

I could not stop the tears from falling as I watched the moving truck pull out of the driveway. I felt like my life was over. It felt like half of me was gone. Reggie left me. He decided that he didn't want to be married anymore. He wanted to find himself. He wanted to be alone.

After the last bag went out, he stood at the door looking at me. I looked at him out of the corner of my eye. He put his keys on the table and walked out. I wanted to run outside and kick his butt for the pain he'd caused. But I couldn't. My body was trembling. It felt like I was having a heart attack.

I looked out the window, praying that he would turn around and come back. I started thinking about the first day that I met him. It was Kimmie's birthday party on May 7, 1999....

Darlene Nicholson is a 41-year-old single mother of Josetta, Shanika, Trevel, and Briana, and grandmother of Jakai. She was born in Chicago and grew up on 43rd and Lake Park with her grandmother, Hattie (R.I.P.); her mother, Christine (R.I.P.); and three sisters—Janice, Barbara, and Hope. Darlene now lives on the south side of Chicago.



In her spare time, Darlene caters parties and special events. She loves to read romance novels and murder mysteries. She started writing books and poetry in the early 1990s. Three of her poems have been published through *Poetry.com*: "Your Voice," "Cajun Man," and "My Best Friend." Her inspiration to write came from her mother, Christine Baldwin (R.I.P. 8/31/04).

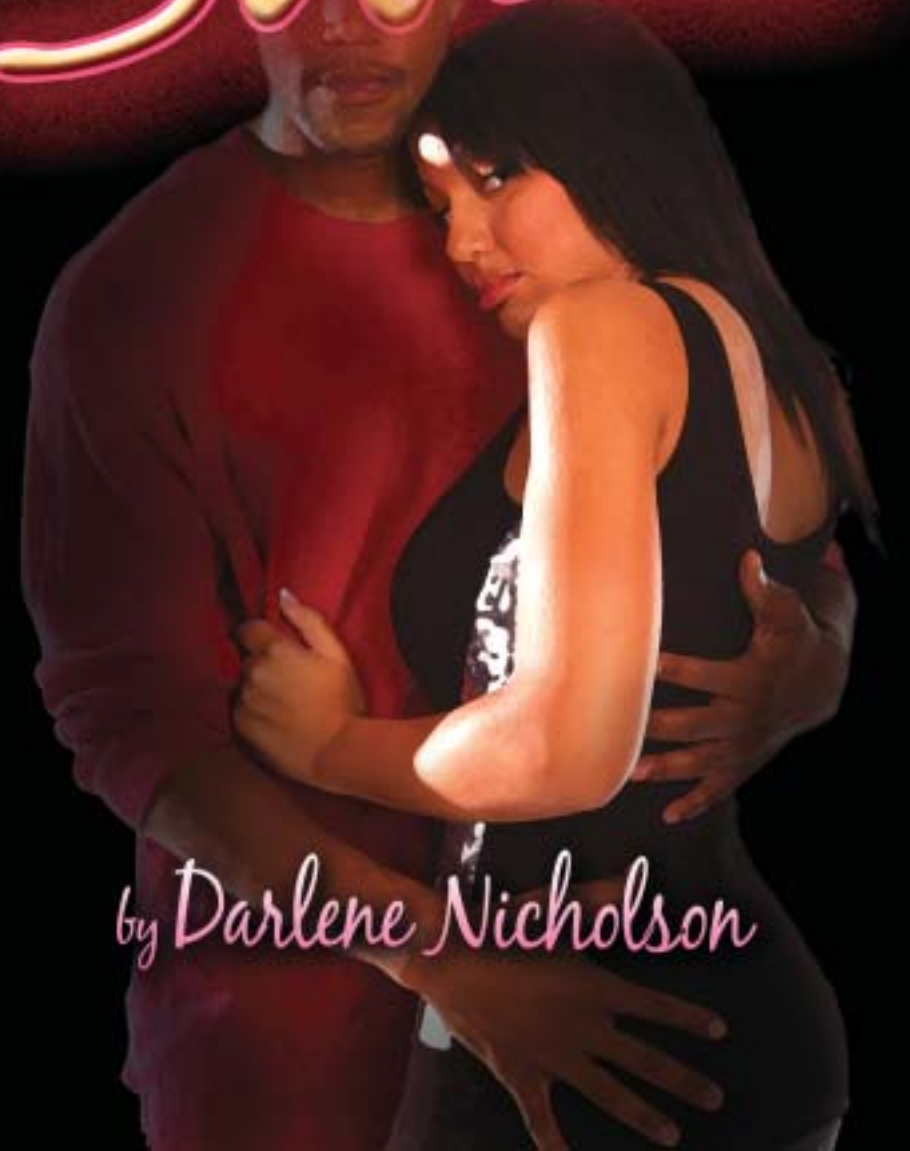


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