



## Pretty Girls in the VIP

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"A voice of her generation." —*Black Issues Book Review*

In this hot new novel from *Essence*® bestselling author Daaimah S. Poole, three women are determined to ride their rich men's successes to the very top. . .

When her marriage to an NFL phenom ended, so did Adrienne Sheppard's chance at wealth and security. Now she's betting on her exclusive new nightclub--and her new man--to turn her luck around. . . Sexy vixen Shanice Whitaker is taking her pay-for-play schemes to a whole new level to stack up the mad fortune of her dreams. . . And Zakiya Lee is sure she knows how to work the sports fame game straight into full-time professional wife-hood with her NBA star. . .

But Zakiya's all-access pass to her man isn't keeping him from straying, or endangering her dreams. Shanice's exploding stardom is putting all her dirty tricks of the trade under the merciless media spotlight--and her future on the line. And Adrienne's insatiable greed for having it all right now is blinding her to business-ending secrets. Soon all three will learn the hard way that truly making it on their own will cost more than they bargained for. . .

"Poole's latest sizzles with sex, dazzles with drama, and captivates with boundless emotion. . .Exciting and compelling from the first to the last page." ??*RT Book Reviews*, 4.5 Stars on *Another Man Will*

"A definite must read." --Candice Dow on *Somebody Else's Man*

"Colorful. . .if you love scandal, this is the book for you!" --Anna J on *A Rich Man's Baby*

## Pretty Girls in the VIP Details

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## From Reader Review Pretty Girls in the VIP for online ebook

### Dr. Nic says

This book is a follow up to A Rich Man's Baby, 2010 and brings back Zakiya (Jabril) and Adrienne from that book, then introduced a new character Shanice. As always Daaimah Poole delivered a hilarious but seemingly realistic storyline about gold diggers and groupies. This I guess that is how they are and the male characters (NBA ballers) acted as expected as well. The story has so many twist and turns that will keep you turning the pages. I would recommend this book. It's a very good read!

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### ?B? says

3.5

I was looking forward to starting this one. I jumped right in and have to say that I was pleasantly surprised about how much I liked the story. Overall, it was a good one. There were issues I had with it though. I get that it is supposed to be about these women and gettin money (for the most part). It is written in three perspectives. Adrienne, Shanice and Zakiya. I liked Adrienne and Zakiya had no issue with their parts at all really other than how much value they put on money. Don't get me wrong the only time money is ever an issue is when you just don't have any, but I felt like that is ALL that Adrienne was about. Zakiya she just seemed so naive and so in love. Which happens. I know when it comes to ballers there is a mix of people that come out of the woodworks. You have family that wants something from you, like you owe them. Others are women who are just gold diggers and are only interested in the money. Then you have your "ride or die" chicks. That is what Zakiya is, a ride or die chick. Or at least that is how Jabril (her man) describes her.

Now that leaves Shanice...I for the most part liked her so long as we were in her head and she never talked. I felt like the author tried too hard to make her ghetto and it just didn't work. I grew up in the ghetto and yes, some people may have been that way, but all in all for me it just didn't fit the bill. I would have loved to see her be more articulate with hood under that top layer. It can be done, it has been done and I think here it should have been done. Forget when she got together with her cousin. Talk about annoying as hell to have to read, I found myself skimming over parts. To me it just seemed too forced. It is almost like the author couldn't make up her mind at a couple parts on how ghetto to make Shanice. She has her go off on her cousin at one point in the book and it is well horrible to read, but yes I understand that some people talk that way and they butcher the English language to the point of just making you want to cringe into yourself. The cousin Courtney well lets just say she has no clue on how to speak at all whatsoever. And I have read other books when a character lets their inner hood come out and never have I felt that. Anyhow, I got past that part and then Shanice goes from ain't this and ain't that and who you is.. To all of a sudden speaking as if she had actually taken an English class. It was so weird. I mean, if you're going to make her hood keep her hood.

Back to the story... Now at first I can say I am not usually a big fan of a story that has so many different POV's. I don't like the back and forth. I am also not a fan of cheating. I just don't like reading it when the woman in the book knows that the guy is in a relationship and could care less. It is just tacky. I know it happens, I get that, I know that there are educated hood rats. I get that as well. I just I don't know. I felt like this story could have been SO much more. I felt like just when it was starting to get good it was over. The ending just felt abrupt and almost unfinished.

