



Book Review

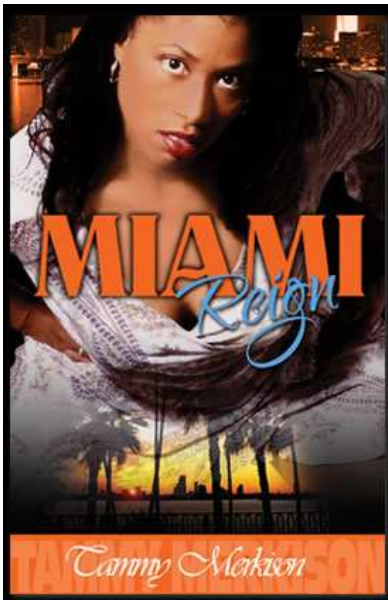
Miami Reign

Tammy Merkison

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Brand new author **Tammy Merkison** has joined the plethora of books written in



sharp parallel to the urbane mindset catering to street jargon and the life that perpetuate it. With **MIAMI REIGN**, she churns out a tale illustrating the pangs and problems of a dysfunctional family, and how drugs, derelicts and disfavor can define a drama personified. This crime thriller brings together a cast not dissimilar to other stories depicting life dealing with drugs reminiscent of Miami's notorious reputation as one of several drug havens during its heyday in the 80's.



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The story line, somewhat predictable, manages to garner enough interest to stimulate the reader to ponder what happens next when the social dynamics of street survival meets tangible odds in expecting rays of hope. Timely and untimely deaths, amid revenge, blackmail, betrayal, and the vernacular that is drivel to this story, gives it color and substance based on the characters. This is the story of the rise and fall of the notorious James 'Blue' Jackson, his dysfunctional family, the people aiding and abetting a life dependent on a decadent society full of angst and retaliatory mettle, and the consequences thereof. The genesis shows Blue's father going awry selling bad drugs and pays

for it with his life. Paramount to the story is elder brother Willy; the devious and intriguing Francis Roe who becomes a love interest to Blue; an Under boss, Mr. Wonderful; the conniving Moses 'Quarts' Williams, and a host of other lesser known but cogs in the wheel that turns turbulent against the backdrop of blue skies and mayhem. What gives this book a better backdrop is the colors used to allow contrast to bolster the hue and cry.

Tammy Merkison provides a vivid look at dealings and death perilously amid an alluring and profitable façade in paradise. The book is fast-paced, full of dramatic interlude that will be must reads for those clamoring the current street lit galvanizing our bookshelves of late. Although the book is entertaining, I would have preferred a much more stabilized back story, an innate prologue to set up the characterization more, and better mechanics to define syntax and sentence structure to disguise the choppiness of certain verbal interchanges. With this aside, it takes nothing away from the author's storytelling prowess working specifics that substantiates this type of story. I feel that this author will only get better once the author matures and marinates with time. I rated this book 3.5 stars out of 5.

Reviewed by Alvin C. Romer c/o The Romer Review.com