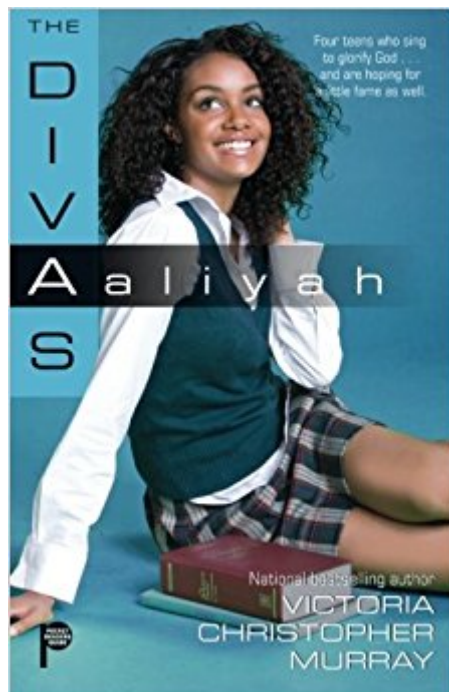


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Aaliyah (The Divas)



Synopsis

Diamond, India, Veronique, and Aaliyah are fifteen-year-old high school sophomores on their way to becoming the hottest new group to hit gospel music—The Divas. That is, if they win the team talent competition. Now, the fourth book in the series follows Aaliyah, as she comes face to face with a secret from her past. Straight-A student and “brainiac” of the group, Aaliyah is an only child living with her father, the deputy Chief of Police in Los Angeles. Even though Aaliyah isn’t interested in singing, she’s shown a remarkable, natural talent since childhood. It takes a bit of persuading to get Aaliyah to be a part of the Divas, but she gives in, and joins the group to be close to her friends. During one of their rehearsals, the girls hear a song by Zena, a successful African American singer. All the other girls are inspired and imagine themselves being as successful one day—except for Aaliyah, who turns off the CD and grumbles that they can find a better role model. Then, when Aaliyah learns that Zena will be attending their performance—accompanied by her father—her whole world comes crashing down. And all of her friends, who’d been told that Aaliyah’s mother died when she was a baby, suddenly realize where her natural singing ability came from.

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Customer Reviews

Victoria Christopher Murray is the author of more than twenty novels including: The Ex Files, Lady Jasmine, The Deal, the Dance, and the Devil, and Stand Your Ground which was named a Library

Journal Best Book of the Year. Winner of the African American Literary Award for Fiction and Author of the Year (Female), Murray is also a two-time NAACP Image Award Nominee for Outstanding Fiction. She splits her time between Los Angeles and Washington, DC. Visit her website at VictoriaChristopherMurray.com.

THE: DIVAS AALIYAH 2> I was about to have a straight-up heart attack! For real! — not one of those fake ones that my girl Diamond was always having. The way my heart was pounding inside my chest, I was gonna pass out for sure. When I looked over at my girls, I could tell they felt the exact same way. My best friend for life, India, was standing so still, just grinning like she was in shock. And Veronique looked like she was going to faint from happiness, though I wasn't sure if she was all excited about the Divine Divas or about Arjay Lennox, who had stayed right by her side ever since we ran off the stage. The only one who was standing like this was no big deal was Diamond — our leader, or at least that's what she thought. Yeah, Diamond was just standing with her arms folded — like she knew all along that the Divine Divas were going to make it to the finals of the Glory 2 God Teen Talent Search. I mean, I had a lot of confidence, trust that. But no one in the world had more confidence than Diamond. It's not that I didn't think we could sing; every single one of my girls could carry at least half a tune. But when we started this whole thing back in September, I never would've believed that we would have made it all the way to the finals. All the way to Miami — South Beach, to be exact. We would be competing with four other groups. But I wasn't hardly worried — I knew for sure that my girls and I were going to shut this whole thing down. At the end, we were gonna be the ones with the recording contract. Just thinking about that made my heart start crashing again. Could this really happen? Could the Divine Divas really get a \$250,000 recording contract and move into the big time? Not that I was sure that this was the way I wanted it to go down. I mean, I was into winning, don't sleep. But I wasn't about to give up any part of my dreams. No way. No matter what happened with my girls and the Divine Divas, in two years, I was going to Harvard. Trust that. And, I was going to become a nuclear physicist. You could bank on that, too. If we won this thing, we'd just have to find a way to work it out. — "Hey, what you doing over here all by yourself, Pretty Lady?" — I had to lean my head all the way back to look up at Troy. He was that tall and one of the Three Ys Men, who were our backup dancers. The way he was grinning in my face, I could tell he was as happy as we were. I guess this whole winning thing was as exciting for the guys as it was for us, even though we were the ones who were out front. — "I'm not doing anything." — I tried to shrug Troy off, but it was hard. I could tell

