

[PDF] Shades Of Jade: A Novel (Strivers Row)

Gloria Mallette - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Shades of Jade: A Novel (Stri

Author: Gloria Mallette

Released: 2001-06-19

Language:

Pages: 272

ISBN: 0375757430

ISBN13: 978-0375757433

ASIN: 0375757430



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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Marissa is a woman firmly in command of her life in this uneven African-American romance: smart, ambitious and beautiful, she's a successful businesswoman. Why subject herself to the daily maintenance of a long-term relationship when married men wine and dine her, provide physical pleasure and give her the attention she needs with no strings attached? She's dating four of them concurrently, in fact and her friends have always told her that sooner or later she would run into trouble with someone's wife. When she starts receiving threatening phone calls, it seems that someone is indeed out to make her pay. Meanwhile, Marissa quarrels with her soon-to-be-wed best friend, Charmaine, who meddles by trying to set her up with a handsome but unsophisticated contractor named Levi; he finds himself attracted to Marissa despite her headstrong and dismissive manner. Marissa's gay friend Brandon (a cartoonish "hey girl" stereotype who first appears in a "colorful, lavishly embroidered caftan") provides some solace, but is unable to protect

her as the threats escalate to violence. Who wants Marissa dead? She begins to examine the choices she has made, but is it too late? The writing is woefully amateurish as demonstrated by nonstop, inane dialogue and embarrassing armchair psychology ("Interestingly, [Brandon] said he never wanted to be a woman... "). The will-they/won't-they dynamic between Marissa and Levi is obvious from the start, but brisk pacing at least helps to keep this thriller on track to its creepy surprise ending. Agent, Claudia Menza. (June 26)Forecast: Mallette (When We Practice to Deceive) built a grassroots following by previously self-publishing this title. Villard's new African-American imprint, Strivers Row, will bring it to a somewhat wider audience with a seven-city author tour.

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From Marissa, an attractive, single woman, believes that the safest relationships are with married men. She has fooled herself into believing that she can have the perks of a relationship--dates and intimacy--without the pain of domestic chores and the hard work required to maintain a monogamous relationship. She has chosen these relationships for so long that she does not see how compromised she has become. Marissa is involved with four men at the same time. These relationships have given Marissa a false sense of love and intimacy. When it becomes apparent that the wife of one of the men wants her dead, she begins to examine her romantic choices. It isn't until she shares the death threats with the men in her life that she learns about their true feelings toward her and their wives. It is through some bizarre events that she acknowledges her worth and the need to have a man of her own. The story has a surprise ending that adds real spice to the already engaging plot. *Lillian Lewis*

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