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Abide With Me

E. Lynn Harris

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In this hotly anticipated conclusion to his popular **Invisible Life** trilogy, E. Lynn Harris delivers a masterful tale that traces the evolving lives of his beloved characters Nicole Springer and Raymond Tyler, Jr., and reintroduces readers to their respective lovers, best friends, and potential enemies. **Abide with Me** moves between the worlds of New York City, where Nicole has recently settled in order to pursue her dream of returning to the Broadway stage, and Seattle, where a late-night phone call from a U.S. Senator is about to change Raymond's life dramatically. Relationships and ambitions are tested as Harris deftly guides us toward this entertaining novel's conclusion.

Sexy and heartwarming in equal measure, **Abide with Me** will thrill new readers as well as fans already familiar with Harris's unique take on the universal themes of love, friendship, and family. E. Lynn Harris has truly done it again.

Abide With Me Details

Date : Published May 2nd 2000 by Anchor (first published March 16th 1999)

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Author : E. Lynn Harris

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From Reader Review Abide With Me for online ebook

Tracy Burd says

LOVED THIS book. First of all, it's written by a gay black man, and has all kinds of love and sex in it. It's full of faith, love, honesty and family. It also has lying, treachery, cheating, and sickness. He has the ability to have at least ten different stories going on, intertwining them all, and allowing you to follow them all. I love this author and will keep this book to reread!

Daniel Severin says

I would give this 3.5 stars if I could. It was a very readable book and provided a fantastic next chapter to the story of Raymond and Trent, Jared and Nicole, and set us up for Basil's next adventures on the down-low. I think the third-person narration distanced me too much from the story so I didn't enjoy this one as much as I expected. It provided a great setup for the next instalment, though which I can't wait to read.

If you haven't already read anything by Harris, this isn't the place to start, but it is a fun book about a topic that is still under-publicised. First you should read the earlier books in this trilogy (start with Invisible Life) or one of the stand-alone stories like Basketball Jones.

Kia jones says

Love Elynn Harris Books -- I usually read them in one or two sittings. I feel like I am there with the characters in the story!!!

Love the characters Raymond and Basil.

You might like to read "Down Low Baller" ...click on the link below:

<http://www.amazon.com/Down-Low-Baller...>

Robear Bottomtooth says

Short version: I liked this book and it was a worth conclusion to the Invisible life triolgy.

Overall this was a good read or listen I should say. Mirron Willis once again was the narrator of this audio book and though I am not a huge fan of his, he seems to be a good fit for Raymond. I don't really want to get into each individual character but there was nice development of returning characters even a few welcome surprises I was however let down that ***SPOILER Raymond and Basil didn't have one more night of heated bed-burning passion but whatevs.*** Raymond is still an unlikable character, he's very uptight which

the author acknowledges but doesn't change and through Raymond (and pretty much all of the gay or bi characters) there is this not so subtle undertone of self-loathing based on their sexuality, it really gets under my skin personally. Anyways, don't want to use this review to drag the author or some of his problematic themes because overall I did enjoy this book series and their aren't really many (good, well-written) novels featuring primarily lgbtq POC so I applaud him for creating this world and these memorable characters during a place and time where many people could not have been very accepting.

Tamika says

An excerpt from my readers response notebook

Awww...why?? So on one hand, I feel sorry for Basil. It seems like he's finally getting his life together. He's letting go of the anger of the past. He finally has a family that provides unconditional love and is not out to hurt him or take advantage of monetary benefits. And then here comes Yancey...manipulative only looking out for herself and burned by her mother...not caring about anyone. She's the last one that needed to come into his life considering that he is turning over a new life.

On the other hand, you can make the argument that his changes are only momentary. He's lived years f#%ing over everyone else because of the pain he felt within. You reap what you sow and eventually that bad karma comes back to haunt you.

It will take strength for him to overcome and not resort to his old devices...

Valerie says

The third volume of the Invisible Life trilogy picks up the characters' lives a few years after the conclusion of Just As I Am. Raymond Tyler and his partner, Trent, are living together comfortably in Seattle, until Raymond's nomination for a position as a federal judge brings to light some troubling incidents from their past. Meanwhile, Raymond's former lover, Nicole (now happily married to his best friend, Jared) is starring in a touring company of Dreamgirls, although a sinister understudy is willing to stop at nothing to take the role for herself. And former pro football player Basil Henderson, who's proved himself over the years to be perhaps Harris's most compelling fictional creation, is regularly attending therapy (although it doesn't seem to be helping him deal with either his denial of his bisexuality or his emotionally abusive behavior towards others).

Timothy Springer says

E. Lynn Harris is not James Baldwin. Studying the back of "Abide With Me" (as well as the author's biography on the back of the dust jacket), you would not know this. Yes, he is the winner of several literary awards and has drawn millions of readers to his popular writing style. But the type of books E. Lynn Harris writes are vastly different than the type of books Mr. Baldwin created.

