

Naughty Brenda Hampton

REPRINT EDITION
Jaylin Jerome Rogers is back. This time, he’s furious that things didn’t go according to his plan and anyone who dares to cross him again is going to pay. Mad at the world, Jaylin’s disrespectful and cruel ways takes him down a path he never thought he would go. He’s addint new women to his collection and being the wealthy, intelligent, sexy, and still kicking it down in the bedroom brotha that he is, he finds himself about to slip. Who’s the lucky woman this time? Whoever she is, she just might get herself into something she can’t handle. Or, will he?

Jaylin Jerome Rogers, an investment broker worth millions, lives a high-class life with plenty of women to share it with. Nestled in his lavish home in Chesterfield, Missouri, he captures women with his wealth, charm, nine-plus inches of goodness and amazingly good looks. Although his bed is never empty, his heart is. He feels nothing for the women who love him dearly and continues his search for the “perfect” one. When Scorpio Valentino, an attractive, seductive and charming woman saunters into his view, she offers Jaylin a life of altering changes. Her intention is to make his life a living hell, however, Jaylin is not about to take the fall. Surprisingly, soon, love presents itself. Not that Jaylin is looking for love, but he experiences love through becoming a father to Scorpio’s five-year-old daughter, Maskenzie. She’s his guardian angel and is there for Jaylin through the tough times he’s bound to face.

After a brutal divorce, Abigail Wilson vowed to never love again, but when Brent Carson crosses her path, she simply can’t resist his good-guy persona that exemplifies perfection. From A to Z, Brent appears to have it all. Abigail falls head over heels for him—until the unthinkable happens. Brent’s announcement, “I’m just not that into you,” sends her on a downward spiral. She can’t cope with ill treatment from another man, and now nothing would please her more than to see Brent making his way to the gates of hell. In a rush to get him there, Abigail takes on an unforgettable, head-shaking, and shocking role as . . . Mrs. Stalker. Look up the word “playa” in a dictionary and you’ll find a description of Jaylin’s “Naughty Boy” Rogers. He’s always lived up to his bad boy persona, and there doesn’t appear to be a woman in the world who can wash her hands of this addictive man. Now, the time has come for him to make some critical changes, or else his playing days are about to get him played. Even after Jaylin fails to prove to Scorpio that he’s a one-woman man, she still can’t let him go. Their relationship revolves around lies and manipulation—and electrifying sex. Scorpio’s serving it up on demand, until she finds out that Jaylin’s lifetime love, Nokea, just might be serving it up again as well. Just when Jaylin thinks he’s got the world in the palms of his hands, “Jaylin’s World” slips away. He’s not being too particular with his female companions, and settling for anything sends him plunging into a lonely life without anyone by his side. Can he wake up and smell the coffee before it’s too late, or will a change for this man just never come?

The Dirty Truth

25th Anniversary edition, Updated and Expanded

Jaylin’s World

Heaven and Hell Series, Book 2

Slick

Collects fifteen stories sharing the erotic relationships of people in a variety of circumstances by writers including Tananarive Due, Karen Johnson, Private Joy, Zane, and Nilaja A. Montgomery.

Secrets are revealed that change everything they thought they knew, and the family is again thrust into the public eye. A dangerous scandal threatens to unravel them once and for all. While Tyree and Mia are more in love than they have ever have been, Mia’s past omissions could come back to ruin their happy reunion. With more danger and betrayal looming, will they be able to dig their way out of the latest fiasco, or will the newest threat prove to be their undoing? Tyree Johnston found himself stuck between what his heart wanted and what his head said was right. His ex, Mia, left for Paris the minute her divorce was final, but her love for Tyree and her son brought her back home. Tyree’s father, John, had betrayed his entire family, and Tyree and Mia were left to pick up the pieces. In the midst of their struggles, Tyree and Mia found their way back to each other. Now, three years have passed since they last heard from Richmond, who is on the run for murder, so they think they are in the clear. Tyree and Mia have moved on, combining their family businesses to create one huge conglomerate. Then, one fateful day, Richmond resurfaces and begins to make taunting phone calls. He lets his family know they will never be rid of him and that more havoc is headed their way.

