


On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men

J.L. King , Karen Hunter , E. Lynn Harris (Foreword by)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men

J.L. King , Karen Hunter , E. Lynn Harris (Foreword by)

On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men J.L. King , Karen Hunter , E. Lynn Harris (Foreword by)

A bold expose of the controversial secret that has potentially dire consequences in many African American communities

Delivering the first frank and thorough investigation of life "on the down low" (the DL), J. L. King exposes a closeted culture of sex between black men who lead "straight" lives. King explores his own past as a DL man, and the path that led him to let go of the lies and bring forth a message that can promote emotional healing and open discussions about relationships, sex, sexuality, and health in the black community. Providing a long-overdue wake-up call, J. L. King bravely puts the spotlight on a topic that has until now remained dangerously taboo. Drawn from hundreds of interviews, statistics, and the author's firsthand knowledge of DL behavior, "On the Down Low "reveals the warning signs African American women need to know. King also discusses the potential health consequences of having unprotected sex, as African American women represent an alarming 64 percent of new HIV infections. Volatile yet vital," On the Down Low "is sure to be one of the most talked-about books of the year.

On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men Details

Date : Published April 14th 2004 by Broadway

ISBN : 9780767913980

Author : J.L. King , Karen Hunter , E. Lynn Harris (Foreword by)

Format : Hardcover 208 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Lgbt, Sociology, Sexuality

 [Download On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Stra ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'St ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men J.L. King , Karen Hunter , E. Lynn Harris (Foreword by)

From Reader Review On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men for online ebook

Misty says

Hate hate hate this book. The reason why I read this book is that the author was scheduled as a guest speaker on a cruise I was going on. The book did not impress me. It seemed to me that the only reason he came out was that he was caught and that he was still in denial about who he is. After listening to him, I still hate this book. He did make some very good points on the subject of AIDS and HIV. It is great that he open some women eyes to the whole DL thing however, his denial of whom and what he is killed it for me. I found nothing likable about him.

Kimberly Currie Robinson says

Based on this book, J.L. King wanted the cake, the icing, the glass of milk, and to eat and drink them all. I find this book to be full of excuses for a man to play both sides (in this case, his unsuspecting wife and his play-friends).

If someone chooses to be down-low, low-down, gay, bi-sexual, or anything else that could cause major issues in a relationship, be an adult and bring it up with the person you say you care about. That would stop all the pretense and fear of being caught out. Allow your partner to choose what they want to be involved in.

He failed to do this and seems like he is only sorry he was caught, not that he was wrong. That's what ticked me off about this situation. I applaud his wife for not going "street" on him.

As a Christian, I know that's how she forgives him, but lives without him. As a reasonable woman, that's how she stayed out of jail when she found out what was going on. Prayer is what is keeping him now. He needs to wake up and recognize the grace of God that is maintaining him long enough for him to get his act together. But, even God's mercy runs out after a time.

sisraelt says

Shocking! Makes you suspicious of everyone you encounter after reading it. The people he talks about being on the DL are prominent people in society-- lawyers, ministers, artists, fathers, husbands, boyfriends, homophobes. It's ridiculous. Nothing against being gay but the double life and deceit is a bit much to handle. You can't help but second guess yourself when seeing any black man on the street whether he is alone, with his wife, his friends, his preacher or his boss. Too bizzare... and a much needed wake-up call!

Lisa says

To say that I did not like this book would be an understatement. But first, let me be clear on a few things. For this book I decided to break down how I rated this book based on content, likeability, editing and writing.

I would have thought that with a book like this that made such headlines on the freaking Oprah show would have been better written. The writing for me - though it was a fast read - felt jumbled and paragraphs and sections seemed to be out of place. So essentially the writing and the editing went hand in hand. The editor should have been able to *edit* the book and clean it up. To me, it felt like a rough draft. I even voiced that bit out loud by stating that if this was the best the editor could have done for this story then I didn't want to see it beforehand, and basically that the person who worked on this book afterwards was a damn miracle worker. But all the blame isn't on the editor. As a writer you need to be able to tell your story - whether it be fiction or non-fiction - and I just felt like the author wasn't being truthful and held back on a lot of things, lied, and so on. 1 Star.

That brings me to likeability. I can't say that this is a book that *anyone* would possibly *like*. It's not a fun story, people. And at some points it read like a pamphlet on the statistics of African American men and women affected and diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. I would have liked the author to have given us more about himself, tell us his story and things that happened to him and not just "stories" of others. He went on and on about denial when it was glaringly obvious that he, too, was suffering from the same thing, sadly. 1 Star.

Now, onto content. Content was where he got the highest rating from me. A solid 3 stars for what his book talked about. The lifestyle of these *down low* brothers and all that it entails. I need to say that it is an *absolute* eye-opener, informative, definitely very scary and disgusting. To think that people value human life so little as to put it at risk so callously is appalling, disgusting and shocking. I can't even begin to explain how reading one part of this story about a 17 year old young man made me feel. How he ended up with a death sentence for being so naive and innocent.

