



## **Nappily Ever After**

*Trisha R. Thomas*

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Venus Johnston has a great job, a beautiful home, and a loving live-in boyfriend named Clint, who happens to be a drop-dead gorgeous doctor. She also has a weekly beauty-parlor date with Tina, who keeps her long, processed hair slick and straight. Ever since childhood, the tedious hours in the salon and harsh, burning chemicals have grated on Venus, and increasingly, she dreams of cutting off her beautiful 'good' hair. When her boyfriend keeps balking at commitment, and the thought of another hour at the salon is just too much, Venus decides to give it up- all of it.

She trades in the long hair for a dramatically short, natural cut, and sends Clint packing. It's a bold declaration of independence, and one that has effects she never could have imagined. With wit, resilience, and a lot of determination, Venus finally learns what true happiness is...on her own terms. It's a delicious story told with savvy and humor- a novel that marks the debut of a fresh new voice in fiction.

## **Nappily Ever After Details**

Date : Published (first published 2000)

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Author : Trisha R. Thomas

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Genre : Fiction, Cultural, African American, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Drama, Adult Fiction, Audiobook, Contemporary, Media Tie In, Movies, Literature

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## From Reader Review Nappily Ever After for online ebook

### Michelle Robinson says

There are some spoilers here.

I tried to love this book. I would have settled for even liking it.

For some reason, I could not enjoy it. I read it a number of years ago, I must have been in a totally different place.

Venus is a long haired black woman, as any black woman knows, that is a premium in the black community. She becomes extremely frustrated with her life situation, which includes not having her boyfriend do what she wants her to.

We then follow a tangle of her vacillating between does she want to continue the relationship? The boyfriend seems genuinely hurt and confused.

I never bought that the deliberate cutting off of her hair really helped her embrace her true self.

I was not satisfied with this book. Disappointed is more accurate.

There is a great deal justification for something I think of as disgustingly immoral no matter who does it, that would be adultery. I don't care how much pain a person is in, there is no reason to intentionally hurt another party by committing adultery. Enough moralizing, I just think it is an avoidable intentional knowingly hurtful act.

I had nothing but dislike for characters that do this, excuses sound just like that excuses. I cannot like a person or character who justifies this act.

I understood why the book ended as it did however, it was not satisfying. It all felt contrived and the ending was not what the reader would expect or hope for.

I don't believe that Kandi(a secondary character) will have a HEA I could see why one would think Venus might.

I had to really concentrate to finish this book, I just was not invested in the characters.

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### Lynecia says

I did not expect to relate to this story so hard!

Can't wait for the Netflix movie with Sanaa Lathan.

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### Audra says

I'll definitely be reading all the books in this series. I went natural five years ago this month. For those that may not know what that means, let me explain: it means that I stopped putting relaxers in my hair and let it come out of my head the way God made it.

When I read this book, I truly felt a bond with Venus. When she cut all her hair off and went natural, people

acted as if she was a different person, as if her beauty disappeared along with the processed hair she had removed.

I shared in her struggles of learning to love myself and see myself as beautiful and that beauty had absolutely nothing to do with outward appearances.

That being said, this book was also full of twists and very unexpected turns. Venus's life was falling in around her. When she was dating Clint, she kept up an absolutely perfect appearance, wrongly thinking that if she supported him through medical school, her prize would be a marriage proposal. She had no idea that she was making him feel pressured. As her personal world crumbled, so did her professional one. Venus wanted to be an account manager at her current firm and bypassed her bosses and went directly to the client to pitch her talents. Right around that time she began getting nasty notes left in her work mail calling her names and threatening her. She had no idea who it was.

She and Clint broke up. Clint moved on just as Venus realized how wrong she was and wanted to start again. She lost that relationship, but she gained loving herself.

This book is dedicated to women, and men, everywhere who are brave enough to go natural in both the literal and figurative sense. It is only when we truly love ourselves that we can receive the true love of someone else.

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### **MarloweOverShakespeare says**

I may have to round up a book club for this series. And I can't wait to see this on screen when it finally releases - cause I can definitely see this series being acted out. So much entertainment with lots of heavy moments. I'm officially hooked. On to #2!

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### **Dana says**

I think it's important for women who are not of color to learn about how much thought and effort is put into certain hairstyles and appearances... how much of an impression styles can make on society...how women of color are perceived by their hair. White women (such as myself) often take this for granted.

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### **Tabú says**

**Amazing!!! Reminds me of India Arie's "I am not my hair".**

I read this book because I saw the trailer for the show. Yes, I needed to know if the show will live up to the writing.

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### **Donna says**

Not just a "black woman" version of chick lit, This also isn't a 'hair care' book, so put it down if you think it is. - Although yes, it is a book about a black woman, Venus Johnston, and, it is a book about hair...technically.

It is so much more than that. Its about self-esteem, Its about loving yourself before you realize that you can love someone else, its about...Everything, every woman. Every Race, Colour and Religion goes through. Its like the ultimate girl's guide to knowing that everything is going to be okay. Eventually. And even when you wanna scream and shout and hide in a corner and cry, its okay to do that too. Nappily Ever After, isn't a 'bougie chick lit book' as someone else referred to it on here, its an every woman book. and every woman should read it.