Naughty is as naughty always does, and Jaylin Jerome Rogers never disappoints. The aftermath to the Naughty Series picks up nearly three years later, and the tables have clearly turned. For the first time ever, Nokea has found true love with another man, while Jaylin remains on the outside, wondering how it has come to this. He could never imagine Nokea falling out of love with him, but Dr. Travis L. Cooper has it all from A to Z. He’s perfectly fine with Nokea and Jaylin being just friends, but getting too comfortable may become a setback or a setup for major things to come. Everyone struggles to stay in their own lane, even Scorpio, who is finally preparing herself to walk down the aisle. Before that can happen, she desires one final night, just one, with the man who continues to hold a grip on her heart. Every woman knows that one night with Jaylin can be a game changer, and as Scorpio predicts, their heated sex session concludes with a bang. The only person ready to aim and shoot is Scorpio’s man, Mario, whose loyal family has ties to the Mafia. Betrayal isn’t something he’s comfortable with, and with a billionaire status, Mario is forced to keep his eyes on the money and his woman. Scorpio is in way over her head, and unfortunately, so is Nokea, who gets blindsided by a twist that no one sees coming. Brenda Hampton delivers another page-turner full of the dramatic antics of bad-boy Jaylin Jerome Rogers and the women who can’t resist him.

Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall’s exposé of America’s political police force, the FBI, reveals the steel fist undergirding “compassionate conservatism’s” velvet glove. Using original FBI memos, the authors provide extensive analysis of the agency’s treatment of the left, from the Communist Party in the 1950s to the Central America solidarity movement in the 1980s. The authors’ new introduction posits likely trajectories for domestic repression.

Stalker

BFF’S 2

The Line of Beauty

Two Wrongs Don’t Make it Right

Scandals

Couldn’t Keep It to Myself

As he struggles to control his drug empire and keep his cutthroat girlfriend in check, Kiley Jacoby Abrams has the next several months cut out for him. If that’s not enough, he’s got more setbacks than one man can handle: an arrogant and troublesome brother, a sneaky playa-hating friend, another friend who turns to him for everything, and a woman who only claims to have his back. Kiley’s life is full of secrets from the past, and for as long as he can remember, he’s been running from a life of crime. Moving from Los Angeles to St. Louis doesn’t allow him the change his heart desires, and Kiley soon realizes that trouble is his middle name. His fight to turn his life around doesn’t last for long. When a new love interests comes knocking at his door, she offers Kiley a life of stability—or possibly a new journey that the devil’s lonely hell.

These five salacious stories are filled to the brim with sizzling, steamy erotica for anyone who enjoys, fantasizes about, or simply craves girl-girl sex. In “Juicy Fruit,” Ava Wilson, a full-figured single diva, has always wondered what having sex with a woman would be like. So when she goes on a weekend getaway with her friend, Ava allows curiosity to get the best of her. In “Sweet ’n’ Sticky,” Miasha Simmons is the perfect little trophy wife for her wealthy attorney-husband, and she knows how to keep her man happy. But when he’s away, his sweet, loving wife likes to play...with other women. In “Cum Master,” Laila Reynolds loves the sweet sting of a whip from those who seek her out through her website, promising solitors a night of hot, steamy fun they’ll never forget. In “Liquid Heat,” there’s nothing more delicious to businessman Ebony Rice than being on the receiving end of a gang-bang with six lovely, harness-strapped women. In “Straight No Chaser,” playboi-stud Reggie Sanders loves the chase of beautiful straight women. That’s until she seduces a woman who gives Reggie a taste of her own medicine—straight with no chasing.

Real estate magnate Jaylin Jerome Rogers is happily married to his one and only love, Nokea. They’ve got adorable kids and a lovely home in Miami Beach. The biggest mistake of Jaylin’s life, his affair with Scorpio Valentino, is behind him—or so he believes. But beneath the still waters of marital bliss, drama is bubbling up! Jaylin thought Scorpio was just a short-term jump off, but his world is rocked when she reveals that he is her year-old son’s father. Suddenly both of their marriages are on the rocks, as Jaylin tries to be a father to his newfound son, and Scorpio moves to Miami intent on reigniting their affair. While Nokea builds a new life for herself, her husband hatches a desperate plan to win her back.

