



# **A Family Affair**

*ReShonda Tate Billingsley*

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**From the national *Essence* bestselling author comes an engaging tale about a family secret that sends one young woman scrambling to uncover the truth about her past.**

Award-winning author ReShonda Tate Billingsley, whose bestselling fiction “tackles some of life’s toughest situations” (*The Florida Times-Union*), unravels the secrets in a mother’s past that turn her daughter’s life upside down—by revealing the family she never knew existed.

Her dream of studying dance at Juilliard is within reach, but Olivia Dawson turns down the opportunity, choosing instead to stay with her ailing mother in the Houston projects where they barely make ends meet. Lorraine Dawson is Olivia’s whole world, and now Olivia insists on being there for her. But when Lorraine learns Olivia is sacrificing college for her sake, her heartache triggers a series of shattering events that results in Olivia discovering her father, a man she was told had died years ago. But he is alive and well—and he’s the powerful CEO of one of the country’s richest corporations.

With her best friend urging her to claim a much-deserved chunk of Bernard Wells’s fortune, Olivia seeks out his Los Angeles mansion. But it’s not money she wants—it’s answers: Why did he abandon Lorraine when Olivia was three years old? Why did they suffer in poverty while he gave his “real” wife and son a life of luxury? Opening up the past, however, is more complicated than Olivia—or Bernard—expected, and the pain of yesterday’s sins must be confronted before true healing and a bright tomorrow can begin.

## A Family Affair Details

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Author : ReShonda Tate Billingsley

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# From Reader Review A Family Affair for online ebook

## Adrienna says

Whether I agree or disagree with the choices of some characters in the novel, it was so good that I felt like I was there and these characters were so believable. I can see this as a lifetime movie!

Leisure read 2015

Adrienna Turner

Author of The Day Begins with Christ, God is in the Equation

adriennaturner.net

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## Mary says

Olivia wants nothing more than to go to Juilliard, but lack of money and an ailing mother stands in the way. Her mother, Lorraine, does everything she can for and she feels she has no choice but to not even worry about going to Juilliard, instead she stays home to take care of her ailing mother. When Lorraine learns that Olivia is giving up on her dream just to stay home and take care she makes a decision that then brings many skeletons out of the closet. One of these secrets is the fact that her father is alive and well. Will going to meet her father and finding out the truth about her family be everything she hoped for?

I am a huge fan of Reshonda Tate Billingsley and this book did not let me down. She brought a Christian and inspirational message without coming across as preachy. I loved the twists, turns, and all the drama that came out. She did a great job with the character development. I actually felt for the clients and could truly relate to them. I am anxiously waiting on the next Reshonda Tate Billingsley release. Keep them coming!

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## Landon says

This was another great book by the author. I had read the seven free chapters and decided to buy the paperback book. Because I wanted to know what happened next. I wasn't disappointed after I finish reading. Great read I'll definitely recommend.

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## Desiree Watson says

Olivia Dawson wanted to be a dancer at Juilliard, but because her mother was sick she refused to leave her. Her mother eventually passes away, but before she died, she told Olivia who her father was and come to find out he was a rich businessman and the CEO of a Fortune 500 company. When Bernard Wells' wife finds out that her husband had an affair with Olivia's mother she threw them out of her house. (Olivia's mother worked for the Wells.'). Olivia sets out with her best friend to look for her father. She eventually finds him and when she does they try to keep it a secret from the wife. Of course the wife finds out, and when she does, all hell breaks loose!!! Read: September 2013

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### **India Jones-Tanner says**

Not what I am use to from Reshonda Tate Billingsley. Not a page turner, but an okay read. My final rating 3.5

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### **ElLOWyn says**

Reshonda Tate Billingsley has done it again. OMG! This was a good book that draws you in from the beginning. Reshonda takes you on a journey and then there is a twist that you don't anticipate. This is a book about family, love, deception, lies and forgiveness. I am looking forward to the next novel by Reshonda.

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### **Nandi Crawford says**

good book. hard subject to tackle.

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### **Reading in Black & White says**

"If you're woman enough to sleep with my husband, you should be woman enough to look me in the eye."

Well, hot d\*mn!!! BOOM!!! Now, that's how a wife is supposed to confront a mistress. And, boy Adele has no issue sticking up for herself at this point. A Family Affair is an adventure into what happens when a mother's past collides with a daughter's present.

"I want to say one more thing," Olivia went on. "Regardless of what happened, that's not me. I can't carry my mother's sin. I'm not saying forgive my mother, but don't hold me responsible."

I honestly don't know if a book could be more perfectly written than A Family Affair. I could go and on about how each sentence is perfectly constructed, about how paragraph builds upon the last, or about how each page stirs emotions from deep within but you should really experience this book for yourself instead of allowing me to spoil it for you. ReShonda Tate Billingsley is one of most favorite authors, and A Family Affair proved that she will continue to stay at the top of my list!!!

