. If you saw the movie, you've read the book.

**A Dangerous Obsession****J. M. Jeffries****Publisher: Genesis Press, Inc.****ISBN: 1-58571-109-8****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 4+ - EXCEPTIONAL****Reviewed by: Renee Motley**

Lily Alexander's nightmare begins when she is snatched by a killer, yet manages to escape. Phoenix police officer Marco Jackson's nightmare begins when he arrives to investigate the death of Lily's parents and falls in love. Only one problem, he was never going to give his heart to anyone.

Many years later, Lily is still fighting the terror of the stalker and everyone close to her has been a victim of the stalker. Marco, riding in on a Harley to save the day, does everything in his power to protect her. Lily has Marco rethinking his rule to avoid relationships. After being forced together by the stalker, their platonic relationship turns into passionate one. As the stalker continues to move closer, Marco has to protect his woman. When confronted, Lily has what she needs to defeat the stalker, Marco's affection.

A Dangerous Obsession is the third in a series of "Obsession" novels and is as good as the first two. This novel is a fast paced one, entertaining and a very well written romantic suspense novel with a few graphic scenes. If you are squeamish, skip those scenes but continue reading. A Dangerous Obsession is one the bright spots in the romance genre right now. Unplug the phone, grab your favorite beverage and settle in for a good read. You won't be disappointed.

**SORMAG WELCOMES NEW WRITERS  
SEND REVIEW COPIES TO SORMAG  
LET US INTRODUCE YOUR WRITING  
TO OUR READERS**

**JUST AN AFFAIR****Eugenia O' Neal****Publisher: Genesis Press****ISBN# 1-58571-111-X****Published: December 2003****Rating: 3 Stars - VERY GOOD****Reviewer: Renee Motley**

Caryl Cassavette has recently relocated to the Virgin Islands after an affair with a married partner, Alexander Thorne, is made public. She chooses to restart her life on the island of Tortola. Caryl uses her mother's maiden name and makes a vow of celibacy for at least a year. Her life takes an expected turn when she meets handsome and successful Joshua Tain, CEO of Tain Music. Joshua is on vacation for a much needed break from the manipulative dealings of a corporate raider, Caryl's father, trying to take his company.

As she takes him on a personal tour of the Islands, they become infatuated with each other, making her vow of celibacy hard to continue. Although, Joshua's vacation is about to end, both he and Caryl are secretly hoping their liaison was much more than just a fling. Then the unthinkable happened, a diving accident, and Caryl are left without a memory of her past, including her time with Joshua. Even though she can't remember the past, Alexander does and he has plans for her. He has divorced his wife and wants her back.

Eugenia O' Neal has created an interesting cast of well-developed characters, each contributing a unique twist to the story. The intertwining of the characters gave clarity to the plot. Although there are some unbelievable plots, it is an enjoyable read. I was cheering for Caryl and Joshua from the start. If this is Ms. O' Neal's first novel, it's a great start to a promising career.

**A Meeting in the Ladies Room****Anita Doreen Diggs****Publisher: Dafina Books****ISBN: 0-7582-0234-2****Published: March 2004****Mainstream****Rating: 4+ Stars - EXCEPTIONAL****Reviewed by: Shelia M. Goss**

Anita Doreen Diggs is back with her suspenseful new novel, *A MEETING IN THE LADIES ROOM*. She introduces us to the lively Jacqueline Blue.

Jacqueline, also known as Jackie, is one of a few successful African-Americans in the publishing industry. Due to her expertise as an editor, her boss, uses her services for a private venture.

Jackie's world turns upside down after her boss is murdered. Because Jackie is one of the last person to see her boss alive, she becomes a suspect. Although the evidence is circumstantial, the story is intriguing as Jackie sets out to prove her innocence beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Throughout all of the turmoil, Jackie battles with finding love.

Diggs introduces other unforgettable characters, such as Victor Bell, Paul Dodson, Keith and Tiffany to name a few. Each character's role pushes the story line along.

*A MEETING IN THE LADIES ROOM* is a suspenseful novel with a touch of romance. Ms. Diggs style of writing will keep you up reading well into the night.