The sequel to Naughty by Nature burns with FIRE! Hampton’s most lovable characters are back, and as usual, “It’s about to be some sh*t” up in here!” Jaylin, Nokea, Shane, Scorpio, and let’s not forget about Felicia, are determined to make this a read you’ll never forget. While Jaylin fights his battle to stay out of jail for giving Felicia a major beat-down, he also has to do what it takes to maintain his marriage to Nokea. This time, she’s skeptical about standing by her man, and when she finds out that Scorpio and Jaylin can’t quite keep their feelings under control, throwing in the towel just might be the best thing to do. Till death do us part, Jaylin confirms, as losing his wife is not an option. For everyone, Scorpio’s cravings for the one man she’ll never be able to conquer must come to an end. Shane continues to show her that he’s the only man she needs, but will his efforts be enough? Of course, Felicia stands in the way of everyone’s happiness and satisfaction to her could possibly mean death. –This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Don’t Even Go There

Slippery When Wet

Naughty 4

Mistress

When Somebody Loves You Back

If You Were My Man

Jaylin: a Naughty/AftermathNaughty SeriesUrban Renaissance

Anya Meadows can't imagine being without her husband, Neil. But lately she also can't imagine being with him - in bed, that is. Anya's heart wants to say yes, but her body, mainly her hormones, say no way. Anya knows something's gotta give and she doesn't want it to be her marriage. She loves Neil and their life with their young daughter. So Anya swallows her pride - and shocks her frustrated husband - by giving him permission to have a mistress. The only rule is that he's forbidden to fall in love. But that's not the restriction he finds toughest to follow...

"Sex, lies, and betrayal. . ." --Urban Reviews "Hot and steamy. . ." --APOO BookClub Single mom Monica Houston needs to find a job. When her best friend suggests she answer an ad seeking exotic dancers, they both laugh. But with no work in sight, it's no joke. Soon, Monica is dancing at Scandalous, and the money is flowing. But to hold on to her children, and her heart, she'll have to keep it a secret from both her ex and her new man. . . The baddest dancer at Scandalous, Robin Douglas a.k.a. "Treasure, lives for herself and trusts no one. The last thing she wants is to take in her estranged sister Deena's little boy. But with Deena arrested for murder, she has no choice. Kyle's hot, "big brother" Trey has been determined to prove Deena's innocence, even if it jeopardizes her new life. . . "Keep your eyes on Sasha Campbell!" --Brenda Hampton, author of the Naughty series

When it comes to a real friendship, Kayla, Evelyn, and Trina have one last opportunity to get it right. If only for a short period, they appear to be on the same path and willing to put their chaotic past behind them. Evelyn's near-death experience has everyone embracing her, even Kayla's ex-husband, Cedric, who uses his wealth and power to get whatever his heart desires. To help him settle scores with individuals he now considers his enemies, Cedric handpicks the person he believes is the weakest link of them all—but trusting Miss Evelyn could be the wrong move. She has a bad reputation when it comes to her loyalty to friends, and there is nothing that will stop her from biting the hands that continuously feed her. Once again, Trina puts herself in a position to save them all, but when secrets unravel about the love of her life, she'll have to figure out more than one way to save herself.

BFF'S 3

How Can I Be Down?

Addicted to an Addict

Hell House 2

The Roof Is on Fire

Best Black Women's Erotica

Everyones favorite scandalously self-centered Queen returns! Always a Queen picks up with a very pregnant Queen in Hawaii, trying to make sense of her murderous and salacious past. But when she returns to St. Louis, which of the two men she left hangin will she choose? Queen soon discovers that running away from her problems didnt make them go away, and now more than ever she must step up and reclaim her throne. What was once the cherished kingdom of her father has changed, and she must try to soxexed, but she is Always A Queen!

In this second installment in the Hell House trilogy, six fiery, larger-than-life characters compete to win \$100,000 in an outrageous competition that sends drama levels through the roof. The most memorable characters from Brenda Hampton’s bestselling novels come together in a house that could unite them—or destroy them. Roc Dawson from Full Figured, Chase Jenkins from Don’t Even Go There, Sylvia McMillan from SLICK, Jada Mahoney from How Can I Be Down?, Jamal “Prince” Perkins from Street Soldier, and Jada overwhehling differences aside and calm their unique personalities. Without supervision, though, anything could happen inside Hell House—especially when there is \$100,000 at stake. In The Roof Is on Fire, the Hell House isn’t a joke anymore for the contestants who thought they could breeze through the challenge and carry on until the very end. The ladies continue to fight like cats and dogs, and the men don’t have much love for each other, either. In a place where saying one wrong word can get the loudmouth a necessary. A few contestants will be called out for their sleazy, jaw-dropping actions, and a bad decision can lead to one place—the front door. Full of drama, with a hint of raunchiness and manipulation, The Roof Is on Fire is a temptation you won’t want to pass up. Who will be the last woman or man standing, or who will walk out, slamming the door behind them and screaming at the top of their lungs?

