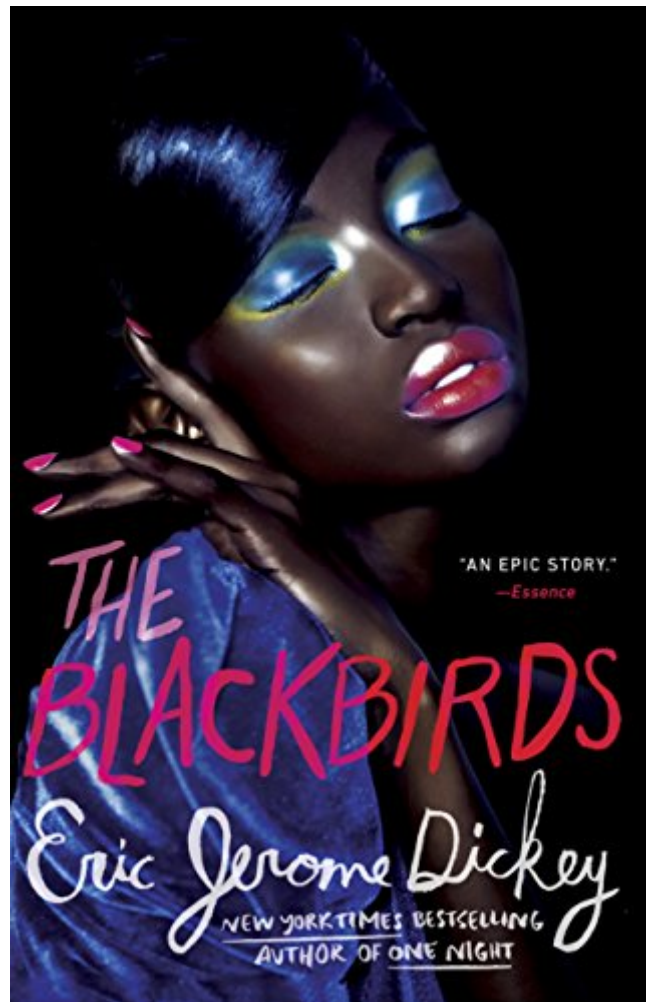


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The Blackbirds



Synopsis

New York Times's bestselling author Eric Jerome Dickey delivers his next delectable, erotic romance. They call themselves the Blackbirds. Kwanzaa Browne, Indigo Abdulrahman, Destiny Jones, and Ericka Stockwell are four best friends who are closer than sisters, and will go to the ends of the earth for one another. Yet even their deep bond can't heal all wounds from their individual pasts, as the collegiate and post-collegiate women struggle with their own demons, drama, and desires. Trying to forget her cheating ex-fiancé, Kwanzaa becomes entangled with a wicked one-night stand—a man who turns out to be one in five million. Indigo is in an endless on-again, off-again relationship with her footballer boyfriend, and in her time between dysfunctional relationships she pursues other naughty desires. Destiny, readjusting to normal life, struggles to control her own anger after avenging a deep wrong landed her in juvi, while at the same time trying to have her first real relationship—one she has initiated using an alias to hide her past from her lover. Divorced Ericka is in remission from cancer and trying to deal with two decades of animosity with her radical mother, while keeping the desperate crush she has always had on Destiny's father a secret... a passion with an older man that just may be reciprocated. As the women try to overcome—or give into—their impulses, they find not only themselves tested, but the one thing they always considered unbreakable: their friendship. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

