



Waiting To Exhale

By Terry McMillan

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Waiting To Exhale By Terry McMillan

Waiting to Exhale is a masterful novel from a writer who has developed a special bond with her audience. Set in Phoenix, Arizona, it's a wise, funny, and resonant story about the friendship between four very different women who have one thing in common: they have not fared well with the men in their lives. Savannah Jackson is 35, single, and weary of men who can't make the transition from boyfriend to husband. Bernadine Harris is suddenly single—her husband has left her for a 24-year-old white woman. Marilyn Stokes is on the rebound, regretting the years she wasted on a dead-end relationship and mourning her recent miscarriage. And Gloria Matthews, a single mother whose 16-year-old son has just discovered sex, has spent most of her adult life driving men away with her none-too-subtle hunger for marriage.

Told from each of these characters' diverse points of view, *Waiting to Exhale* is about their desire to find good men, exciting men; men who could help them lose the strange feeling that they've been holding their breath for as long as they can remember; men who could make them exhale. But it's also about a different kind of bonding between black women—a rich, supportive, abiding friendship that doesn't necessarily include men.

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Waiting To Exhale By Terry McMillan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

McMillan's novel about friendship between four black, thirtysomething Phoenix women was a 29-week PW bestseller.

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From Library Journal

Like McMillan's previous novels, *Disappearing Acts* (LJ 7/89) and *Mama* (LJ 1/87), her new effort features a predictable plot, prose that often falls flat, and a narrative that lacks depth. Four African American women living in Phoenix devote most of their energies to searching for the one good black man who will make their dreams of the perfect partner and lover come true. Unsurprisingly, Savannah, Bernie, Gloria, and Robin all kiss several toads, but their trials and errors never arouse much interest. Far stronger is the author's sharp, often humorous depiction of the strong bonds among the four friends, their relationships with their families, and their community activities; readers will regret that McMillan did not develop these areas further.

Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 1/92.

- *Faye A. Chadwell, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Talk about timing! With relations between African-American men and women in the spotlight as never before, here comes McMillan's report from the front: her bawdy, vibrant, deliciously readable third novel (*Mama, Disappearing Acts*) is the story of four black women friends and their frequently disastrous encounters with black men. The four are in their mid-to-late 30s, middle-class women making good money, and they live in Phoenix. Savannah, who has everything she wants except a man, has just moved from Denver, partly to be close to best friend Bernadine, whose 11-year-old marriage has collapsed. Super-successful "buppie" (black yuppie) John has tricked Bernadine every which way, but his greatest betrayal is crossing the color line to snare a California blond; now Bernadine must raise their two kids alone. Her friends Robin and Gloria are not having any better luck: Robin is a backsliding bubblehead whose study of astrology has not cured her weakness for "pretty men with big dicks" who use and abuse her, while the only male in overweight, matronly Gloria's life is her teenage son Tarik, a source of both anxiety and pride. We watch these women in a swirl of motion: working, partying, dishing, dating, and consoling each other on their misfortunes with men. Their consensus is that "black men play too many games" and are terrified of making commitments, even if they're buppies ("riffraff comes in all kinds of packages"). Two points here: First, McMillan's novel is not indiscriminately bashing brothers--there are good men out there (both Bernadine and Gloria have fine prospects by the end), and women cannot escape all the blame (Savannah's inability to say the three magic words costs her dearly). Second, these women do not mope. The story's best scene has them falling-down drunk at Gloria's hilarious birthday party; indeed, they are as timeless as Molly Bloom or the Wife of Bath in their robust sensuality. A novel that hits so many exposed nerves is sure to be a conversation-piece: it has heart and pizzazz and even, yes, the sweet smell of the breakthrough book. --
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Crystal Scott:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they're still students or that for all people in the

world, what best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great along with important the book *Waiting To Exhale*. All type of book can you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Jason Carr:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Waiting To Exhale* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Carman Robertson:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book *Waiting To Exhale* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Blanche Ball:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update about something by book. Many kinds of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is actually *Waiting To Exhale*.

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