Alexis Gibbs, addicted to a controlling man named Jarred Simmons who has given her nothing but empty promises and broken commitments, must choose between being Jarred’s mistress forever or moving on and starting a new life with a new man.

Nathalyia Fontaine has been the sole proprietor of the restaurant Fontaine since her husband died four years ago. She hasn’t dated anyone in all those years, choosing not to open her heart again, or risk revealing her dark past. That is, until she meets Rafael Dunlap. Rafael is a hostage negotiator with his own set of problems. Though he loves women, he vows he’ll never marry because his job is just too unpredictable. He can’t imagine leaving a widow and children behind. But his thinking and game plan of loving and le

him, Rafael sweeps her into a whirlwind romance. When the unexpected happens, and the lines of true friendship will be crossed, the knives that go into another friend’s back will cut deep, trust will not apply, and no one will share their dirty little secrets. With enough backstabbing, finger-pointing, and disrespect to go around, this trio sticks to their motto of “What she can do, I can do better; and whatever she has, I want a piece of it too.” Much competition is thrown in the mix, and jealousy is so thick that there will be no place for anyone to run when the mess hits the fan. Only then will they attempt to put their many differences aside, but when severe damage is already done, it may be possible to forgive, but certainly not to forget.

No Turning back

It’s Juicy, No Matter How You Slice It

Hell House

The Cointelpro Papers

Reality TV Drama

Jaylin: a Naughty Aftermath

He was tall, dark as bittersweet chocolate, and impossibly gorgeous, with a woman-melting smile. She was pretty and independent, petite and not too skinny, just his type. Franklin Swift was a sometimes-employed construction worker, and a not-quite-divorced daddy of two. Zora Banks was a teacher, singer, songwriter. They met in a Brooklyn brownstone, and there could be no walking away... In this funny, gritty urban love story, Franklin and Zora join the ranks of fiction’s most compelling couples, as they move from Scramble to sex, from layoffs to the limits of faith and trust. Disappearing Acts is about the mystery of desire and the burdens of the past. It’s about respect, what it can and can’t survive. And it’s about the safe and secret places that only love can find.

In this ingenious novel that brings reality TV to the printed page, drama levels go through the roof as six outrageous characters fiercely compete to win \$100,000. In this ingenious novel that brings reality TV to the printed page, drama levels go through the roof as six outrageous characters fiercely compete to win \$100,000. The most controversial characters from Brenda Hampton’s bestselling novels come together in a house that could unite— or destroy—then all. Roc Dawson from Full Figured, Chase Jenkins from Don’t Even GoThere, Sylvia McMillan from SLICK, Jada Mahoney from How Can I Be Down?, Jamal “Prince” Perkins from Street Soldier, and Jaylin Rogers from the Naughty Series attempt to put aside their overwhelming differences and calm their unique personalities. Without supervision, though, anything could happen inside Hell House—especially when there’s \$100,000 at stake. And these six cutthroat contestants are determined to have it all. Overflowing with drama, raunchiness, and manipulation, survival by any means necessary is their primary focus, but only those with tough skin will make it to the next round, and who will be the last woman or man standing, and who will walk out, slamming the door behind them and screaming at the top of their lungs? Winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the NBCC award. From Alan Hollinghurst, the acclaimed author of The Sparsholt Affair, The Line of Beauty is a sweeping novel about class, sex, and money during four extraordinary years of change and tragedy. In the summer of 1983, twenty-year-old Nick Guest moves into an attic room in the Notting Hill home of the Feddens: conservative Member of Parliament Gerald, his wealthy wife Rachel, and their two children, Toby-whom Nick had idolized at Oxford—and Catherine, who is highly critical of her family’s assumptions and ambitions. As the boom years of the eighties unfold, Nick, an innocent in the world of politics and money, finds his life altered by the rising fortunes of this glamorous family. His two vividly contrasting love affairs, one with a young black clerk and one with a Lebanese millionaire, dramatize the dangers and rewards of his own private pursuit of beauty, a pursuit as compelling to Nick as the desire for power and riches among his friends. Richly textured, emotionally charged, disarmingly comic, this is a major work by one of our finest writers.

