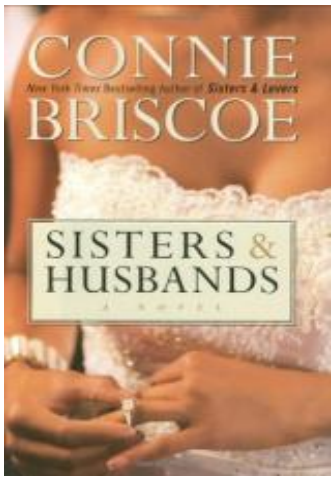
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Sisters and Husbands

by Connie Briscoe



About the Book

Ten years have passed since **Sisters and Lovers**, and Beverly, now 39, is engaged to Julian, a man her family and friends agree is the epitome of a great catch: he's gorgeous, loyal, trustworthy, successful, and very much in love with her. Since this is Beverly's third engagement in the past five years, after breaking off the previous two at the last moment, everyone's happy that she's finally settling down. For Beverly and Julian, nothing could be better than being in love and planning their wedding. That is until Beverly's oldest sister's marriage falls apart and dampens the mood of what should have been the happiest time in Beverly's life. Now, second-guessing her impending nuptials, Beverly is forced to wonder if marriage really works. Will she stick it out? Or will her fears cloud her judgment once again?

Discussion Guide

1. For those who have read **Sisters & Lovers**, how have Beverly, Charmaine, and Evelyn grown or changed over the past ten years?

2. Which of the three sisters has grown the most? Which has grown the least?

3. Did Beverly make the right decision about whether or not to marry Julian? If so, why? If not, why not?

4. Do too many American women have unrealistic expectations of marriage? Do they expect marriage to be a perfect life, or like a fairy tale?

5. What are Beverly?s greatest strengths and weaknesses?

6. What are Charmaine?s greatest strengths and weaknesses?

7. What are Evelyn?s greatest strengths and weaknesses?

8. Which sister is your favorite and why?

9. Which sister is you least favorite and why?

10. Was Charmaine right to go to bat for her son Kenny, even at the risk of destroying her marriage?

11. Do you think that Beverly and Julian will last?

12. Do you think that Charmaine and Tyrone will last?

Author Bio

My real name is Constance, but everyone has always called me "Connie." I was blessed with a wonderful upbringing. Although my immediate family is small --- I have one sister --- we are very close and supportive of each other.

The only thing unusual about my life was that I was born with a hearing loss, inherited from my father's side of the family. From childhood through my twenties, it was a moderate loss and I was able to attend public schools and to go on to college with few problems. When I was in my mid-twenties the loss worsened and by graduate school I needed a hearing aid. I eventually took a job at Gallaudet University and began to learn sign language. I never let my hearing loss hold me back from doing the things I wanted to do. I just adapted and plowed on.

A couple of years ago, I had a cochlear implant and most of my hearing has been restored. I'm now doing things I hadn't done in years, like going to the movies, enjoying music and using the telephone. It really is a miracle.

I'm not sure when I first thought about being a writer. I've always had "a way with words" and took a few stabs at writing a novel when I was in my twenties, but I never finished --- perhaps because I did not have enough life experience to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. I put it off and pursued other things --- a brief marriage, my career, traveling around the world, photography --- but the desire to write was always in the background. And although my career as an editor was progressing fairly well, I realized that I wanted more out of life. So I took another stab at writing.

This second attempt resulted in **Sisters and Lovers**, and to my amazement it eventually sold more than 100,000 hardcover and about a half million paperback copies. It appeared on the bestseller lists of the *Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, USA Today*, and *Publishers Weekly*. My second novel, **Big Girls Don't Cry**, hit many of the bestseller lists as well, including the New York Times. A Long Way From Home, the story of my ancestors, was nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

I live with my family in Maryland in a quiet community with beautiful pastoral views. Although I sometimes miss the hustle and bustle of the big city, it's the perfect setting for writing.

As for favorite sites --- I'm all over the web. My favorites when I was researching women for **Jewels** were probably

Google and Wikipedia. I would almost always start there.

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