



# Waiting To Exhale

By Terry McMillan

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## Waiting To Exhale By Terry McMillan

*Waiting to Exhale* is a masterful novel from a writer who has developed a special bond with her audience. Set in Phoenix, Arizona, it's a wise, funny, and resonant story about the friendship between four very different women who have one thing in common: they have not fared well with the men in their lives. Savannah Jackson is 35, single, and weary of men who can't make the transition from boyfriend to husband. Bernadine Harris is suddenly single—her husband has left her for a 24-year-old white woman. Marilyn Stokes is on the rebound, regretting the years she wasted on a dead-end relationship and mourning her recent miscarriage. And Gloria Matthews, a single mother whose 16-year-old son has just discovered sex, has spent most of her adult life driving men away with her none-too-subtle hunger for marriage.

Told from each of these characters' diverse points of view, *Waiting to Exhale* is about their desire to find good men, exciting men; men who could help them lose the strange feeling that they've been holding their breath for as long as they can remember; men who could make them exhale. But it's also about a different kind of bonding between black women—a rich, supportive, abiding friendship that doesn't necessarily include men.

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## Waiting To Exhale By Terry McMillan Bibliography

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- Running time: 180 minutes
- Binding: Audio Cassette

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

McMillan's novel about friendship between four black, thirtysomething Phoenix women was a 29-week PW bestseller.

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From Library Journal

Like McMillan's previous novels, *Disappearing Acts* ( LJ 7/89) and *Mama* ( LJ 1/87), her new effort features a predictable plot, prose that often falls flat, and a narrative that lacks depth. Four African American women living in Phoenix devote most of their energies to searching for the one good black man who will make their dreams of the perfect partner and lover come true. Unsurprisingly, Savannah, Bernie, Gloria, and Robin all kiss several toads, but their trials and errors never arouse much interest. Far stronger is the author's sharp, often humorous depiction of the strong bonds among the four friends, their relationships with their families, and their community activities; readers will regret that McMillan did not develop these areas further.

Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 1/92.

- *Faye A. Chadwell, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Talk about timing! With relations between African-American men and women in the spotlight as never before, here comes McMillan's report from the front: her bawdy, vibrant, deliciously readable third novel (*Mama*, *Disappearing Acts*) is the story of four black women friends and their frequently disastrous encounters with black men. The four are in their mid-to-late 30s, middle-class women making good money, and they live in Phoenix. Savannah, who has everything she wants except a man, has just moved from Denver, partly to be close to best friend Bernadine, whose 11-year-old marriage has collapsed. Super-successful "buppie" (black yuppie) John has tricked Bernadine every which way, but his greatest betrayal is crossing the color line to snare a California blond; now Bernadine must raise their two kids alone. Her friends Robin and Gloria are not having any better luck: Robin is a backsliding bubblehead whose study of astrology has not cured her weakness for "pretty men with big dicks" who use and abuse her, while the only male in overweight, matronly Gloria's life is her teenage son Tarik, a source of both anxiety and pride. We watch these women in a swirl of motion: working, partying, dishing, dating, and consoling each other on their misfortunes with men. Their consensus is that "black men play too many games" and are terrified of making commitments, even if they're buppies ("riffraff comes in all kinds of packages"). Two points here: First, McMillan's novel is not indiscriminately bashing brothers--there are good men out there (both Bernadine and Gloria have fine prospects by the end), and women cannot escape all the blame (Savannah's inability to say the three magic words costs her dearly). Second, these women do not mope. The story's best scene has them falling-down drunk at Gloria's hilarious birthday party; indeed, they are as timeless as Molly Bloom or the Wife of Bath in their robust sensuality. A novel that hits so many exposed nerves is sure to be a conversation-piece: it has heart and pizzazz and even, yes, the sweet smell of the breakthrough book. --

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Johnny Powers:**

Waiting To Exhale can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing Waiting To Exhale but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

**Sharyl Nettles:**

This Waiting To Exhale is brand-new way for you who has attention to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Waiting To Exhale can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and also knowledge.

**Sara Burns:**

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**John Johnson:**

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