Overall, like I said before, it was a quick read, so that was a perk for me since I didn't want to give too much time to this book because of how much I disliked it and due to how much it made me angry. So maybe that's a plus? I'm not sure. Then I was flopping back and forth on whether it was a 2-Star book or 1-Star book. As you can see, I made my decision.

1 Star

Troy says

Get over it. Guys like this need to just come out to the closet and use condoms. Everyone will be a lot better off once they get with that program.

Angie Johnson says

No surprise this is a one star. Certain friends of mine mocked me for reading this book. This is one of those books I heard about on Oprah or something and I figured I would read it. What really made me pick it up this time and read it was that it is short. It was a fast read, but poorly written and totally repetitive. And the icky factor was pretty overwhelming. These guys he writes about are the smarmiest sneaks. Anyway, there is my review Jenna. Wanna read it now?

KiKi says

To all the women who reads this book

WARNING: You have to be strong within yourself before reading this book. This is an excellent book to read.

Cool Readings (Book Club) says

When author J.L. King told Oprah he wasn't gay back in 2004, he CLAIMS he wasn't lying and CLAIMS he was in denial. "I knew I was living a lie," he says "I would do all I could to change who I was. I had girlfriends on the side, I had women, and I would always deny who I was. However, I believe he was just plain lying. After having read Mr. King's book and discussing it during our book club meeting, it was quite apparent to us that he was not in denial but just living a life of lies.

Throughout the book he repeatedly mentions his overly attraction for men, about "checking out brothas," about "going to get to-gether with his girlfriends and checking out their uncles and cousins," but never once did he mention any real attraction for women. Based on having read all of that, it is quite clear to me that he was/is in fact gay and only used women including his wife Brenda as a cover up.

I was quite taken back and appalled by the things revealed in this book to me as a reader. Although down low "brothas" have been around for many decades, they have never been talked about in such an open manner as this. This book forces you to read and witness lies and the risks that are involved with such a lifestyle. Although I find the quality of the writing and editing to be very poor, I must applaud Mr. King's efforts on enlightening us of the sorts of acts which these so-called "straight" men get up to when they're together behind closed doors with each other. As J.L. King so firmly says, "we're not in the closet, we're behind the closet."

Angela says

I saw this guy on Oprah years ago, so when I saw this book at the library I decided to see what he had to say. I had the impression during the interview that he was 1. a bit full of himself and 2. a bit in denial. I had those same impressions reading this book. It seems that he realizes a bit of that between this and his next book. I think he has an important health message to deliver, but he gets too bogged down in protecting his own reputation and that of his fellow DL "brothers." Interesting cultural phenomenon to be aware of, but poorly told.

Terri says

As much as I like to read, I found this particular book hard to get through. It wasn't boring at all. However, I

found it to be troubling. Our brothers need to be more open about who they are (Bi-Sexual, Homosexual, Heterosexual) with the sistah's. Truth be told, we are always the last to know and have to suffer the most from their indiscretions. Now, my reason for not being able to finish the book: it's down-right sickening and disturbing, yet informative. To know that there are signs that they give each other to get with each other; even while they may be with their sufficient other in the same room; that's disturbing. Yes, sufficient other, meaning wife, girlfriend, fiance. Yes, they call themselves "Straight", yet have the desire to be with other "Straight" men. He goes on to give reason's why "Straight" men do it, the type of men who do it and how we as sistah's can pickup on this behavior and address it. This is not for everybody.

Lisa says

I found much of the book disturbing! Wow it really makes you think and has made me want to warn and have the conversation with my two daughters about this behavior among our black males, so they are better equipped to protect themselves and are simply educated about what is out there. I'm still shaking my head after an hour after reading this.

Ozimandias says

This book has some potentially important information in it. But I found it to be a cheap book with a lot of generalizations and denials. The author was a DL brother, but he has changed his ways. He doesn't really elaborate on his life now, but he really seemed to have a lot of internalized homophobia and self-hatred. Instead of really delving into his own life experiences, beyond a cursory discussion of how he ruined his family's life, he gives us short discussions of other people's DL experiences. I got his message of protecting yourself from HIV/AIDS very early on, but that seemed to be his only goal. He set the bar very low for himself with this book; so instead of a book with a lot of compelling information about this lifestyle, we get a long HIV/AIDS pamphlet. I wished it were better.

Ezraela-Bat says

Well, well, I can honestly say that I learned a lot from reading this book, it showed me a lot of things I had no knowledge of, it helped me to determine what I need to look for when dating someone new. Needless to say most brothers called this author a "player hater" but I considered him a "wake up call"

Jeff hackworth says

This book blew me away!!!!!!
I'm not against gay relationships but was overthrown
by the game these men play with life and other people.

Donnie Wilson says

My only hope for this book is that it bring to light what so many of us sisters who feel we are unworthy of true and real love, to ask questions and really, truly want the answers we seek. Well written and I applaud the brother for exposing the truth.