"Abide With Me" is the 3rd book in the "Invisible Life" trilogy. We're re-introduced to the characters

Raymond, Nicole, Basil, Jared and Trent. Mr. Harris moves through these characters' lives and inner turmoil via a series of vignettes; each chapter is about 3 to 5 pages and covers much ground. There isn't a lot of exposition so the dialogue is the main focus through everything. If you happen to forget a detail or two, it will assuredly be re-covered within the next chapter or so. You find yourself imaging what each character is thinking and feeling and sort of work through it. Because of this, this book comes across as an extremely light read.

I think anyone who is seeking the closure that "Abide With Me" promises (it being the last in the aforementioned trilogy) will feel disappointed. Mr. Harris depends too much on the reader's knowledge of books prior; there is little to no description of what came before. (It wasn't until 300 pages in that I figured out what relationship one character even had to the *ingénue*.) This isn't to say I didn't fully enjoy reading the book. It's merely my understanding of what was promised versus what was delivered. Avoid reading the dust jacket (or this review, for that matter) at all costs.

Books of this ilk come across as supermarket fiction. It's obviously great for those who aren't vast readers because a lot of the fat of a story is cut and it saves time for the juicy gossipy details. You see the plot coming from a distance but are pleased at yourself for analyzing the situation. When all is said and done, you're smiling and glad to have tackled yet another book, especially so for those who have never even read (or heard of) James Baldwin.

This book is the definition of "fluff".

Lakecia Allison says

Great book! So many ups and downs! Hopefully Nicole will stop being naive, Trent will make things right with Raymond, Raymond will find the perfect direction in which to go, Jared will finally become a father, Peaches & Enoch will find a resolution to keep their home and business, Delaney and Nicole will never let their true friendship die, Basil will find peace and calm in the new family he has found, and Yancey....huh... I hope karma kicks her ass!

Mike says

Not a terrible book but certainly not a great or really even a good one. Yet somehow: readable.

I will admit there is just no way I would have been able to spend the time to physically read this novel line by line. That may actually be true with any E. Lynn Harris book. But the flexibility of audiobooks absolutely helps the reader glide through this with some ease and without feeling robbed of valuable and minimal time.

I would hate to call this a novel. Instead, I found it best to regard this book as three separate short stories. Essentially Raymond, Yancy & [Naomi? I forgot the characters name already], and Basil have their own personal dramas going on throughout the book. Very little interaction between them and there is no central threat. They each tackle their own battles on their own without involvement of the others much at all. This is why it is easy to skip around chapters and really not miss a beat.

I have a hard time with Harris' books sometimes. They are often so chopful or stereotypes it gets in the way

of originality. And trust me there is not an ounce of Original in this book. You have seen and heard and read it all before. And that's okay! There is nothing new anymore anyway, however dont insult the reader. The reader still wants to know the author has made an effort.

In the Harris World: Never fails to find a gay male character suffering with AIDS. A self-absorbed Angry Black Woman is never too far away. And men, both gay and straight, are obsessed with sex, self and power. Oh and yes Harris can only describe black people by comparing their skin tones to food! And why are we still yapping about interracial dating? Where are the three dimensional characters??

Having worked in bookstores I have often found the genre "African American Fiction" to be vague. What does this mean? Books BY or ABOUT Blacks? Both? And if a Black author wrote say The Lord of the Rings where does it get catalogued? Harris seems to have defined this genre for me: truly its just reality-show drama that centers and is stirred by Black characters. *Abide With Me* is no exception.

I do have my share of compliments as well. Most of them are for the audiobook's narrator who has narrated other Harris novels wonderfully. (*I Say a Little Prayer: A Novel* my favorite)

I recommend audio, not somuch the printed novel. Enjoy and skip the ending.

Winter Sophia Rose says

Moving, Spellbinding, Captivating, Eye Opening, Riveting, Emotional, Realistic, Page Turner! An Incredible Read! I Loved It!

Rafael Suleiman says

An interesting Black romantic novel.

Velvet says

Abide With Me is fun to read on a soap opera level, and functions as a kind of mental popcorn. But has Harris grown as a writer over the last five years and with five commercially successful books? His primary motivation as a writer seems to provide a sanitized, yet titillating look at gay lives and gay sex. Readers are urged to demand better quality writing, and to demand growth from the authors they support.

J says

(FROM JACKET) At the end of "Just as I Am", Raymond Tyler, Jr., was beginning a relationship with Trent, a fraternity brother from his college days, while Nicole had found love with Jared, Raymond's buddy from Atlanta. As "Abide With Me" opens, Raymond and Trent are settled in Seattle, where Trent's career as an architect has blossomed and Raymond's law practice is booming. All seems well. Then, late one night,

Raymond gets a call from a United States Senator that threatens everything he's built.

Raymond, facing a crisis of faith, travels to New York hoping for the support of his best friend, Jared, who's moved North after five years in Atlanta. His wife, Nicole, is performing in a revival of "Dreamgirls", her lifelong fantasy at last coming true. When things start to go wrong, her young and beautiful understudy, Yancy Braxton, steps into the spotlight a little too smoothly.

Corinne says

I have this book, but read it some time ago, but I am a fan of all of e. lynn harris books, all of them are good.

Christopher Dionesotes says

Not the best thing I've ever read.
