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Waiting to Exhale

Von Terry McMillan

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Von Terry McMillan : Waiting to Exhale before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waiting to Exhale:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A surprisingly fun eye-opening read for Black men asVon Earl HazellI was completely turned off at even the thought of reading thisbook when it replaced the New Testament as the bible through which myemotionally troubled ex began reexamining her entire world- which in retrospect I see may not have been the author's intent- back in '92. Years later, before the movie was done, another girlfriend of mine (with similiar issues, of course, [since she was with me!], but a great deal of education), told me to read it, and stop judging it ignorantly.Terry McMillan's book could probably best be described by Albert Murray. It is a literary blues metaphor in the grand old musical/poetic style, fascinating both in its funny and ridiculous events that could leave you laughing as you turn the page. Also, however, in how it makes you

realize that, in respect to the concise wizardry of the blues (reminding me of lengthy speeches), once you go past twelve bars, you probably aren't being honest. On one hand, it was great to see that in this long book (which does move fairly well, but plods at times) there was more substance to the characters in what seemingly became a guide book for Man-bashing in the Black community in the nineties. On the other hand, it also seemed to be as irresponsible and immature as it was non-judgmental or unapologetic, as words like "God", "virtue", "honesty", "addiction", "faith", "trust", "therapy", "responsibility", "selflessness" "self-respect" and "AIDS" appear a WHOLE lot less often than phrases like ... "what's wrong with him?" and "he turned me out!". Among the many things the book made clear in its time- from Mcmillan's writing style as well as its appeal- was how rampant sexual and relationship addiction has become in the middle-class thirty-something community, looking back on more of its youth and innocence than it can ever look forward to. It also showed that in this Brave New sexual World where the old patriarchal predator/victim stereotypes often don't hold water behind closed doors, it is as big a problem (if not bigger) in the newly freed Modern Woman of Color as it is in men. (The most sexual of the four female main characters are gettin' more non-committal nookie than most of the others in the entire book regardless of gender, and become more unhappy with each encounter's failed emotional expectations.) The book becomes eye-opening and interesting as it begins to peel away the opinions and manufactured hurt feelings centered around the friends of one woman's unexpected trauma with a dissolving marriage. We begin to see, even like, the hurting souls of Black Women searching for their truest Selves in the beds of the brothers, when they should be searching for God. When you get that as a fundamental theme, you realize why they are waiting to exhale, a spiritual bodily function that doesn't happen romantically but naturally, when you just let go. And you begin to understand, and appreciate their lives in all its foibles and triumphs. The men in the book are, well, MEN. Just like the book's characters, no woman will ever exhale until she releases the costly luxuries of judgment and undisclosed (and often undistinguished) expectations. And though THAT theme wasn't truly made triumphant for me, McMillan says in her own way that the path to getting there may be just as important: with the love and help of your friends. I doubt Terry McMillan is talented enough to write a book outside of these obviously autobiographical themes (STELLA, from all the accounts of my women friends, should have got her groove back in private and not wasted everybody's time), so don't expect tomorrow's generation to be reading her works before and after Alice Walker and Toni Morrison in English 201. But if you got a free weekend and want to greater understand the sticky complexity of male/female relationships, friendship, and the modern woman's heart (without the clinical study feel of a book like Stanton Peele's LOVE AND ADDICTION), you will like this. Read it before you rent the movie. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very amusing. Also a wonderful and compelling book. Von Ein Kunde I am amused at the nasty one star reviewers who feel that Waiting To Exhale is ONLY about black people, a kind of press conference for inter racial subject matter. Have you ever read Moby Dick? If so, I am here to tell you that is not about whales, not really-- and it is not about White whales either. I don't have time to teach the alphabet to nasty folks but I will try: Waiting To Exhale is a NOVEL. NOVELS are not to be taken literally, they are creative expressions. I can just see the surprised look on some simple faces -- go back to your Nickelodeon, don't even bother with literature, stick to HIGHLIGHT magazine, and maybe -- maybe -- Goodnight Moon. Anyway I loved it; laughed out loud even the second time through. LOVE her way with dialogue and character. McMillan is a fresh and powerful voice who has, because of her extreme success and popularity, become a sometime target for the bitter and the jealous, not to mention the feeble. Spike Lee wrote a lengthy book jacket quote for the book, in support of Ms. McMillan, addressing the Black male issue as it pertains to the book, and perhaps this should be enlightening to those who care to look further. Spike Lee is not in the habit of suffering fools or racism -- so get a clue. His support and the support of thousands of loyal fans (black, white, red, yellow and purple) should prove that McMillan is a talent -- yes indeed, there are some who know how to read, not REED. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Friends are so important. Von Ein Kunde The book showed how real life goes. In these days it's hard to find a honest person who is truly faithful and care about their wife and the whole family. It also showed the process of growing up which means that there are always ups and downs in relation ships. Bernadine was the best example which shows that it is not to good to let your husband take over your total life. She did anything which was in her power to keep her family together but she probably tried to hard. After she was left by her husband and all the other ones was left by their men also; like Gloria, Savannah...they realized that the most important thing in your life is a lovely friendship. Best friends who you can count on in any upcoming life situation. What I liked about the end was that all the girls showed that men are important and they can make you happy but they sure are not the most important thing which you need to survive. All of them showed clearly and wonderful that you can get what you want when you fight for it, otherwise you should also notice that you can fail if you try to hard. So when I look at the image of the entire book, I say that it had me crying and laughing. As soon as one action was written by Terry Mc Millan, he didn't wait very long until he started with the next exciting situation. So, this means that there was no chance to get bored in any way. Once you start reading it, you can't stop it.

Kurzbeschreibung From the critically acclaimed author of *A Day Late and a Dollar Short* and *The Interruption of Everything*, a wise, earthy story of a friendship between four African American women who lean on each other while "waiting to exhale": waiting for that man who will take their breath away. From Publishers Weekly: A racy, zesty, irreverent and absorbing book with broad mainstream appeal, McMillan's third novel (after *Mama* and *Disappearing Acts*) tells the stories of four 30ish black women bound together in warm, supportive friendship and in their dwindling hopes of finding Mr. Right. Savannah, Bernadine, Robin and Gloria are successful professional or self-employed women living in Phoenix. All are independent, upwardly mobile and "waiting to exhale"--to stop holding their breaths waiting for the proper mate to come along. (Bernadine is married, but her husband walks out on her for a white woman as the novel opens.) They also share speech patterns that some readers may find disconcerting: they utter profanities with panache, unceasingly. Indeed, the novel's major drawback may be the number of times such words as shit, fuck and ass are repeated on every page. These women have a healthy interest in sex, while deploring the fact that most of the men they meet are arrogant, irresponsible and chronically unfaithful. Each character is drawn with authenticity and empathy, and McMillan pulls no punches about their collective bad judgment in choosing partners for romance. After many vicissitudes, two of the heroines find love, but until then McMillan keeps us constantly guessing about which members of her lively quartet will be thus rewarded. There's nothing stereotyped in her work here: it is fresh and engaging. 100,000 copy first printing; \$100,000 ad/promo; first serial to *Essence*; BOMC and QPBC selections; author tour. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus: 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. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.