First I must say, this book is most definitely one of Eric Jerome Dickey's greater works. The Blackbirds is over five-hundred pages of greatness. Although you certainly don't need to, I would suggest you read prior works of Eric Jerome Dickey's before reading Blackbirds. While we are introduced to new characters like Indigo, Nancy, Eddie, and Cristiano, we're also get reacquainted with old characters like Destiny and her father, Keith, from Chasing Destiny and Dr. Debra Dubois and Ericka Stockwell from Friends and Lovers. It was good to see Mrs. Jones, Destiny's mom, and Lola Mack (Sleeping With Strangers/Waking With Enemies) are still friends although we only read about them in passing. We also get to see old background characters like Kawanzaa Browne from Liar's Game, Hakeem Mitchell from Cheaters, and Leonard DuBois, Jr., whom Debra was pregnant with in Friends and Lovers. Whew, that was a lot to get out. After Reading The Blackbirds, I had to literally sit still for a moment and think. This book took me on a journey through love, loss, death, independence, friendship, and the discovery of self. The story itself was so profound that I don't feel I have the right words to explain it let alone enough words to do it justice, but here we go. Indigo Abdulrahman is a beautiful, yet complicated woman. She knows what she wants and who she wants. She's not afraid to go after it either. And I tell you what, if you think you're going to disrespect her by going after who she wants, you've got another thing coming or you'll at least end up at Vickie Secrets buying another set of thongs. Kawanzaa Browne is one of the women in The Blackbirds whom I identified with the most.

I have read everything EJD as we the reader call him, and I must say this was the most poignant work of his, for me. The book opens with Indigo, Destiny, Ericka and Kwanzaa four Afrocentric millennials who also live in the same building, about to jump out of a plane to celebrate Indigo's birthday. One of the things we learn about these four women as we read is that they love life and live for today. If that is all you get out of this story, then EJD did what he set out to do and more because this is a story about much more. Each woman is grappling with some issue be it a relationship, mother/daughter drama, family secrets that could tear the family apart when it comes out and more. EJD does an excellent job of painting the picture and showing the conflict. Indigo Abdulrahman is tall, beautiful and while she was born in the US, she claims her Nigerian roots. She also has two suitors Olamilekan Babangida and Idowu Yaba The Laker. Oh, what to do what to

do and they aren't making it easy for her to decide. Destiny Jones has a secret from her youth she tries to hide and stays as low-key as possible even by using another name to ensure her privacy. When she tells Hakeem Mitchell her current beau who she is, will he run and will he stay? Ericka Stockwell a divorcee and cancer survivor in remission over a year also has mother/daughter issues that prevent them from having a healthy relationship. Kwanzaa Browne is on the outs with her ex-fiance, Marcus Jesus Delgado-Munoz Brixton also an Attorney but when she spots him at the mall, with another woman, let us just say what happens next is epic and will have you shaking your head.

It's always a pleasure to be reviewing a book by Eric Jerome Dickey "an ARC, no less! I received a copy of The Blackbirds courtesy Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for this honest review. I have selfish reasons for wanting to read this book, namely because I adore EJD's writing and because he's been writing espionage and spy thrillers and erotica for so many years and finally, he returned to these deeply personal stories, deeply personable characters, vividly descriptive tales with One Night and I gobbled that one up. The Blackbirds seemed like a story I would enjoy as well, a sisterhood of four women who swear by their bond. The story seems to circulate around birthdays | each of the Blackbirds celebrates a birthday in the book. On that day, the rest of the girls have to do whatever birthday girl wants to do. At one such birthday, the girls decided they needed a better name for their group. They began calling themselves The Blackbirds, from the song "Blackbird" by Nina Simone. "Always build each other up. No crabs in a barrel, never pull each other down." The Blackbirds have unspoken, unwritten rules about each other, about protecting each other. No one suffers alone | but even in this tightly knit group of friends, of women who know each other inside and out, they're able to keep secrets from each other, to have individual experiences that don't have to be shared with three other people. My very most favorite part of this book is the frank, hilarious, epic insults throughout, specifically from Indigo, a Nigerian with a tongue so sharp she could split you in half with a word. At one point, she's giving her on again off again boyfriend pure hell. I think she called him a "whole ass, imbecilic goat". I must have laughed for | I don't even know how long.

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