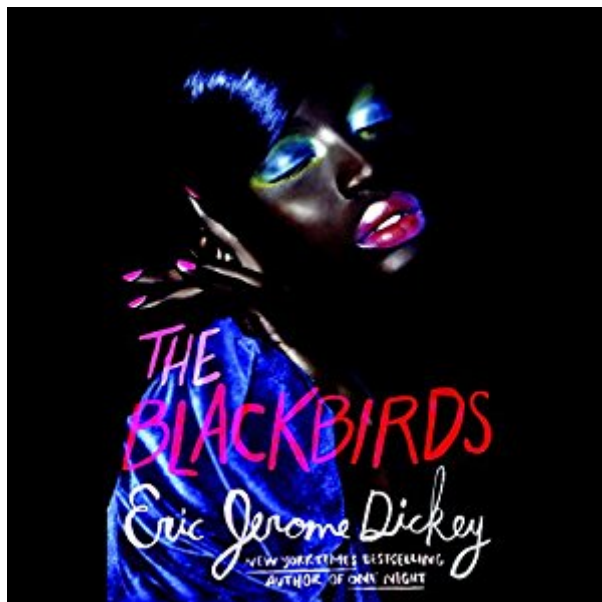


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# The Blackbirds



## Synopsis

New York Times best-selling 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 postcollegiate 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 in to - their impulses, they find not only themselves tested but the one thing they always considered unbreakable: their friendship.

## Book Information

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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 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. While the last time we seen her she was a little girl, hiding behind her mother's legs just as she met her father for the first time, she has grown into a beautiful young woman. The heartbreak she felt behind what her ex-fiancé had done hit too close to home. But when a woman's fed up, she meets a man who is one in five million and one who is twice the man her ex-man could ever even imagine being. Ericka Stockwell was thirteen years old the last time we saw her. Now she's in her mid-thirties and in remission from cancer. Like all of us, Ericka is sick of cancer and has decided to live everyday like it's her last. The antagonistic relationship between her and her mother is something that I can't even put into words. Mrs. Stockwell needs to have a come to Y-H-W-H talk or it's quite possible that crossing the wrong person is going to send her to meet Jesus way before her Christian soul is ready. But in the midst of all of Ericka's trauma, she finds light, love, and surprisingly, her destiny. Speaking of destiny, the last time we saw Destiny Jones she had gone on a revenge spree that left a trail of broken, battered, and bleeding bodies in her wake. The one thing we learned about

Destiny is she isn't the one you want to cross and think you're going to just get away with it. Even still, the court of public opinion can be brutal and even though people knew what had happened to her, Destiny is still seen as the villain. So the villain is who she became at least in one scene. This is where Mr. Dickey took me on a journey of self-discovery. Throughout the book, Destiny's chapters resonated with me more than any of the women. Yes, he managed to show me a little bit of myself in all of the women throughout the book; however, Destiny's chapters had my emotions popping like fish grease. I cried. I laughed. And then I cried while laughing. Why? Because she's Destiny Jones, bih, and she ain't scared of you, mamafunkers! I could go on and on and on and on about this book, but I think I may have already said too much. One thing I must note, I want to say thank you, Eric Jerome Dickey, for telling and showing Black women that we are beautiful flaws and all in every color, shape, and size. Mr. Dickey showed us the good, the bad, the ugly, and the downright disgraceful side of Black women. Black women aren't merely investigated under some kind of biased microscope in this book. We're celebrated in this book. The balance was so perfect that I cannot find anything I don't like about *The Blackbirds*. Ericka's very last chapter left me a snotty-nosed crying mess. I wasn't ready! All-in-all, I give this book five pages (think five-stars). Nikki-Michelle recommends this book.

Amazing. Soul stirring. Accurate. Deep. Scary. Truthful. Honest. And so very, vey, much more. Eric Jerome Dickey outdid himself with this one. I think I've said this at least 13 times but this time I truly mean it. Outstanding read. Honestly, I am so busy that in the last several years it has taken me months to read a 600 page book. I started this book 2 weeks ago and went to Las Vegas on vacay with the husband for 6 days but I managed to get a read in at every turn. And I do mean AT EVERY TURN. I highly recommend this book.

Unlike previous works, this story was slow to start but once I recognized the characters (long time readers of EJD will figure them out) it picked up and ends well but the beginning made me give it 4 instead of 5. Ended up going back to re-read to reestablish the origins but this book CAN be read as a stand alone. Just be prepared to push through the first part. Maybe a prequel reminding (or introducing) the characters will make it easier to "jump in" this novel but its a good read if you hang in there.

I would recommend this book to early readers. It had a start - stop unfinished pride effect that did not sit well with the story line. The author had a wonderful idea, 4 young African American woman educated and employed looking for true love, finding themselves and running from past hurts. Just not adequately executed.

I don't know why it took me so long to read this book. I fell completely in love with this book and these characters. I was so shocked to read that little bratty Destiny had grown up. This was an amazing book and I would recommend that all of my sisters to read it. It really shows that women of color can stick together and be there for each other. I loved this book.

I am totally an Eric Jerome Dickey fan! He had me at hello. I love his books and wait longingly online for to let me know a new one is coming. That being said, EJD's books sometimes tend to start sloooooooooooooooooow, as does this one. It took me a while to really sink my teeth into it and WANT to read it. The book's beginning is long and drawn out, throwing you smack dab into it without allowing you to test the water first. But, as a true EJD fan, I knew if I kept going, I would be rewarded with excellence. I was!!! This book makes me NEED to go back and read long lost ones, and even though it gives an ending, it's not a completely satisfying one, so I will wait for the next one. This book is worth purchasing. I am a collector of beautiful things, and this is a beautiful thing.

The Blackbirds was a delicious read. EJD expertly wove tidbits from past books into the story of four girlfriends going through stuff and taking care of each other. I have read every single book that 06 has written! I call EJD 06 he knows why so it was especially good for me because I knew who Destiny was and what happened to her. Even if you didn't read the other books it's a good stand alone read but it will make you want to go back and catch on his other books. I love this guy. 06 you did it again but I expected nothing

less

I am a huge fan of EJD and this was a reminiscent of his earlier works but with so much growth, depth and development. Loved how characters from all off his 90's/Early 00's works were mentioned and that the ages of the characters are it real time. I could've read 500 more pages. Phenomenal work. Excited for his next publication!

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