by the way Troy had been looking at me ever since we got to New York that he kinda liked me, but I didn't know for sure. It could've been that he just wanted to hang with me because his boys Riley and Arjay had already hooked up with India and Veronique. But it didn't matter I liked Troy; I just didn't like him like that. Not that I wasn't into guys; I mean, Troy was major fine. But I had a plan for my life. And right about now, boys even cute ones just didn't fit in. "So, Aaliyah, ah... Hey, baby girl! Whew! I was so glad my dad came over and interrupted Troy. I could tell he was going to do something like ask me if I wanted to go out with him when we got back to Los Angeles. "Hey, Daddy, I said, hugging my father. He was the only male I was into impressing right about now. "I'm so proud of you," my dad said. He looked at Troy and added, "I'm proud of all of you. You guys were fierce." "Daddy, nobody says fierce anymore." My dad frowned. "Nobody?" I shook my head. "Only Diamond and Tyra." "Well, if it's good enough for Diamond and Tyra, it's good enough for me." Troy and I laughed with my dad, but then we stopped when Roberto Hamilton, the president of Glory 2 God Productions, came into the room where we were hanging out. "Thank you for waiting," Mr. Roberto said. "And congratulations, once again, to all of you." As Mr. Roberto looked around the room, I did, too. Even though we were in New York, this room was filled with people from our church in Los Angeles. Besides me and my girls, and the Three Ys Men and our parents (except for Veronique's her mom, Ms. Lena, never came to any of the competitions), there was Pastor Ford and her crew. And about twenty other people from Hope Chapel packing this place. But when everybody was as happy as we were, it didn't matter if we were standing so close it felt like we were in a club or something. "Well." Mr. Roberto's voice made me turn back to him as he said, "We are at the final round. How do you feel?" He was just talking to me and my girls, but a whole bunch of people answered, "Great," "Just fine," "All right!" as if they were the ones who had been doing all the singing. Mr. Roberto laughed. "So, now that we're here, we wanted to let you know just how seriously we're taking this whole competition." I took a deep breath. "We're looking for the next big group." I couldn't help but grin, and my girls were cheering, too. "And on the G2G label, that means that we're looking for young men and women who'll be able to perform at the highest levels." Okay, I thought. That was certainly us. I mean, we were the Divine Divas. We were fierce. I grinned

as I thought about what I'd just told my father. "Sometimes you're going to have to perform under pressure, sometimes you're going to have to perform on short notice, you're going to have to perform with big names, all kinds of things. I wasn't a nuclear physicist yet, but I didn't have to be one to know that Mr. Roberto was building up to something big. I guess this competition really was straight serious now. "So because of that, we've decided to give each of the remaining groups a mentor. Diamond was already clapping her hands like she knew what Mr. Roberto was talking about. "You're going to be working with someone who's already been through all of this," he continued. "Oh, my God," Diamond yelled out. She held her hand to her chest like she was going to have a heart attack. Even though India and Veronique rolled their eyes while Diamond went all the way to her dramatic side, I couldn't hate. I mean, five minutes ago I was having my own heart attack. "I know who it is!" Diamond shouted out and raised her hand like we were in class or something. Now that was funny! Cause Diamond was in my chemistry class, and she never raised her hand for anything! "You think you know?" Mr. Roberto grinned. "Uh-huh!" Diamond nodded. "It's Yolanda Adams!" And then she snapped her fingers in the air like she had nailed it. The way Mr. Roberto shook his head and Diamond pouted and frowned like she was confused made everybody laugh. Mr. Roberto said, "I'm not going to stand here and make you guess. Let me introduce all of you to the mentor for the Divine Divas." Then he stopped, like he was waiting for a drumroll. He turned toward the door and I peeked around my dad. All kinds of people were going through my head: Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, oh, oh, I know. I just loved Rihanna! And then she walked into the room. "Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce Zena!" "Oh, my God!" It was Diamond screaming, but now I was the one having a heart attack. For real! I couldn't breathe. I couldn't think. I pushed my hand against my chest, because I was sure my heart was going to poke right through my skin. Then, my knees I don't know what happened. But they got rubbery. By the time I dropped to the floor, I couldn't hear or see a thing.

My daughter absolutely loved the book great for teens! Talks about what teens really go through and tells them what actions they should take!!

I rated this book very high because it is one of the best self help books that is written and available

on the market for this century. This book has helped not only me, but it has been a tremendous help to the members of my church. I would recommend this book to everyone that wants to increase and improve their spiritual health.

I recommend this book for all teens. The whole DIVA series are great reads and lessons that you will enjoy reading.

Aaliyah was a great five star Divine Diva book. Aaliyah, who is a part of the divine diva's with her 3 BFF's. Aaliyah is one of the 4 divine diva's, who is smart, pretty and can sing. With the Divine Diva's rising up they get a professional mentor, Zena. Just so happens Zena turns out to be Aaliyah's mother but everyone thought Zena was dead---not. Zena just picked her career over her marriage and motherhood. Soon Zena makes it known to Aaliyah that she wants to be a part of her life, but Aaliyah is not having it. Now Aaliyah might have to put up with Zena for the Diva's but she might walk out. Join Aaliyah on a trail of forgiveness and heartbreak. I love the Divine Diva's by Ms. Murray.

The Divas: Aaliyah by Victoria Christopher Murray is by far my favorite of The Divas series. Diamond, India and Veronique's volumes were all great stories that entertained and enlightened, but there was something about Aaliyah that resonated with me. The fact that becoming a superstar was secondary to her and her focus was more on becoming a nuclear physicist, or maybe that she seemed so grounded, yet fun-loving. Aaliyah has basically gone along with her friends in their desire to become teen Christian singing sensations. She has an awesome voice and loves singing but she has other interests. The one thing she never had, however, was her mother. Her mother, Zena, had chosen to pursue a singing career and left Aaliyah with her father. As far as anyone knows, Zena is dead. So, what will happen when Zena shows up to become musical mentor to The Divas?Ms. Christopher-Murray does an outstanding job of showing how a young woman feels when the person she loved most reenters her life. She allows Aaliyah to be angry and stubborn. She also shows through Aaliyah's growth how the decisions we make impact those around us. Even with the lessons, The Divas: Aaliyah is still a fun book that all teens should read and enjoy. I also recommend the entire series to all readers, the books are simply wonderful. Angelia Vernon MenchanAPOOO BookClub

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