**BESIDE EVERY GOOD MAN****Loving Myself While Standing By Him****Author: Serita Ann Jakes****Publisher: Warner Faith****ISBN: 0-446-53130-8****Month Published: November 2003****Christian Non-Fiction****Rating: 4 Stars -EXCELLENT****Reviewed by: Camellia M. Johnson**

Have you ever one of those at the knee of your favorite grandmother's stories of life? If you haven't, Serita Jakes takes you on a fireplace chat of life. She pulls from her own experiences but much from the bible. She ties life examples to the word of God that gives a reader the revelation knowledge needed to walk out this life here on earth. She shares her pearls of tragedy and triumphs with us and tenderly coaches you to victory throughout the book. Serita claims to not be a professional counselor but she writes like a coach of life. Just like a grandmother or mother of a church, she prays with the reader after each chapter.

In "Beside Every Good Man", the author touches on all stages of life with women and men. Whether single, married, widowed or separated. For singles she advised how to conduct yourself and be content until your divine husband crosses your path of life. She touches on single women waiting for their mate without despair and the stage of single to married. All too often we go about business and neglect to take care of ourselves. For the married couples, she tells you how to stay married and still be in love with all the life stage changes. The goes in detail about the balance of the husband and wife with their duties to make the marriage covenant work. The "Me-Time" section of the book is helpful not only to singles but everyone. "Seeing Yourself Through New Eyes" is a section that really touches the hardships of life. If you have ever been through anything you will benefit from this section. Serita gives part of her personal testimony, where the doctors told her she would never walk again. She tells of the pain, shame and low self-esteem and the wonderful support of her husband that gave her strength to walk again.

I consider this book to be likening to an instruction manual of encouragement and help because it tells about some history, present and future hope. Serita encourages and challenges her readers to keep going and know that God is for you.

**The Edge of Midnight****Beverly Jenkins****Publisher: Harper Torch****ISBN: 0-06-054066-4****Month Published: February, 2004****Romantic Suspense****Rating: 4+ EXCEPTIONAL****Reviewed by: Connie Quarles**

The Edge of Midnight is about two people who care about their community and choose unique ways to make a difference. Circumstances put them at odds from the start but will love surface through danger, intrigue and mistrust? At first I was a little disappointed that this was not one of Ms. Jenkins normal historical romances which always offers us a glimpse of history along with romance. But as the story unfolds we see glimpse of the past in the background of the two main characters.

Sarita will do anything to save the people of her community and the majority of the people love and respect her. However when she feels her back is against the wall, she is know to do the unorthodox. This time Miss Grayson might have when too fall.

Mykal Chandler is a respected businessman whose past hovered on the edge of danger. Now that his brother is in the spotlight he feels he needs a wife as a decoy. But is the woman his brother chooses for him the right choice? Can this diamond in the rough become polished?

Old scores and secret missions cause bullets to fly but will danger outweigh love. In this game can the good guys really win? And who is the good guys, who should you trust?

If you really are a Jenkins fan, some things will become familiar and you might find some favorite characters in the shadows

**A Whole Lotta Love****Author:** Hill, Jackson, Jackson, and Ray**Publisher:** Signet**ISBN:** 0-451-21090-5**Month Published:** January, 2004**Contemporary Romance****Rating:** 3+ GREAT**Reviewed by:** Connie Quarles

Hurrah for the plus size woman of color. Thank you ladies for making them sexy, intelligent and someone to love. Being a plus size woman of color myself, I truly enjoy these four short stories. All four authors are excellent storytellers in their own right. I am not sure which story was my favorite.

Donna Hill's *Over the Rainbow* reminds us that we can't get complacent and love can be right in front of us but we are just too afraid to grasp it.

Brenda Jackson's *Tempting Fate* has a commitment shy lady come face to face with her fears and hang-ups in order to reach out for true love.

Monica Jackson's *When Wishes Come True* reminds us to be careful what we wish for. And when analyzing those wishes don't overlook the obvious.

Francis Ray's *The Wright Woman* reminds us not to judge a book by its cover. All women are not gold diggers and just because a man likes to be a hands-on boss does not make him part of the hired help.

The underlying theme is everyone deserves a second chance at love and true love is blind to sizes. Don't forget your friends and family. They stand beside you and stick up for you. Pick it up and celebrate the voluptuous women out there!

**Unforgettable****Bette Ford****Publisher:** Harper Torch Publishing**ISBN:** 0-06-053307-2**Month Published:** November 2003**Contemporary Romance****Rating:** 4+ Stars - EXCEPTIONAL**Reviewed by:** Renee Motley

Bette Ford is Back!