Overall, I did enjoy reading about one of the women coming into her own...only to have other things come to light that need to be dealt with. Another woman trying to rekindle a love that never died and make a life for herself...and the other who is all about makin that paper and getting her life situated so she can detach from the family she is living with. It was an okay read I kind of wish it started off about midway in the book. That was where it was good and seemed to have gotten better, but the beginning was kind of slow. I didn't know this was part of a series. That this is a followup to another book. I didn't feel lost or confused, so that's good. Nothing I hate more than reading a book to later find out it is part of a series and I am completely confused and lost. I looked and found out that there are actually two other books that we get more about Adrienne (A Rich Man's Baby and What's His is Mine) and one other book with Zakiya in it (What's His is Mine).

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### **Michelle says**

I typically only write a review on books I loved or ones that were absolutely horrible! But this one I got a promotional paperback copy for an honest review of my thoughts on the book. I haven't read much of her work before, but I'm glad I got a free copy of this one. This book was really good & I'll def be buying more of her books in the future. Pretty Girls in the VIP is about 3 girls who will never be happy with what they have & are always on the pursuit to do whatever they must do to keep more money coming in. This is a good pick, kinda a twist between a soap opera & reality show, it kept my interest throughout the book. The only negative thing I can think of is maybe next promotional book, offer an ebook version along with paperback. lol Its been so long since I've held an actual book it took me awhile to pick it up & start it.

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### **Courtney Nicole Clark says**

I've read a few by this author and I really love how relatable the characters are and how unpredictable the endings. I recommend this author to anyone who enjoys African American fiction.

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### **Toni says**

A pretty good read. Three women whose lives interact w/each other. Adrienne is trying to turn her life around and make it on her own after a divorce from her NFL husband. Zakiya is dating a player who is straying and endangering her dreams. Shanice is trying to make it any way she can. All of the tricks and greed and what happens in between make them realize that making it on their own is harder than they bargained for.

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### **Mel says**

Maybe Daaimah Poole's older books were a better read for me. The ones I've read recently are a departure. I could barely remember the two prior books to this one. As I started to read, some of it started to come back to me. Adrienne is running low on funds. She is with a guy named Ian that she seems to barely like... He doesn't have the money that she has become accustomed to. Being married to and dating basketball players, etc. But she opens up a club. Telling him that she would fund his movie when her club gets on its feet. It does more than that. It becomes extremely popular. Zakiya I didn't remember from the first book. She is

portrayed as not only naive but stupid. She is 21(or turns it during the book) and in school when the book opens. She had broken up with Jabril (her equally young star player boyfriend). But he's back and he wins her over. After her being fearful of him cheating, when he does it again(after he persuades her to quit school and move to another state with him) she stays? She not only stays. But devises a scheme to hurt him. There is another character named Shanice who leaves little to be desired. She was introduced in this book. As the book starts, her and her cousin are prostituting themselves. Her daughter doesn't live with her. Shanice lives with her cousin and aunt. They are barely making rent. She moves up from this to becoming a video girl. Partially with Adrienne's help. None of the characters evolved or did any changing. Except for Shanice when she decides to stop the life she is living. It stopped there. None of the characters are likable. There is a bunch of filler. I also see no reason to have Shanice remarking on how her 5 year old has a "shape" already. This is really a 1.5 stars for me.

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### **Denise says**

Pretty Girls in the VIP is written by Daaimah S. Poole. This book talks about the things that three women go through during their pursuit of money. Adrienne is living off of a settlement that she received from her ex-husband. But since it is not enough for her to live off of for the rest of her life she decides that she needs to find a new career. In the end, she decides to open up an all exclusive VIP nightclub. Things get crazy when her club opens. Shanice starts off using men to make ends meet but she wants to turn over a new leaf and get a legit job with a steady income. She lands a job at Adrienne's club and her life begins to change for the better. Adrienne's friend Zakiya is going to school and trying to get over her ex-boyfriend. After seeing her ex again, she decides to take her life into a different direction. In the end, each woman learns more about themselves and how to better handle the various situations that they find themselves in. This book was an easy read and I enjoyed the author's writing style.

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### **Shelia says**

If you're looking for a fast-paced dramatic read, this is definitely the book to choose. Once I started reading this, I didn't want to stop.

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### **Adam says**

first book by Daaimah S. Poole but will not be the last i loved it I would love her to write a whole book about Shanice her life was so interesting and raw there is alot more i would love to know about her

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### **Black Carrie says**

These chicas so low down I like how the author added a new chick to the series though  
-'Shaniece' I felt soooo sorry for her butt , the more I read I could see she was okay with getting around for her next buck :-( TBH , I don't see her ever getting her daughter back . . . She's such a damn freak she goes beyond FREE OF THE WEEK ! ! !