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### **Cateyesmd says**

I listened to this audio version to get ready for the Netflix on-screen version coming out next month. I thoroughly enjoyed this story line and definitely see myself reading more of the series.

Though I'm natural and have been for 18-years I definitely didn't have the personal hang-ups with my relaxed hair as is common and for that I'm thankful. The story line is real life though told in a lighthearted way, yet can definitely touch on the heart strings if you've walked the same road at any time in your life.

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### **Antoinette says**

Loved it! The narrator, Lisa Renee Pitts, is awesome. Not only did she have the accents down, her renditions of The Supremes' and Marvin Gaye's songs were really good. She really brought the story to life.

I'm downloading "Would I Lie to You," book 2 in the series, to my Kindle as we speak. Sadly, it's not available on audio. Oh well! :)

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### **Keisha says**

This was a good book. I read it a while ago, so I didn't know that the author had written more books.

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### **Mel says**

I have mixed emotions about Nappily Ever After. It starts with Venus cutting off her long relaxed hair. For most that have made that transition (such as myself), it's a big deal. You either love it or hate it. It changes the way you see yourself. It can also change the way others see you. At any rate, her and her live in, long term boyfriend Clint are breaking up after his procrastination to propose. Clint is a catch. He is upwardly mobile, a handsome doctor. Venus is a nuanced character. Sometimes identifiable, sometimes not very likeable. It was a fast read. I guess "Chick Lit". I am interested in seeing how things go in the rest of the

series.

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### **Nizzy says**

Using the main character Venus, it seemed the author tried to convey the message that you cannot love someone else until you love yourself. While I appreciate the effort, I thought the idea was not fully developed, because Venus' revelation fell flat. After she cut off her 'relaxed' hair and cut off her man, she somehow came to the realization that her life revolved around her hair. I didn't believe her transformation.

I also do not understand how this book leads into a series. The characters were not enjoyable enough to read/listen any more about them. They have their fair share of drama, but it's mostly predictable. I thought that there was too much dialogue that didn't help the story along and failed to give additional insight into the characters thoughts or feelings.

I also found it bothersome that the narrator would break out singing whenever a song was mentioned.

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### **Ebony Jones-Kuye says**

I love Trisha Thomas book! I can relate to the main character in this book. The main character is like most African-American professional women; well spoken, educated, and also trying to maintain their straight hair. Venus Johnston is the main character and she decides to cut her so-called "good hair" off and it changes everything in her life. This book hits home with me because so many times I have heard African-American women wish they could go natural but get scared because they wonder what their men, family, or peers will say about their natural hair.

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### **Veronika says**

I heard that Halle Berry may be staring in the movie adaption for this book and that she may be shaving her head! ...so in that case I really want to try and read this book before the movie comes out.

Hopefully with the release of the movie it will inspire more African-American women to go in the natural direction with their hair! :)

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### **Kat (Kindred Dreamheart) says**

I heard Hollywood was going to turn this book into a movie starring Halle Berry, so I had to check it out! I figured if they were soliciting an Academy Award/Oscar winning actress, then it had to be crème de la crème..... ummm not so much .

The story begins in the *future* [If you call the '90's future....but hey I didn't realize this book was THAT old] with Clint at the alter thinking about his "bride to be". [Almost like he needs the reassurance to continue

standing there.] When **She** walks in, wearing a dress that stops at the beginning of her legs (his words, not mine), making everyone whisper in wonder "why **she** there", and has him (the groom) all dry mouth (again, his words) and sweating. And to top it off, he invited her. Heck, "HAND DELIVERED" the invitation. Then he finds himself second thinking while Treulich geführt is gearing up on the organs.

Then the story rewinds and we're propelled in the commentary tangent of a woman in the mist of liberating her scalp from the "creamy crack" with "THE BIG CHOP". [HOLD UP! Go Back! I have like a million questions... Who was that chica at the wedding? Should I **Hate** her or the Bride? Someone's the **homewrecker** or **BIATCH**! Right?]

The drama in the beginning was my driving force! But sadly by the time I got to page 119, I was drained and nursing a boredom induced migraine. [This is not your typical love triangle. I didn't hate any of the characters. However much I wanted. They didn't really make a significant impact. Kandi came across stupid and desparate. Venus came across stupid and with way too much "I'm-a-strong-black-woman-ess". Clint? Well, Clint was a "man".] So I skipped to the last few pages, where the future came back into focus. It's nice to see some of the drama DIE and the characters lived *Nappily Ever After* [For now, at least]!

I guess I'll wait to see the movie (March 2012). There just wasn't enough action for me. I would rather see Halle Berry play Kandi and Alicia Keys play Venus. Ms. Berry can act her way out of a paper bag and can play ANY role!

I may check out the other books in the series. A lot of people gave Trisha R. Thomas' books high ratings, so I'll give her another shot. If it snagged the attention of a director, hey!

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