

BLACK GIRLS MUST HAVE IT ALL

A Letter to Book Clubs

Wow, what a ride we've been on together. As my eyes passed over the very last words of the *Black Girls Must Have It All* manuscript, after all the deep work and the tears, the laughable mishaps and rewrites, I felt relief in knowing we'd finally given Tabby the happy ending she deserved. In that moment, I hoped to capture in its rawest form what I most wanted to say to you, the readers who have supported this unlikely journey. Above all, I want to say thank you. Thank you so much.

When I first started this series, I had so many doubts and fears, much like Tabby, who you first met when she was only 33 years old in *Black Girls Must Die Exhausted*. In this final novel of the trilogy, you'll rejoin her as a mother, years since that first car ride into work when she poured her heart out to you and invited you into her world. You'll be reintroduced to a much more confident woman, but who still has a long way to go—in many ways still, just like me. Tabby has taught me to love myself even more, to be authentic, and that it's perfectly fine to name my own happily ever after.

There's a significant theme of mothering in this book, but not just in the conventional sense. In these pages is a celebration of motherhood—how we nurture each other, ourselves, our dreams, and our communities—and the humans who call that role of nurturer their own.

I hope this book makes you want to call the person who nurtures you or someone who you nurture. I hope it makes you want to hug your loved one. Love on yourself. Tell someone thank you, that you see them, and try your best to make it true.

In every moment of writing this book, I thought of you. I've given you my very best and I hope so very much that you enjoy.

Yours always,



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Black Girls Must Have It All*, along with the first two books in the series, examines motherhood in many different forms, conventional and otherwise. What different examples of mothering can you identify? What does motherhood mean to you? What are some ways you nurture and allow yourself to be nurtured?
2. Tabitha Walker has always had a checklist of what she thought her life would be. In the early days of motherhood, she finds herself reevaluating her life. "For the first time in my life, I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing." What insecurities is she struggling with? Are her feelings understandable? Have you ever felt like this? What was the situation and how was it resolved?
3. How does Tabby feel about marriage? Do you empathize with her hesitancy? Should Tabby and Marc marry because they've had a child together? What do families look like to you? What are your thoughts on co-parenting?
4. Both Marc's mother and Tabby's mother have strong opinions about how Tabby should parent. How does each make Tabby feel? Why do so many people feel the need to share their opinions on how to mother? "That's the thing about advice; its value is mostly subjective." What do you think about this statement?
5. Tabby learns from her sisters that her father and Diane are fighting, and she assumes he is going to leave. After confronting her father and learning that is not the case, she realizes she was "stuck in the loop of her past." How have Tabby's experiences caused her to feel stuck?
6. Tabby has experienced many challenges in the workplace throughout the series. In book #1 she is passed over for a promotion that went to a less qualified male colleague. In book #2 Tabby's natural hair becomes a source of tension. In book #3 Tabby must contend with being left behind while on maternity leave. What challenges do women, in particular Black women and mothers, experience in their workplace? Have you experienced similar challenges? How did you confront these challenges?
7. Lisa cautions Tabby that her workplace would not be the same one she left. How does maternity leave affect a woman's return to work? Are Tabby's worries justified? Do women inherently miss out on work opportunities due to the decisions to become a mother?
8. Laila feels left out when Alexis and Tabby talk about their relationships and children. Tabby confides to Alexis that she understands how Laila would feel invisible, especially since the choices she made aren't seen as sacrifices. Laila is not married, does not have a child, and has recently started a business. What has she sacrificed by making these choices?
9. When considering her work, motherhood, her friends...her whole life, Tabby thinks, "I'd really really like to be happy—not my mother's kind of happy, or my grandmother's even. What I want is life's very best." What does she mean? How does generational happiness differ?
10. When Tabby admits to feeling overwhelmed her doctor prescribes her to "ask for help." Andouele tells Tabby that asking for help is self-care. Why is asking for help so difficult for Tabby? Was there ever a time you needed help but couldn't ask for it?
11. What does the title *Black Girls Must Have It All* mean to you? Does Tabby succeed in "having it all"? What does it mean to you to "have it all"?
12. What's next for Tabitha Walker?

LEXI'S PARTY PLAYLIST

 Click [HERE](#) to open Spotify

CRANES IN THE SKY by Solange

BODY by Syd

POETIC JUSTICE by Kendrick Lamar and Drake

LOVE NO LIMIT by Mary J. Blige

PRESSURE by Ari Lennox

BITCH, DON'T KILL MY VIBE by Kendrick Lamar

LOSING YOU by Solange

ESSENCE by Wizkid, featuring Tems

GIRL ON FIRE by Alicia Keys, featuring Nicki Minaj

LOVE OF MY LIFE WORLDWIDE by Erykah Badu, Queen Latifah, Angie Stone, and Bahamadia

A LONG WALK by Jill Scott

YOU BRING ME JOY by Mary J. Blige

LAST LAST by Burna Boy

CUFF IT by Beyoncé

GOLDEN by Jill Scott

PAY ME by Troniq Music and Oxlade

FIND YOUR WAY BACK by Beyoncé

ALL THE STARS by Kendrick Lamar with SZA

RICH SPIRIT by Kendrick Lamar

CHOCOLATE by Kiana Ledé, featuring Ari Lennox

WANT YOU by Oxlade

HIGHER by DJ Khaled, featuring Nipsey Hussle and John Legend

BREAK MY SOUL by Beyoncé

FEELING MYSELF by Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé

GOD DID by DJ Khaled, featuring Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, JAY-Z, John Legend, and Fridayy



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JAYNE ALLEN is the pen name of Jaunique Sealey, a writer, producer, entrepreneur, and forever recovering attorney. She was proudly “made in Detroit” and honed in the halls of Duke University and Harvard Law School, from which she is a graduate. Purposeful in centering and celebrating black women’s societal contributions, Allen crafts transcultural stories that explore contemporary issues such as modern relationships, workplace and career dynamics, fertility, and the complexities of race. Her common themes include mental and physical health awareness and highlight the importance of self-love and self-care. Allen is the author of the bestselling Black Girls Must Die Exhausted trilogy and is working on her first standalone novel.

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