Obsessed with her memories of Jaylin ‘Naughty Boy’ Rogers, Scorpio Valentino’s life hasn’t been the same since he left. After too many lonely nights, she’s determined to get Jaylin back. Even though he’s happily married and resides in another city, she plans to use her seductive charms in hopes that a playa still dwells deep inside him. But while she’s attempting to turn back time, Scorpio may find out that some things are better off left behind.

Lost daughters

All the Lies We Tell

Disappearing Acts

BFF’s Forever

Art Worlds

Two’s Enough, Three’s A Crowd

Jealousy, greed, and violent revenge are all at the forefront in this page-turner by Brenda Hampton, the queen of girlfriends’ drama. Kayla, Evelyn, and Trina have been on-and-off-again girlfriends for many years, but the lines of true friendship have been crossed, the knives that went into another friend’s back cut deep, and trust no longer applies when one woman has an affair with another’s man. Once the lines of true friendship have been crossed, will this trio ever be able to regain the bond of loyalty they once shared?

In Honey’s debut novel, a man must learn how to cope with his wife’s heroine addiction while raising two daughters and being the mayor of Atlanta. Atlanta’s mayor, The Honorable Josiah J. Bishop, has an addiction to his wife, Mink, that is just as powerful as her toxic love affair with heroin. As her life spirals out of control due to her obsession with the needle, his love and devotion to her is slowly shredding his soul into tiny pieces. But he just can’t let her go. The brotha’s loyalty to the love of his life and the mother of two young, adorable daughters is deeper than any ocean. No matter how far Mink drags Josiah down into the murkiness of drugs, booze, and danger on the streets of the ATL, he’s determined to love, cherish, and honor her until death. He’s hooked on her. It’s just that simple. The only thing Mink is faithful to is her next fix. She’ll cop it wherever she can and by any means, trying desperately to escape from the secret demons of her past that haunt her daily. Mink’s troubled soul remains a prisoner of addiction, twirling violently like a tornado and destroying everything in its path. Not even the love of a good man can set her free from emotional bondage. As Election Day approaches, Josiah’s bid to serve a second term in City Hall is jeopardized when Mink commits her most heinous act. The media is going wild to cover the tragic murder and robbery of one of Mink’s fellow addicts, a wealthy and prominent Hollywood filmmaker who was more than generous to her after she left yet another treatment facility. She’s on the run from justice, ignoring Josiah’s pleas to turn herself in. Mink realizes that she’s at the end of her rope, but Josiah isn’t sure if he has any more forgiveness in his heart for his wife. He will always love her, but finally, he desires love in return. His addiction to Mink has blinded him of that one basic need all this time. Now Josiah has a decision to make. Will he stay in the clutches of addiction to the drug called Mink? Or will he kick the habit once and for all and free himself forever?

In a stunning work of insight and hope, New York Times bestselling author Wally Lamb once again reveals his unmatched talent for finding humanity in the lost and lonely and celebrates the transforming power of the written word. For several years, Lamb has taught writing to a group of women prisoners at York Correctional Institution in Connecticut. In this unforgettable collection, the women of York describe in their own words how they were imprisoned by abuse, rejection, and their own self-destructive impulses long before they entered the criminal justice system. Yet these are powerful stories of hope and healing, told by writers who have left victimhood behind. In his moving introduction, Lamb describes the incredible journey of expression and self-awareness the women took through their writing and shares how they challenged him as a teacher and as a fellow author. Couldn’t Keep It to Myself is a true testament to the process of finding oneself and working toward a better day.

Kayla thought that her best friends, Evelyn and Trina, were supposed to always have her back, but when she discovers that Evelyn has been creeping with her husband, Cedric, and Trina has known about the ongoing affair for quite some time, Kayla is ready to cut ties and leave her so-called friends behind. Their actions have shown how scheming they truly are. Of course, they are no more manipulative than Cedric, who lies in a hospital bed, clinging to life. The person who attempted to silence him is now behind bars, but just because one scorned woman is out of the picture, it doesn’t mean he’s in the clear. He may not be able to utilize his joystick for a while, but his millions are still in play. Evelyn is eager to get her hands on his money, and pregnant with his child, she envisions a bright future ahead. She has a serious need for greed—greed that also makes her hungry for Trina’s beau, Keith. He displays a deep concern for the troublesome BFF’s, but his involvement may have him confessing to Trina that whatever Evelyn wants, she will eventually get.

