



Casting The First Stone

By Kimberla Lawson Roby

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Tanya Black has everything a woman could want. And yet, none of it can hide the growing turbulence in her marriage. Her husband, once a supportive partner, has grown remote, and Tanya has the uneasy feeling that her comfortable life is about to change.

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Casting The First Stone By Kimberla Lawson Roby Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

There are few surprises in the insubstantial plot of Roby's third novel (after *Here and Now*), a story of a marriage that, obviously doomed from the book's opening pages, drags on through repetitive and melodramatic scenes. When she married him eight years ago, Tanya Black thought that Curtis would be a dedicated evangelist preacher, but the power of his current position as pastor of a prominent African-American Baptist church in Chicago has turned his head, and their "model marriage had long since turned into something very ugly and dreadfully different." Curtis flaunts his expensive wardrobe and lifestyle, and he continually begs his congregation for more money. He's having an affair with the deacon's wife, lies outrageously, neglects his daughter and eventually grows physically abusive. Although most of his misbehavior is described in chapter one and grows more flagrant as the book progresses, Tanya dithers through the entire novel deliberating whether she should file for divorce. Roby strives for an ironic twist in making Tanya a counselor for battered women, but this only makes her seem more duped and self-destructive. Because the pointlessness of this marriage seems so clear, there isn't much of a story aside from the stock characters who contribute to the tawdry drama: Alicia, the Blacks' sensitive, six-year-old daughter; Tanya's supportive best friend, Nicole; and James, the perfect man whom Tanya meets. While the book aims to inspire and send a strong Christian message, calling for women to take charge of their lives, the narrative is written in such clichéd prose that it cannot effectively address the serious issues of marital strife and domestic violence. 22-city author tour. (Jan.)

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From Booklist

Roby, *Behind Closed Doors* (1997) and *Here and Now* (1999), tackles the subject of marriage and the black church. Tanya and Curtis Black are the first family of a prominent Baptist church in Chicago. The family's move from a small church in Atlanta was the appropriate step up for Curtis' career. Although Curtis had dreamed of this type of advancement, he is not prepared for the changes and sacrifices that it requires. While Curtis succumbs to the temptations (women and money) his newfound power affords him, Tanya battles to save her marriage. She is forced to deal with some painful and unexpected truths about herself that help her deal with her circumstances and relish her independence. Revenge, greed, lust, and dishonesty are at the root of Tanya and Curtis' problems; yet, they learn that even in the most tempting situations, acting out negative feelings and impulses always results in negative consequences. They learn to value the important things in life and are able to start life anew. *Lillian Lewis*

From the Publisher

The Essence magazine fiction book of the year! And the Blackboard Fiction Book of the Year 2001!

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beverly Dyar:

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