Anna Prescott, is a successful caterer who has members of the Detroit Lions as clients, thanks to family friend Gavin Mathis. Gavin, a member of the Lions, is best friends with her brother Wesley, who knows his womanizing ways. He has been like family for years - until now. When Anna decides to make an appearance change, Gavin notices and likes the changes. He no longer sees her as a little sister, but as a glamorous young woman who he wants to know better.

Due to his father's history, Gavin is unsure about marriage and is terribly afraid that he will be a deadbeat like him. True to his nature, his father shows up with his 14-year-old brother Kyle, who he leaves in the middle of the night. Gavin is left with the responsibility of taking care of Kyle. He asks Anna for her help and she is more than happy to. Their commitment to assist each other takes on another level and they fall in love with each other, in spite of her possessive father, brothers and cousin and fear of family reprisal. Once their commitment starts to strengthen, problems abound. Yet they overcome all obstacles with their faith and love in one another. There is not a wasted moment in this story. Every aspect of the story is well developed and you are drawn into the story from the first chapter.

The secondary characters are a delightful mixture of friends and family that give depth to the story. The hero and heroines' character development is the best that I have read in a while. They are funny, smart, independent, strong sense of family and very passionate. I am looking forward to more of the Prescott family. *Unforgettable* is Bette Ford at her best. The author has given back to us the pleasure that we got from her earlier novels. Forget those novels of the past years and know that Bette is back and I am glad that she is.

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**One Day At A Time****Bella McFarland****Publisher: Genesis Press- Indigo ~ Sensuous Love Stories****ISBN: 1-58571-099-7****Month: March 2003****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 4+ - EXCEPTIONAL****Reviewed by: Shaun Williams**

Jerry Taylor is a sexy, strong and driven man. After a failed marriage and a horrible accident that ends his promising baseball career, Jerry wants to create a place to enjoy the simple things life has to offer. He purchases a piece of land in Montana to begin his horse-breeding business. When he first meets beautiful and intelligent Ms. Mcgee he is furious with his family for sending her. He has issued their help in finding him an assistant but not a female. He portrays an antagonistic attitude regarding Angela's presence on his ranch while desperately trying to deny the overwhelming attraction he has toward her.

Angela Mcgee is attractive, independent and feisty. Angela tries to convince herself that her feelings are the exact opposite of Jerry's. She is instantly attracted to him of course, but she also remembers her reason for being at his ranch. Angela is looking for answers while exacting a plan of revenge for her sister Savannah, her brother-in-law and her beloved nephews present condition. Her initial feelings toward him are unjustified since she knows nothing about him except for what she has read. Spending unlimited amounts of time with him she realizes he is a caring man with a heart that encompasses everyone he touches.

They no longer deny themselves the chance at a relationship but there is always something that threatens it. You have Jerry's overprotective mother, brother and an unhappy friend who wishes she were much more, and then there is the secret that Angela hasn't told him.

ODAT gives you a virile and gallant hero, with an equally strong and resolute heroine. One Day at a Time is pure romance at its very best with a hint of intrigue, thrown in with a dash of drama. . Ms. McFarland's brand of romance will leave you breathless, and turning the pages to see what will happen next.

**In My Bedroom****Donna Hill****St. Martin's Press****ISBN: 0312281935****Published: January 23, 2004****Rating: 3.5 stars – VERY GOOD****Mainstream Fiction****Reviewer: Flashette Shirer**

The taboo subjects of incest, rape and mental illness are tackled in Hill's latest contribution to mainstream fiction. From the outside looking in, Rayne Holland has the perfect life: a loving husband, a beautiful daughter and a fantastic career. But one night of tragedy changes her life forever. Rayne's best friend, Gayle has always been envious of Rayne. Will she be able to put aside her own guilty feelings and care for Rayne in her time of need? Another central character is Rayne's psychiatrist Pauline. She too is battling the demons from her past. By working with Rayne, she realizes that she must face her fears or be forever haunted.

Ms. Hill skillfully weaves a story that captures the reader. I found myself becoming emotionally attached to the three women. The plot frequently shifts between past/present events and internal/external thoughts, which created some confusion in following the storyline. Ultimately, Hill's novel is about healing the wounds of the past and I think she does reach this resolution with the characters.

**A Gambit for Love****Sean Miller****Publisher: JST PUBLISHING****Web Site: <http://www.agambitforlove.com/index.html>****Published: January 2004****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 3 Stars – VERY GOOD****Reviewed by: Shelia M. Goss**

A Gambit for Love is Sean Miller's debut novel. The story is about the lives of Steve Milton and a host of Steve's friends and love interests, Lisa and Monica.