DISCLAIMER: I received a complimentary copy of A Family Affair in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Amira Smith says**

Reshonda always writes stories that introduce us to some tough life situations. In this book lies and deceit only lead to hurt and heartache for most of the characters. After I read one of her books it always encourages me to delve deeper into my faith..... trust more, love more, and to pray more.

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## Inda says

I got a copy of this book when I went to see Billingsley at a reading at the public library here in Madison. I was very taken with her and glad to have gotten the book. I read it over the next three days and was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed it. Billingsley is a talented story teller and I like the focus on her character's development and let them respond to situations rather than relying on over the top drama every few pages. I was also glad to see that although there was a Christian bent, it was not very heavily steeped in judgment and respectability politics. Of course, the protagonist, Olivia, is very sympathetic and surrounded by a cast of colorful characters including her best friend Mona, but it is important that Olivia is the point of empathy. She and Mona are practically the only people in the book who are exactly what they appear to be. Olivia has a crisis of faith and identity when she finds that her mother had an affair with a wealthy man named Bernard Wells. She had been told her father was dead, but her mother Lorraine makes the confession on her deathbed. Although Olivia is curious about her newfound father, she has to hit rock bottom before she decides to pack up her life in Houston and head to Los Angeles to find him. Much to her surprise, Bernard is quite thrilled to see her and wants to make amends for casting Lorraine and Olivia out of his life at the request of his controlling wife Adele. Hiding the budding relationship from Adele is only one of the complications Olivia and Bernard face. The Wells' other son Kendall takes a liking to Olivia as they both begin work at one of their father's stores. Olivia wants to tell Kendall that they are siblings but has promised Bernard she will allow him to tell him first. The writing is definitely engaging enough to keep the reader interested throughout the entire story. In fact, I finished the second half of the book in one night. I'm sure those who are already familiar with Billingsley's writing will enjoy this one and new fans like myself will also not be disappointed.

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## Keyandra Ariyo says

A Family Affair ♥♥♥♥  
(SEMI-SPOILER ALERT)

Tell the truth and shame the devil or take your lies to the grave? I will take the truth for \$800.00 Alex!

Have you even deliberated about how green the grass is on the other side? Let us all be honest with ourselves for just a moment. Every now and then, we all have desired to live the lives of someone else because it seems on the external as if all is well, their car, their money status, their home, etc. But then again, everything on the outer layer is not how it always appear.

In this story, you will see how lies could ravage the connection within a family. Yes, the storyline is somewhat predictable, but overall it was a divine story on how the influence of prayer can truly heal all wounds, and how love can ultimately rebuild forgiveness over time.

The characters development was great, but I would have only wished if the author could have presented a few chapters for the mother and daughter characters, Lorraine and Olivia, and their lives together. Instead of a seventeen-year gap, maybe a ten-year gap and then maybe sometime within Olivia's pre-adult years before the passing of her mother Lorraine.

There were not many twists as expected, but Kendall's character uprising was a great spare to the story.

In addition, the friendship between Olivia and her best friend Mona is truly beautiful. They balanced each other.

Bernard and Adele Wells will teach you how to not, merely judge a book by its casing.

There were some editing mistakes, not many, and in no way did it take away from the story, therefore it does not in any way influence my review and this gem of a story.

Even though this is my first reading of Mrs. Reshonda Tate Billingsley, her passion for her craft and her personal humor easily detected throughout this story.

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### **Verlean says**

In A Family Affair, we see firsthand what secrets can do to a family. Olivia finds out on her mother's deathbed that her father is incredibly rich. She goes to find and confront him for answers. Once she meets him, she is caught up in a whirlwind of a better lifestyle and more deceit until everything comes to a head and the truth explodes. A great book but I expected that from ReShonda.

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### **sue says**

Although this is a story that's been told many times it's written with such feeling and depth, such compassion and great realistic characters that I didn't mind at all reading it.

Having never read anything by this author before it was nice to find an author that I thought I could keep an eye on for the future as she writes with passion.

Enjoyed the read

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### **Natasha says**

This book was a little different than what I expected but I still thought it had a good storyline. It had some extra twists thrown in towards the end that made you say "that explains a lot!". I felt for Olivia and Kendall, innocent in this web of lies and secrets and having to learn the truth as young adults. This story pointed out that everyone has problems and drama whether you come from money or you are struggling trying to live day by day. Different struggles come with different territory and you may find yourself saying you don't wish for all the money in the world if that's the drama that comes with it. Pain is pain and there's no amount of money that will wash it away. Just got to make the best of life and work to change your situation so that it suits you.

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## **Lisa says**

What you do in the dark will surely come to light and can have some long lasting affects! What a story of lies, secrets and ultimately healing. ReShonda weaves a tale of a family secret so embedded that when it all comes out it will leave you stunned. I so enjoyed this novel and hated to see it end. Love really does cover a multitude of faults as is displayed as well in this novel. Great job ReShonda, hats off to you. I found one misprint when Stephon showed up at Olivia's job but outside of that it was 100% excellent. Great job ReShonda, keep them coming!!!!

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