My Way Or No Way

BFF’S

Naughty 5:

Too Naughty to

Always a Queen

Women, Race, & Class

When Brandon, her new boyfriend, tries to mold her into the exact image of his late fiancée, who was brutally murdered, Evelyn Thomas believes she is in over her head, while Brandon, still obsessed with finding Cassandra’s killer, sets in motion a deadly chain of events. Original.

Essence Bestselling Author Brenda Hampton presents Don’t Even Go There, the story of Chase Jenkins, a troublemaking, backstabbing diva, who will stop at nothing to get what she wants, even going after her boss’s husband.

I’m at loss for words; I loved this book and all the characters. Sad to see it all...end? I hope not! Brenda girlfriend you’ve out done yourself yet again; you’re grabbed your readers from page one, continuing where NBN left off...with our mouth open and wondering what happened. Like I said Too Naughty picks up exactly where NBN leaves us, Felicia about to receive a beat down. Along the way we learn more about Jaylin, Nokea, Shane, and Scorpio as each continues to deal with their emotions and actions. Jaylin is still the man who lives by his own rules, but he soon realizes jumping the gun, can get him in a LOT of trouble and either almost or will cost him to lose the one person he loves and needs most in his life.

We hadn’t planned on going to Alexandria that year until my uncle came to Egypt and insisted on it. Honestly, I couldn’t find anything exciting about Alexandria. It’s changed. It’s been changing every year. Everything has become louder, more crowded, and lonelier for me. Most of my friends go to the North Coast or to Ain Sokhna. It’s the perpetual search for everything new - except for my folks! We always stay at the same place and see the same people, until today. The building in which we always stay was demolished, and my uncle volunteered to find two apartments through a friend of his.

My Husband’s Girlfriend

Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters

Naughty:

Naughty No More

Naughty Series

Desperately searching for the man who murdered his fiancée, Brandon Lee Fletcher finds his quest for justice threatening his peace of mind, his relationship with a new girlfriend, and his own safety when he gets too close to the killer. Original.

When Nokea and Brent have been married for almost four years, Jaylin has finally found his womanizing ways, and they’re happily raising their children together. Things couldn’t be more perfect, until an unforgettable kiss from Nokea’s past has her wondering what could-or should-have been. The tender kiss was placed on her lips by Jaylin’s best friend, Shane, and when Nokea is forced to spend one night alone with him, the unthinkable happens. No one seems willing to play by the rules, and that includes Jaylin. He’s surrounded by many women willing to help him forget about Nokea’s unfortunate affair. One woman in particular, Scorpio, is like poison. Back in the day, he couldn’t get enough of her, and now that the road is rocky in Jaylin’s marriage, Scorpio makes an attempt to tiptoe back in. After so many happy years together, who would have thought that Nokea and Jaylin would find themselves in this situation? Nokea knows she holds the key to her husband’s heart, but after his numerous naughty nights, does she even want her key to fit? Just in case the marriage doesn’t work out, she’s making sure her pockets stay fat and full with all of Jaylin’s money. He must be dreaming if he believes his decision to backslide on their marriage bears no consequences. Essence bestselling author Brenda Hampton delivers the drama once again in the next installment to the Naughty series. Surely the law will be laid down, but it won’t be over until Jaylin delivers the final word!

"A spicy mixture of family scandal, mother-daughter betrayal, and good-for-nothing men" from the New York Times bestselling author of God Don't Like Ugly (Publishers Weekly). Everyone from Louisiana to Florida knows Mama Ruby—a small-town girl who became one of the South's most notorious and volatile women. Now Mary Monroe reveals how Mama Ruby's past haunts the family she's left behind . . . Mama Ruby has died, and Maureen Montgomery is finally taking charge of her own life. With her beautiful teenage daughter, Loretta, by her side, she returns to Florida and settles into a routine any other woman would consider bland. But for Maureen and her brother, Virgil, after Mama Ruby's hair-trigger temper and murderous ways, bland is good. Yet Loretta has other ideas . . . Set on becoming rich and famous, Loretta convinces Maureen to let her start a modeling career with the help of a Miami photographer. But even as they move in promising new directions, they can't escape Mama Ruby—including Virgil, who's concealed one of her most shocking acts for most of his life. To make a future that's truly hers, Maureen will have to take on a bit of Mama Ruby's strength, forge new bonds—and face down the past. Praise for Mary Monroe "An exceptional writer and phenomenal storyteller!" —Kimberla Lawson Roby, New York Times bestselling author "A remarkable talent." —Chicago Sun-Times "Monroe is a masterful storyteller." —Philadelphia Inquirer