The story starts off when Steve and his friends are in high school. The reader is introduced to Lisa and Monica during this time as well. Steve is a confused young man and refuses to make a decision concerning who he wants to be with. As the story progresses, Steve's love triangle doesn't change much after reaching adulthood.

Lisa loves Steve, but she doesn't allow their love to blossom. Monica is unknowingly a thorn in Lisa's side. Monica manipulates her way into Lisa and Steve's life. Steve is like a pawn in Monica's game of love. You'll have to read the book to find out who actually wins this game.

It's hard to categorize A Gambit for Love. It's romance with a "street fiction" vibe. If you like Winston Chapman or Nikki Turner, I would suggest giving Sean Miller's debut novel a try.

**A Love of Their Own****Kim Louise****Publisher: BET Books****ISBN: 1-58314-412-9****Month Published: February 2004****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 3+ Stars - GREAT****Reviewed by: Connie Quarles**

What happens when you promise your best friend that you will take care of her children and raise them like your own? A death bed promise that some of the readers might have promised their own friend or relative. A challenge but because of your love for your friend and their children you are committed to fulfill that promise, making the sacrifices that are necessary. What if the children are triplets and the promise comes with a grieving husband? 22 year old Amara Fairchild places her own dreams and fantasies aside to keep the promise to her friend and mentor.

Ross Hayward loved his wife and children. But can he fulfill his promise to his wife and marry the young lady who has become like a member of the family when all he really wants to do is die with his wife?

After much resistance he finds himself attractive to the young beauty. Will he take advantage of his marriage vows to fulfill his lust? Truly he can not possible have real feelings for her when he still loves and misses his wife?

Amara is a good mother and devoted wife until the unthinkable happens and she loses one of the triplets. Will this tragedy rip the family apart and cause Ross to send her packing or will it band them together? You will have to buy the book to find out.

**ONLINE WRITER'S CONFERENCE****Did you miss it?****Check it out: [sormag.com/conference.html](http://sormag.com/conference.html)**

**All I Need To Get By****Sophonra Scott****St. Martin's Griffin****ISBN: 0-312-31856-1****Month Published: March 2004****Mainstream Fiction****Rating 3 Stars-VERY GOOD****Reviewed by: Helen Banks**

Crystal Carter lives in Manhattan as a successful accountant. A frantic call from her Mother brings ominous news of her Father's health. Crystal hastily packed the car and drove home to Lorrain Ohio. On the way to Ohio, Crystal picked up her married sister Ella.

In Ohio, all the family circles their father Henry as he dances with impending death. While coming to grips with their father's demise, each sibling deals with life's issues in a different way. Linc, the eldest and only brother is a drug addict on a tumultuous destructive path. Ella, the third eldest is blasé toward Linc and the rest of the family. After all, Ella escaped the family by marrying outside the race and moving to Virginia. Hazel the youngest sister is away in college and despises Linc's behavior. Crystal lives in Manhattan, but has never really left home mentally.

The reader of this fiction novel is swept away by Ms. Scott's vivid imagery of the characters and their emotions in dealing with a family crisis. Ms. Scott's novel is a story about one family member's struggle with drug addiction and the effects that it can have on a family.

**Come Back To Me****Marcia King-Gamble****Publisher: BET Books****ISBN: 1-58314-400-5****Month Published: February 2004****Contemporary Romance****Rating: 3 Stars - VERY GOOD****Reviewed by: Connie Quarles**

A story about a missing child is gut retching especially for people who are parents reading the story. Kristie's world revolves around her little boy, Curtis. Then her ex takes him and her world is turned upside down. Her friend gets her to go to an attorney with a reputation for finding missing children. I was a little disappointed in her lack of action at first but the author makes up for it in the end.

Earl is the deadbeat dad you just want to kick. Abusive, substance abuse user and an all around jerk. But will Kristie's soft heart show compassion for the jerk who has turned her world upside down?

Zan's past was not that easy and missing children are his weak spot. Always a professional until he meets fragile Kristie Phillips who is truly needy. His life has no room for instant families but tell that to his heart. What is puzzling to me is how his reputation for helping to find missing children is not known to the police.

Curtis is sweet and resourceful. You just want to hug him and help him find his way back home.

The book is a good read and you begin to understand Kristie's attitude toward the end.

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