-ZAKIYAH was doing alright for a minute but then fell for Jabril bs again like damn she makes me want to

hate her too . . . she should've let the past alone , finished school, and forgot all about him because he's a cold piece of work too

-Adrienne, she went from having a baby for the wrong reason to barely seeing her daughter, I liked Ian I thought he was too good for her uppity a\*\* but long behold he's a scammer too . . .

The book was good made me mad, laugh, and shake my head in some parts but the series has potential

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### **The Book Chick says**

This installment was a lot better than book 1. I always thought that book 1 was solid though. I knew Poole could write and knew she would get better and better.

I didn't give this a 5 because the editing was subpar. I say this because either Poole or the editor doesn't know how to use contractions. Some of the language wasn't natural. But because I got the general idea it was okay. That really is editing because I understood what Poole was trying to get across.

I had to put this down several times because I was in my feelings. I do feel as though Zakia and Jabrille had the best storyline and could've had their own book. It was also the most frustrating story.

If I'm in my feelings the author has done the job.

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### **Natasha says**

This was just an ok read for me....I felt like the first half of the book was slow and only was to catch me up on what happened in the book before it. Out of all the characters in the book, Shanice's story was the most interesting, telling how she went from having nothing, living with her aunt, to getting a job as a video girl and her own place. Zakiya was so naive and the crybaby of the girls. Last but not least, Adrienne, although selfish was all about her business. I think karma just caught up to her in the end....overall....ok read

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### **Michael Bell says**

The majority of the action in this book took place in Philly. Adrienne, Shanice and Zakiya are representatives of many of the young women chasing fame and fortune at the hands of NBA players. Wealth can come fast if the right moves are made. There are also risks like violence, STD's and baby mama drama. I can see how so many young players are caught up in the fast life. Many young women will do anything to snag a baller. Intriguing read with a happy ending for two of the three main characters.

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### **Reading in Black & White says**

Pretty Girls in the VIP is one of the those books that you read when you want to take a break from reality television but are craving that same kind of drama. In this book we meet three young women that will do what it takes to make it to the top. The majority of the book is built around these ladies trying to use and scheme men to attain a level of wealth and prominence. It started slow and it took a lot in me to keep pushing and reading. The second half did pick up and this book does represent a fragment of the female population who would prefer to rely on their looks and the hard work of men to make it instead of gaining success on their own. Even though I do not agree with women being depicted in this manner, it is a sad reality. Overall,

Pretty Girls in the VIP was a fun book!

DISCLAIMER: I received a complimentary copy of Pretty Girls in the VIP in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Edythe Hamilton says**

This novel is about three women whose lives entwine through association. Each of these women have a personal issue which affects the other in one way or another.

Adrienne Sheppard, "I figured if I was going to get cheated on, used up, and lied to, I might as well be able to go shopping afterward to compensate for my pain....My daughter's father, DeCarious Simmons, plays in the NFL. I wanted him to impregnate me so I could receive....guaranteed money....I did that....[he] had our marriage annulled after a few months." She gives up the gold digging life and meets a different type of man, "My new man, Ian, is earthy and intelligent." Ian is an independent filmmaker who eventually creates havoc in her life. Adrienne opens a 'VIP only' club and Ian's actions threaten to ruin her.

Shanice Whitaker, "Me and Courtney tried being strippers, but that didn't last because we kept seeing everyone from our neighborhood....Courtney and I are first cousins but were raised like sisters..." Shanice, and her cousin Courtney, have taken dangerous risks together that only she and her cousin know about.

"Don't try to act like this is my fault, Shanice....All I know is, you don't have to act like you better...You not better than me or smarter than me." After Shanice gets her life together, Courtney plots to bring her down.

Zakiya Lee, "Last year I lived three lifetimes. My sister attempted suicide, I moved to L.A. with my aunt....and met my ex, who just happened to be a rookie guard for the Oklahoma Thunder in the NBA....you have women of all ages and nationalities throwing themselves at you." Zakiya reunites with her ex, Jabril, who cheats on her with Shanice. Zakiya doesn't know her personally, but her friend Adrienne does.

These three women have been through difficult situations. They try to rectify the direction their lives have taken. Will their actions set everything right?

Ms. Poole has given the familiar topics of infidelity, jealousy and trust, a name and face in her fictional novel. The characters are average women who deal with these non-fiction common categories beautifully. Well done Ms. Poole! I recommend this novel to the women who enjoy a good read and can relate to the subject matter.

(I received this book for free from Kensington Publishing for this review)

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