



The Accidental Diva

Tia Williams

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Being a diva isn't all it's cracked up to be. Just ask Billie Burke. Brainy, beautiful, and at the top of her game, she's the beauty editor at the world's leading fashion magazine, where paying tribute to the perfect pink lip gloss is serious business. Trouble is, all this corporate climbing and party-hopping has left her with migraine headaches-and a long, lonely bout of celibacy.

Enter Jay Lane-a gorgeous performance artist who came up in a grisly 'hood in a part of Brooklyn completely foreign to Billie. In no time, this beauty expert's nights are bubbling over with hot passion-and she's caught in an affair that's as addictive and crazy as the city itself.

The Accidental Diva Details

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Author : Tia Williams

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From Reader Review The Accidental Diva for online ebook

Miranda says

Very good storyline but not for someone who can't stand cursing. Lots of "F" bombs but it is great the author didn't sugarcoat anything. More realistic because this is more the real life. The title didn't go well with the book though.

K Monyetta says

I tried to listen to this on audio book but found myself drifting off. It did not hold my attention like other audio books I have listened to. Maybe it would be better if I tried to read it instead of listening to it. It was disappointing.

Deirdre Slocum says

She says stop. He doesn't. And this is the man of her dreams. Nah

Nichole says

Raunchy Fun!

Ari says

Incredible Quote: "What he didn't tell Billie was how naive she sounded, telling him what hustling was about. In the fifth grade, he had more game in his size-five Adidas kicks than anyone at that party could ever hope to have. He hustled to *survive*. It was either get out there and sell the shit out of some crack, or eat grape jelly for dinner and hope the rat that bit you in your sleep wasn't carrying anything lethal. When Billie talked about hustling and playing the game, what she really meant was that she was ambitious. She was a go-getter. She set high goals for herself and met them, exceeded them. But the bottom line was that she had been born into a supportive, loving, comfortably middle-class family that took care of her and nurtured her and provided as security blanket. Jay came from nothing. Worse than nothing" (186).

I love this distinction Ms. Williams makes in her novel. I never realized that people describing themselves as "hustlers" bothered me until I read this passage and found myself nodding in agreement. Especially when celebrities use the term, I just find it ridiculous (excluding those who actually came up from nothing as opposed to those born to famous parents, etc etc) and Ms. Williams perfectly illustrates why. If you're thinking this quote is a bit heavy and shying away from this novel, never fear. This quote is expertly woven into a romp of a read that straddles the line between light and social commentary. It was exactly what I needed to end 2015, a lot of fun to read while making witty observations about being "the only" and

exploring class issues that it managed to not only hold my attention but also cause me to pause and think after reading a passage.

The only negative I can see is that it confirmed my fears about the beauty industry in terms of its shallowness. But it's a unique (for me) setting for a book so it kept me turning the pages. This book was published in 2004, 12 years later it's sad that we're still having the same conversations. Through Billie the author tackles cultural appropriation (which Billie calls "ethnic borrowing" in the beauty and fashion industry and maybe it's just because of the rise of the Internet and public intellectuals and blogging but it had honestly never occurred to me that people were having these conversations pre Twitter. That demonstrates my ignorance and I was happy to be enlightened while also being sad that white gaze still has so much power over beauty standards. Although it is getting better because it is harder for beauty companies, fashion companies and magazines to ignore being called out when they "discover" some trend people of color have been naturally gifted with/been doing/wearing for years.

Aside from the pleasing depth of the novel, it's a quick paced read. I actually felt caught up in Billie's sweeping romance and just as intoxicated as she did, I didn't want to resurface from her studio apartment. Honestly I'd like a prequel so that we can live vicariously through Billie, Renee and Vida's college years. And I'm so happy her friends served more of a role than just providing advice at Sunday brunch. Also Billie's family dynamics were absolutely hilarious and unexpected.

I dealt with similar issues to Billie and Jay although not on as large a scale, granted I'm not a professional (yet) but I can relate to the class issues that come up in a relationship with two different economic backgrounds, especially when it's the woman who comes from the comfortable lifestyle and the preconceived notions that we have/that other have about us.

Tracie Momie says

Something about this title threw me off. . . I was actually pleasantly surprised with this story. Billie Burke was a walking contradiction of sorts, living a fabulous life as a beauty editor- one of the only few black beauty editors- for a mainstream magazine. But then she meets Jay Lane and it's LUST at first sight.

Jay is from the 'hood and although on the surface it appears that he and Billie are complete opposites they actually have a lot in common. However their relationship faces a lot of challenges because they are from two different worlds.

But in the end they prove anything is possible if you really love someone and are willing to make it work. A sweet story and stunning debut for Tia Williams.

