



## The Ex Factor

*Tu-Shonda L. Whitaker*

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## **The Ex Factor** Tu-Shonda L. Whitaker

This emotional, erotically-charged novel follows three half-sisters and their complicated relationships with one another and with the men in their lives.

Celeste thinks all she wants in life are her family and a nice home in the suburbs. Yet lately she's got a hunch that her sexy husband, Sharief, a New York City policeman, is patrolling more than just the streets. Celeste is sure he's cheating on her. When she finds out that the home-wrecker is none other than her own sister Monica, all hell breaks loose.

Monica never intended to fall in love with her sister's husband. But who knew that Sharief would make every inch of her body tingle with a single touch? Monica knows she should have righted her wrong before Celeste found out, but she's in too deep—in more ways than one.

Imani is not pleased that her low-life boyfriend, Walik, just got out of the slammer and wants her back. Sure enough trouble comes knocking. But when a fine Puerto Rican DJ named Kree seduces her and showers her son, Jamal, with attention, Imani finally gets a shot at happiness and ghetto-free love.

Fielding the curve balls tossed their way, Celeste, Monica, and Imani learn that it takes more than sisterhood to cope with love, life, and men—the ones they've got, and that elusive ex factor.

## **The Ex Factor Details**

Date : Published December 26th 2006 by One World/Ballantine

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## **From Reader Review The Ex Factor for online ebook**

### **Shatia says**

Great book about a single parent family of 3 sisters. I enjoyed this fast paced, dramatic, surprising and humorous book. I devoured it in 2 days because it was so juicy. I loved the lesson at the end! It made it all worth it. As a woman some of us have lived through any one of the circumstances in this book.

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### **India Smith says**

Good book.

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### **Marshae says**

THE BEST BOOK EVER..GREAT SISTER BETRAYEL BOOK!!

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### **Tamara says**

I bought it but havent read it yet!

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### **Stephanie says**

THis book was good the parents were funny!!

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### **Joi says**

I love how all of the sisters evolved at the end of the book! Awesome

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### **?~Tina~? says**

For Mama Bryd character alone this book is worth a read. It been a while since a book has made me laugh out loud. The rest of the story is filled with drama from three sisters. Celeste is married and trying desperately to hold on to her husband who she feel is cheating. Monica is a single nurse and she is having an affair with a married man. Imani is a single parent to Jamal (who also adds comedy to the book) and is trying to hang on to Walik (Jamal's father) who she has been with for 10 years.

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**B. King says**

This book was one of a kind!! Family drama that you wouldn't expect and lots of funny moments. This book flowed well and kept me engaged.

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**Saleema Parker says**

this book was very good to me i really liked imani's parts she was the most interesting to me. This book was about three sisters and their mom. celeste, monica, imani they all are very different to be sisters you gotta read it.

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**K Nikki Waden says**

I enjoyed the book had a lot of drama it all worked out at the end

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**Dekia says**

this book was way to funny...it could of had a dash of maturity in it tho..  
recomend it to: teenagers

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**Kimberly says**

If you want some juicy ghetto drama this is the book for you. I think we all know someone like the characters in this book.

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**Antwanette says**

I enjoyed this book a great deal. I must say it was one of my favorites of the books I have read this semester. The Ex Factor is a novel that tells the story of three sisters and their complicated relationships with one another and the men they "love". One sister is still in love with her ex despite all the trouble he has gotten into and all he has put her through. She even continues to deal with abuse and mistreatment from her ex once a "better" man wants to be in her and her son's life. The other two sisters are involved in a very dangerous love triangle with one another and one's husband. Tu-Shonda Whitaker uses descriptive dialogue and dialect to deepen the characterization of her characters. The characters in this story are African American and it is very obvious through the specific dialect that is used in their dialogue. This is even used with the young characters in the novel such as 7 year old Jamal. The following excerpt from page 60 shows how Whitaker uses dialogue and specific detail to further develop her characters.

Jamal started to whisper. “Uncle Rief told Aunty Monica he was goin’ punch her in the face.”

“What?” Imani couldn’t believe it.

“Yeah,” Jamal continued to whisper, “you should’ve heard him, he told her, ‘I can’t even believe I was feeling you, trick.’ Then it was a lot of noise. Like the crumble, crumble, crumble, raaaahhhh. Then Aunty Monica said, ‘boy, is you crazy, Jamal is asleep in the other room.’ Then Uncle Rief said, ‘Hol’ up, shawtie, you might see me in the streets but you ‘on’t know me.’ Imani, he sound just like a rapper.”

“Jamal, stop lyin’! I already told you about lyin’ so much!”

“Imani, I ain’t lyin’, you shoulda heard him, she told him ‘My Adidas’ll walk all over your face, dawg. Punk, lazy-eye? You tryna flex? You booty-scratchin’ fart face! Yo’ breath smell like pissy eggs! And if you mess with me, I’ll knock yo’ teeth out and put ‘em back in crooked!’ Yo, that’s a wild boy, Imani!”

While reading this book I felt that I could actually hear the dialogue that they held amongst one another. The dialect gave me the impression that they were possibly characters from somewhere similar to my hometown and similar to people I actually know. The dialect and dialogue made this an easy read and held my interest throughout the entire piece. I thought Whitaker used dialect and dialogue to assist her in the characterization of her characters very well. Portions of this novel could be used to show students how the dialogue and dialect can affect the how a character is perceived by a reader. I would use caution and choose appropriate examples during a mini lesson to teach my students to use both dialogue and dialect to develop their characters.

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### **Faith says**

I read this book as part of a monthly book club challenge & really enjoyed reading about the relationship drama of the three sisters and there mother. The scenes with the kids in the book will have you laughing out loud or wanting to spank them. The tension between the sisters is very real & provides plenty of drama & heartache. Very good read.

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### **Jackie says**

I loved this book. I couldn't put it down. Not one part to me is boring, considering I'm not one who really finds reading a hobby. It is definitely one of my favorite books.

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