



Better Than I Know Myself

By Virginia DeBerry, Donna Grant

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The beloved #1 *Essence* bestselling authors of *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made* now deliver a novel in which you'll meet their most unforgettable characters yet. Carmen, Jewel, and Regina could not be more different. When they meet as freshmen at Columbia University, they're pretty confident that a friendship among them isn't in the cards.

Jewel is Hollywood royalty: as the teenage star of the TV show "Daddy's Girl," her face is instantly recognizable all across America. Now, though, she wants two things-to get a serious education, and to leave her controlling stage mother behind. Regina is the definitive upper-middle-class African-American girl. Her picture-perfect parents are what she calls "black Ward and June Cleavers" and their goals for her are like a stranglehold. No one can see, though, how far Regina's rebellious side will take her (or how treacherous it will become). Carmen is just trying to get by. A child of the projects whose father is dead and whose mother has vanished, Carmen has been raised by her abusive brother. Columbia is the way for her to get a better life-if she can hold down two jobs and keep her GPA up.

When the three of them meet, their lives are at a crossroad. And as the years progress, from the 1980s to the present day, they are challenged by drug addiction, fame, secrets from the past, sickness, betrayal, and the darkest things women can face. One of them won't survive. But what will be the lasting legacy of their friendship? *Better Than I Know Myself* is a novel of heartache, triumph, tears, and the unshakeable bonds among women.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

#1 *Essence* Bestselling Authors Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant's novels are:

"Powerful." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"Refreshingly honest." --*Publishers Weekly*

"Engaging." --*Essence*

"Vividly realistic." --*Midwest Book Review*

"Hard to put down." --*American Woman*

More Praise for Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant:

"I laughed, I cried, I identified!!!"

- Sybil Wilkes, The Tom Joyner Morning Show, on *Better Than I Know Myself*

"They're back! Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, authors of one of my favorite books, *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made*, have returned with *Better Than I know Myself*. It has a prologue that grabs you, a story that holds you, and characters that you will care about."

- Clara Villarosa, Bookseller, The Hue-man Bookstore & Cafe, Harlem on *Better Than I Know Myself*

"Strong, colorful characters distinguish DeBerry and Grant's warm and moving African-American family drama...moves gracefully between the 1950s and the present day, and an unusually varied cast of minor characters add spice to the full-bodied tale."

- *Publishers Weekly* on *Far From the Tree*

"Keenly drawn characters...a seamless work...a winning book about real, flawed people."

- *QBRL The Black Book Review* on *Far From the Tree*

"With sassy dialogue and a suspenseful narrative, this novel whips through its prologue and 23 well-written chapters."

- *Dallas Morning News* on *Far From the Tree*

"Captivating and compelling...brave, realistic, and touching."

- *Booklist* on *Far From the Tree*

About the Author

Virginia DeBerry and **Donna Grant** are the bestselling authors of *Far from the Tree* and *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made*. *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made* won the Merit Award for fiction from the black caucus of the American Library Association, the Book of the Year award from Blackboard, and the New Author of the Year Award from the Go On Girl Book Club. Virginia and Donna first met while working as models, and what should have been a rivalry ended up as a decades-long friendship. Virginia lives in New Jersey, and Donna lives in Brooklyn, New York.

From [AudioFile](#)

Lisa Renee Pitts is a marvel! Her depiction of a large cast of characters is remarkable. She lends distinct, expressive voices to lifelong friends Carmen, Jewel, and Regina but saves her best efforts for minor characters. Randy the rapist bears a mocking tone, Jewel's mother a haughty one, and Jewel's father a world-weary, gravelly quality. Pitts's strong characterizations make it easy to relate to the protagonists' hopes and struggles. Her narration of the ups and downs of these women's lives is marred only by the frequent odd pauses in her reading. Still, listeners will find it difficult to turn off their CD players. J.J.B. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alfred Wolff:

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Jake Harris:

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Ricardo Kiernan:

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Jose Coleman:

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information that may give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire all their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to the book. One of them is this Better Than I Know Myself.

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