Continualknowledge says

It was a quick and easy read, but definitely nothing to write home about. It gave us an inside look at the beauty editing world from the lens of a black woman but nothing new. Being the only black person in any field while there is no monolithic experience there are some commonalities and well this book just explored those commonalities. And the relationship with the "love interest" was cute if not sickening. You give your entire life to someone you met 15 mins ago? While it wasn't entirely horrible, you would be okay if you

didn't read it.

Trisha says

This is my first library book read in 2013 (and for quite a while before that too). I was just browsing the shelves and picked it out. I enjoyed the read, with its SATC-esque humour and setting. I guess you could say it's an African American version of SATC, but with Jay's story bringing in a much darker side of NY reality as well. For a while there I feared Billie was going to ruin her life because of Jay, but thankfully she pulled her head in and got back on track. And Jay was still around at the end, which was a good thing, otherwise the story would have had a very sad ending. :P

I doubt I'd ever read this book again, 'cause I guess I see it as a bit of a 'fluffy' story. But it was a quick, easy, entertaining read and I don't really have anything bad to say about it. I haven't read any other reviews of it yet so this one isn't coloured by what others have said.

Kesha says

I did not enjoy the first half of this book, too gritty. The second half was more my speed, traditional romance.

Diana says

I'm going to put it out there and say that *The Accidental Diva* book wasn't written with me in mind. I couldn't completely relate to the characters, but hey, it was a good (and on the lighter side) book!

Raquel says

I've been finished with this book for a while. It's part of my break from "heavy" reading. IT WAS SO GOOD Y'ALL! The "accidental diva", Billie Burke, lives this very glitzy, very enviable life as a beauty editor for a huge glossy magazine. She's a NYC "it girl". I've tried to resist using this description, but it's the best way to describe her...she's like a Black Carey Bradshaw from *Sex in The City*, only she's still in her twenties. She's beautiful and stylish, her friends are all really interesting and accomplished, her love interest, Jay, is the perfect good-guy with a dark past, lovable, with so much love to give type guy. Tia Williams created these characters who are sexy--the relationship between Billie and Jay is sexy--this novel is sexy. Their relationship is like, when you meet somebody and you just know they're the one. Sometimes you want to fight it, and you try to fight it, they might even give you a reason to fight it, but it's useless, 'cause they're the one. You are drawn in and introduced to these really cool characters, who ultimately experience great success, in spite of the fact that they've experienced such difficult childhoods involving poverty, drugs, dysfunctional family situations, death and near-death. This was a really entertaining novel. It would make a great movie. It SO has the potential to be the next *Love Jones*.

I just wish I had discovered this, Tia's first novel, later so I could read her next one immediately. I'm not sure when to expect her second book, but I am certainly looking forward to it.

Dr. Nic says

I liked this book. It had a good storyline and the author was very detailed, but at times it seemed too detailed about things that did not require it. The author seemed to be trying to authenticate the main character as a beauty editor, but I don't think that some of the details were necessary. This text could have been spent helping the reader get to know Billie better. Not bad though...and there were some very sexy parts to the story!

Shani Hilton says

The title doesn't really match the book. It seems to have been chosen to pull in a certain demo. I picked this up because I'm a huge fan of Tia William's blog *Shake Your Beauty*. *Diva* is a wee bit pedestrian, but still entertaining, and has a feminist tilt that gets upset repeatedly by the relationship between the protagonist and her lover. The writing is mostly snappy, but the sex scenes can be a bit much. A fun, light read with only some mildly annoying bits.

Stephanie says

I enjoyed this and was a little disappointed when it ended. I wanted more, but I was satisfied in knowing that there may be a part 2 in this fascinating love story.

Billie Burke is the beauty editor for *Du Jour!*, the trendiest and hottest magazine out there. To her, its all about getting her work done and spending quality time with her two very best friends. She hasn't had a boyfriend since college and has gotten used to things being that way. Until a hurricane by the name of Jay Lane enters her world and sweeps her off of her feet.

Jay Lane, the hard-hitting Brooklyn bad boy turned actor/successful writer exudes all things sexy and jagged. Billie has never felt this way before and this love thing feels really good. So good in fact that she finds herself slipping at work and dedicating all her time, her energy and most of all herself into her relationship with Jay.

Delicious from start to end! Tia Williams has a winner with this one.

Deliah Lawrence says

The title didn't quite fit the storyline. Billie Burke was definitely a diva but not an accidental one. Working as a beauty editor at a top fashion magazine leaves her little time for a love life until she meets Jay Lane, a performance artist, who pulled himself up from the streets. The rest you can probably surmise: they fall in

love, have problems, then fall back in love. Fun read though!
