

Grown

Tiffany D. Jackson

Reviewed by: Elisabeth Suarez, 14

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Enchanted Jones, a seventeen-year-old wannabe famous singer, skips her swim meet to go to an audition. There, she is spotted by the legendary artist Korey Fields. She finally feels like her dream at becoming famous may come true. He promises her an album and a record deal, and she could see stars. He also promises her family money, finally allowing them to get on their feet. