



## Friends & Foes

*ReShonda Tate Billingsley, Victoria Christopher Murray*

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**Bestselling and award-winning novelists ReShonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray bring their favorite heroines together in a novel that's "double the fun...a match made in heaven"** (*Grace Magazine*).

**IT'S "A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!"\*\* when the bestselling authors of *Sinners & Saints* bring back their outrageous first ladies in this sassy, witty, and poignant sequel!**

Now that Rachel Jackson Adams's husband has won the coveted position of president of the American Baptist Coalition, Jasmine Larson Bush has concocted a scheme to one-up her rival—by promoting her new community center on the nation's #1 television talk show! The power play won't stop Rachel, who jets from Houston to Chicago to sabotage Jasmine's TV appearance. But Chicago is the last place Rachel should be when one of the Coalition's heaviest hitters turns up dead—and Rachel looks guilty as sin. Will her nemesis leave her stranded and let her take the rap? Or will Jasmine help Rachel hunt down a killer? Could danger this deep turn the enemies into BFFs? After all, miracles *do* happen. . . .

## Friends & Foes Details

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## **From Reader Review Friends & Foes for online ebook**

### **Cyrus Webb says**

As someone who has been a fan of both Reshonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray it was exciting to see the two of them bring their creativity together (along with the characters that some loved to hate) and write SINNERS & SAINTS. The book allowed us to see a different side of the characters Rachel and Jasmine---and for those who couldn't get enough they have done it again with FRIENDS & FOES.

I think what I loved the most about Friends & Foes is that it shows that regardless of whether you are in the church or out, you are still human. There will always be parts of you that will feel resentment, anger, jealousy---it's up to you to wrestle against those emotions and qualities and strive for the best of who you can be. With Rachel and Jasmine might not be on the best of terms, but when trouble comes (and with these two trouble is never too far away), it's clear that they are the only one the other can depend on.

This book not only takes you into the zany relationship of the two women but their quest to right a wrong, clearing themselves in the process. Get ready to choose your sides, because with FRIENDS & FOES you will definitely find yourself rooting for one yet can't get enough of the other.

Rachel and Jasmine might have had their differences, but when the chips are down they find out who their real friends are. Will it be each other? That is the answer the reader will enjoy as you go through the mystery, the drama and the journey towards some resolution.

Reshonda and Victoria show through the characters they create and their working together that not only can you be friends and in the same business but you can want the best for others along the way and still succeed. Team Rachel and Team Jasmine get ready: FRIENDS & FOES is the literary adventure you have been waiting for.

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### **Elise Randall says**

This book was a good show of jealousy and cattiness. We have to support each other's success not try to ruin. If you have faith in trust in the Lord and his word your time will come. Rachel could've avoided all of this had she kept her butt home where she belonged. The ending was wonderful and I'm glad they were able to depend upon and count on each other

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### **Dee Cherry says**

Good read with mild humor. Jasmine and Rachel seemed to work well together when faced with major issues. Mae Francis was an extra bonus. Good cast of characters, storyline & read.

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### **Twana says**

I thought it was a good book. The characters in the book kept you guessing to the end on who really did kill Pastor Griffith. Who knew church members had so much going on inside the church.

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### **ConSonia says**

Lolol these two Jasmine and Racheal together then add a lil Mae Francis.. Loved it

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### **Nardsbaby Reader says**

Frienemies

Rachel Jackson Adams is enjoying the spoils of Lester's win as the president of the American Baptist Coalition. Now that they've reached the national spotlight, the Adams hired a publicist. Before she can luxuriate in her newfound status, Rachel finds out that her number one nemesis, Jasmine Cox Larson Bush, has landed an interview with Oprah.

No way, un-un, Rachel is determined to make her presence felt in Chicago. Of course Jasmine is agitated as she learns that her rival is in town looking to try to upstage her, again. Jasmine and Rachel are fussing and fighting. This time around, they find themselves forced in a more troublesome situation.

FRIENDS & FOES is the second book where readers get to interact with Rachel and Jasmine in the same setting. The story was beyond belief from start to finish. I don't know if Billingsley and Murray felt like the excessive drama was required, but personally it was too gimmicky.

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### **Monique says**

Friends & Foes by ReShonda Tate Billingsley & Victoria Christopher Murray - 3 stars

I've debated with myself for days about this review and I have to give my honest opinion of the book. First, let me say that I know both authors and consider them friends. Second, I purchased this book as with all of their other titles (although I don't have all of their teen books). Third, I truly respect their dedication to their craft and readers along with their devotion to the world of publishing. Fourth, as a avid reader and honest reviewer, I was disappointed with this book. Let me explain...

The first installment of the Jasmine and Rachel saga was titled Sinners & Saints which was amazingly funny, fast-paced and unpredictable. Friends & Foes was far from that. While the chapters provided a smooth transition and at times it was hard to recognize which author wrote what. I kept waiting for the same flow from their previous work but I didn't catch until the last few chapters. After the initial 'Oprah' showdown, there didn't seem real interaction between Jasmine and Rachel. There were times that I thought the storyline was forced and so far-fetched that I threw my hands in the air. I wanted more humor and crazy antics. I did like the fact that Jasmine and Rachel grew up a little. Mae Francis is one of my favorite characters as she is over-the-top funny and adds so much flavor to the tale. Don't get me wrong the story has a twist that I didn't see coming and I would certainly read other books by these authors but I expected so much more. Until next time, remember crazy leaves clues...

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### **Kimberly Coley says**

This one was a little more drama than normally but I loved every minute. Is it possible to be team Rachel and team Jasmine? Heck I'm team Mae Frances. That lady is the business.

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### **KayBee's Bookshelf says**

I listened to this installment on audible and out of all the books thus far this was the most entertaining for me. It is always hard to remember that Jasmine is not in her twenties with the way the character is written. At this point in the two series ( Jasmine/Sinners & Saints), she is 46 or 47 years old. Finally there appears to be a bit of character growth from Jasmine & Mai Francis (although still abrasive). You can see it through the sniping and biting remarks shared by the ladies. Rachel was still cocky without cause, naive, loud and abrasive. The men and the church were relegated to minor characters in this edition.

The plot & players was pretty easy to figure out within in the first chapter or two after the "incident" with Pastor Griffith. However, the authors wrote the story in a way that provided you plenty of laughs on the road to discovery for the newly formed trio. I'm actually looking forward to listening to Fame & Fortune. However, I do hope it will be the end of the line for Jasmine Cox Larson Bush (ugh that name...smh)

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### **Keleigh Hadley says**

The lines were drawn in the sand during the first collaboration between Reshonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray in 'Sinners and Saints'. No matter where your loyalties lie, you will thoroughly enjoy the witty repartee, colorful characters, and madcap antics of the First Ladies you love to root for.

I loved several elements in this novel:

1. At a certain point, I could not tell which writer was writing. It was that seamless. Both Billingsley and Murray know their characters and their "writing twin's" character's voice so well that it was never apparent who was writing.
2. I actually felt empathy for Rachel Adams during her tribulations in the book. She is not someone who I would befriend in real life, but she was in one of those situations that you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy. And in this case, Jasmine felt the same way I did and acted accordingly.
3. Oprah. (You gotta read it to know what I mean.)
4. I closed the book and took away this blessing: Pray for your enemies. You never know what the outcome will be. God can turn anything around.

Keleigh Crigler Hadley author of Revenge, Inc.

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## **Douglas Lord says**

This Christian novel, by two authors each with three names, features...two protagonists, each with three names! Two rival chicks are forced, nemesis-style, into an uneasy partnership when they are bound together to serve a higher purpose: the American Baptist Coalition. I'm not a Baptist, and I wouldn't have thought there could be so much politicking and backstabbery in a church hierarchy. It's not the wacky high jinks of The Odd Couple, but hey, Neil Simon could only write so fast. VERDICT The male characters here are as fleshed out as flensed carcasses, the dialog reads like nine seven-year-old girls trying to play with three Barbie dolls, and the backdrop of religiosity lends an unseemly, grimy feel to the enterprise.

Find this review and others at Books for Dudes, the online reader's advisory column for men from Library Journal: see <http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/cat....> Copyright Library Journal.

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## **OOSA says**

### **The Odd Couple**

Rachel and Jasmine are back. This time they are playing for the same team. Say it ain't so! And the stakes are much greater as someone has been murdered and all fingers point to Rachel. Working with each other instead of against each other changes things for this duo. Or does it?

Two minds are better than one, so it was great to see authors ReShonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray team up again to bring readers their memorable characters and their crazy antics with "Friends & Foes." The premise of the two being forced to work together because of the seriousness of the circumstances was a good one. However, how that premise played out left much to be desired. The book often felt stretched, forced, farfetched and too convenient. It lacked the substance of "Sinners & Saints" and was very predictable. Also, in the copy I read, beginning with chapter 23, the pages were out of order. It quickly became annoying for my reading flow to be hindered by constantly having to check for page numbers and flip back and forth. This went on for several chapters.

On the plus side, I do like how well Billingsley and Murray worked together. Their voices blended so well and complimented each other; one could easily feel they were reading the book of just one author. I'd love to see them work together again for more escapades of Rachel and Jasmine but the next time with a little more depth and plausibility.

Reviewed by: Toni

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## **Alta says**

This book is the sequel to Sinners and Saints. It features Rachel and Jasmine at their worst again. In this book, they start out trying to get on to Oprah and they fail because of their underhandedness. After they fail to get in Oprah, they get embroiled in a murder mystery, and they actually come together to run around Chicago and try to solve the mystery. I am a huge fan of this series, but looking at it critically, I think they

could do a better job of character development. I say this because there is a clear delineation about who are the "good" and "bad" characters in the book, but I would love to have the background behind these characters and why they are the way that they are. Or maybe I'm just spoiled by all of the super descriptive books that I've read for this class. If I were teaching writing in a class, I might have my students critically examine different types of books to see which ones are the most descriptive.

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### **Reading in Black & White says**

“So, let the games begin!”

With five simple words, the fun begins in *Friends & Foes* by ReShonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray. I must admit that I am a huge fan of both ReShonda and Victoria's so it would have taken a major catastrophe for me to dislike this book. If you aren't familiar with Rachel Jackson Adams and Jasmine Larson Bush then you are truly missing out on entertainment that could rival any show that is currently on Bravo or VH1.

Even though both are married to pastors, these two ladies are not the perfect image of first ladies. They are flawed, conniving, competitive, in a nutshell, they are regular women. Jasmine and Rachel are so used to being at each other's throats and trying to outdo one another that the script is completely flipped when they must team together in order to survive until the final page of *Friends & Foes*.

ReShonda & Victoria have again accomplished the amazing feat of seamless writing. The writing flows off the pages and it is full of humor, wit, suspense, drama, and eventually friendship. If you have not read any of the other books in the Rachel or Jasmine series that is ok, because *Friends & Foes* will work as a standalone. But, why neglect yourself? Grab all of the books by ReShonda and Victoria, I guarantee you will NOT be disappointed!!!

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### **Shalawn says**

Wow...in the last 7-8 chapters of the book, the pages were out of order. Had to flip back and forth to find the correct order of the pages. Very frustrating.

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