



The Perfect Mistress

ReShonda Tate Billingsley

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The daughter of an adulterous father deals with the long-rippling effects of his actions in her own love life in this emotionally powerful novel by award-winning and national bestselling author ReShonda Tate Billingsley.

Lauren Robinson knows exactly what it takes to be the perfect mistress. She had a front-row seat when she tagged along with her father on all of his extramarital trysts. She loved “keeping Daddy’s special secrets,” but many family members, especially her mother, consider her an accomplice in helping break up their family.

Years later, Lauren’s mother, Joyce, whose health is failing, cannot let go of the bitterness caused by her husband’s philandering. She continues to blame Lauren, as does Lauren’s brother. Joyce can’t see past her anger and betrayal and has withheld her maternal affection from Lauren for most of her life. This emotional distance and Lauren’s early dating experiences lead her to date married men...

That is until Dr. Matthew King enters the scene. Now poised to become a college president, Matthew is a former beau that left Lauren brokenhearted. He tries to show Lauren that he’s a changed man since their college days. The two truly connect and their relationship quickly escalates.

When Matthew proposes marriage, Lauren happily accepts, but as their very public engagement makes the news, someone is intent on sabotaging their relationship. Someone who watched her own marriage destroyed by Lauren, and won’t be happy until she gives Lauren a taste of her own medicine. Can Lauren stop the cycle of destruction in time to salvage the only love she’s ever known?

The Perfect Mistress Details

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From Reader Review The Perfect Mistress for online ebook

Elise Randall says

Great read. I agree that parents help shape children into adulthood by their own actions or lack there of. Didn't see that ending coming

Christopher Markland says

Overall, a good read. Story dragged on at times and was some themes were repeated almost to the point of becoming annoying.

Deeva22 says

First of all, I really and truly enjoy this author's work and for the most part, this book was an excellent read. I could hardly put the book down. I took away 1 star because the ending could have been better. I did not like the way this story ended at all. It seemed rushed and I would have loved knowing a little more about Vivian's issues, and what eventually happened with Matthew's job. Too much information was left out. It would have also been great to see Lauren grow and do some more healing from the mess of a life she had been living, thanks to Vernon. Nevertheless, I'm glad that she got back together with Matthew.

Excellent story line and plot. Lord knows I felt for Joyce because it reminded me so much of my own mother's tears and broken heart behind this same kind of foolishness with my own daddy. Granted, Joyce did sleep with him in the beginning, knowing he was engaged to someone else, and Lord knows she could have gotten out, but like my momma told me many years ago when I asked her why did she stay that sorry azz daddy of mine, she asked me 'where was I gonna go with 5 head of children, no high school diploma, and no full time job?' That tore me up because I had no answer. I think Vernon felt that same way too, which is why he encouraged her to drop out of school from the giddy up.

This novel is a stark reminder that children do what they see their parents do and that we should all be mindful of the seeds that are planted, because just as sure as you're born, you will reap them in the harvest. People don't realize the damage that is done to children in these dysfunctional and unhealthy relationships. Especially when the parties are selfish. Even though this was a good read, I am truly bothered by the way Vernon manipulated his daughter to serve his selfish behind and the resulting broken relationship that existed between Lauren and her mom. And sadly, this kind of dysfunction is real and is very present in many homes right now today.

Good job, ReShonda ~ hopefully, you are working on a follow-up to this book.

Maya B says

this was an ok read. some parts were slow and the story line was not as intense as her other books.

Carmen says

Parents need to be careful of the lives they lead in front of their children. This does not mean a child has a free pass to walk in their parents path. Lauren was truly her father's child. She played the mistress role well but at a price. She learned from being placed in a poor situation of watching her father cheat repeatedly and made to keep his secrets. Her mother stayed angry with her because she was not strong enough to leave Lauren's father for being dog. She felt Lauren portrayed her by not disclosing her father acts. Lauren should have never been placed in this position as a child but she only did what any child would do. Lauren grew up to be a home wrecker until Matthew came along and stole her heart. This was a good read.

Sophie Sealy says

EXCEPTIONAL

The sins of the father.

Do not let the title fool you. This book has so many different dimensions, extremely relatable and debatable. If you are in a committed relationship with or without infidelity, or if you are the other woman/mistress, or lived in a household of either then this book is going to interest you. I was sucked in from the first page. It follows the lives of The Robinson's and portrays how the sins of the father effects his family for years. A story of trust, of pain, or moving on and most importantly forgiveness. The story flows at the right pace and not one dull moment is captured. With every book written the writer takes it to another level, her best work yet. Read it now and see it on the screen sometime in the future.

Monique says

There are three rules I live by:

1. I don't sleep with other women's husbands.
2. I don't date people at my job.
3. I do not take a** whoopings on my job.

I decided to listen to The Perfect Mistress on Hoopla by Reshonda Tate Billingsley. I thought she wrote more Christian fiction. It doesn't matter. I still enjoy her writing. This book is so not Christ-like. Lauren Robinson's father, Vernon Robinson is a low down cheating dog and she worships him. If she was a real person I would beat her a**! Who keeps their daddy's secret about his cheating and hangs out with the side chick?

Fast forward to Lauren as an adult she and is proud of being a side piece. In my opinion, she has NO redeeming qualities. Her dysfunctional upbringing seriously warped her thinking on relationships. She grew up believing that all men cheat and I was amazed at her distorted way of thinking Her mother Joyce HATED her and blamed her for the demise of her relationship with her father. There were a few bombshells in this book and sadly I figured out the ending before the end of the book. I hate when that happens.

Andrea Ward says

The title The Perfect Mistress is an oxymoron! My mind wondered who she would be & was a little surprised when I found out! I was equally surprised @ the brother!! The family was dysfunctional & that made for good reading. Too bad the Mother acted the way she did for too many years. The father was brain dead with his actions! Matthew showed true unconditional love. The story line did twist in a manner that I did not see. Overall this was a good read. Think 3 times folks!!

Desiree Watson says

Lauryn's mother has never been able to forgive her for keeping the secrets of her father when she was with him and knew he was cheating on her mother.

Lauryn has grown up and thinks that it is okay to be a mistress. It almost costs her the love of her life. Read September 2016

Bernie says

I enjoyed this book. We take a look at a Mistress's life and how adults are affected by the negative experiences they encounter when they are young. Lauren and Julian are brought up in a less than perfect home and when they are grown the problems don't go away. I listened to the audiobook and the narrator was great.

His Wife7474 says

OK. Where to start. I'll make three important points about this book. (1) Even though I rated it 3 out of 5, I still think it was worth the read. There was one moment that had made me stop and say "f***!" (see profile lol). (2) Reshonda Tate Billingsly has a style of writing that just flows, and this book is no different. (3) The story is believable and the characters- perhaps not all of the storylines- are well developed. I would recommend this book but I would likely not re-read it in the future.

Rosetta says

Really enjoyed the story line and characters. I think the characters were very real to life and the story displayed exactly what I was thinking as I read...parents do not understand the impact their choices have on children and the generations that will come later.

Marilyn Diamond says

This book was so good, juicy and suspenseful. See even though some of us have fathers in our lives the legacy they leave behind has lasting consequences. Lauren saw first hand how to become the Perfect Mistress because her father taught her so. However, Lauren's other relatives held on to long bitter and negative feelings. What goes around... that old saying has never lied. Stay tuned for suspense, excitement, revenge, bitterness and sadness. Lauren rekindled a former love's relationship and was on too her "Happy ever-after." As women, this story is a life long lesson. Great story-line, and wonderful plot.

Michelle Lindo-Rice says

Finished in hours. As parents, the lives we live really affect our children and the choices they make.

WTF Are You Reading? says

The Perfect Mistress is, in a word...perfect.

A perfect storm.

Told in an expressive and highly fluid style which works brilliantly at showcasing both the authoress's unmatched flair for drama and compulsively readable, if not always likable characters. This book is one that will both repel readers with its honest portrayal of infidelity, while attracting them with its exquisite scene setting, character interaction, and plot execution.

For her part. It seems that the only real crime that leading lady, Lauren Robinson has ever committed is that of having parents who choose, with disastrous results, to make their daughter a scapegoat for their failings.

Lauren has no idea that a simple game of peekaboo at age seven, will land her in the middle of one of her father's seemingly never ending clandestine trysts. Starting her on a path of 'lying for Daddy'. Which leaves her racked with guilt, unable to trust, and works to drive a wedge so great between Lauren and her mother, that she is left essentially parentless for the majority of the read.

As with most cases of a cheating spouse. All of the supposed secrecy on the part of Lauren's father is truly for naught. Lauren's mother may be a fully entrenched ostrich of a woman. But unaware, she is not.

Presiding as 'La Grande Dame' over the affluence and propriety that her husband's flourishing law career provides. While begrudgingly doing her best 'Stand By Your Man' a la Tammy Wynette impression, definitely makes for tough times in the life of Joyce Robinson. Which is why the ease with which she lays both her and her husband's guilt for all that happens, and the tragedy that results, at the feet of her child is utterly appalling.

Is it any wonder that Lauren's father's behaviors follow her into adulthood. Right along with her mother's disdain and blame. Surprisingly enough, there is one person who seems to make it through life at the Robinson's virtually unscathed and blameless. Lauren's older brother, Julian. Who manages to accomplish the impossible through a concerted effort of invisibility and leaving home as quickly as possible.

Leaving Lauren, in all of her extramarital glory, holding yet another bag. This one being her now dying,

elderly mother.

This is about the time when the cursing starts on the part of readers. There have been no lessons learned on either side, and the plot starts to suffer from a rather irritating case of 'Groundhog Day' syndrome. (As in the movie where everything repeats.) With the exception of a rather bittersweet happily... for Lauren.

This book is that winning combination of truth and fiction that keeps readers coming back. Those tales that shed light on those hidden facets of human existence. That serve to build us, destroy us, shape, and deconstruct us. Making us both who we are, and for better or worse, who we will become.
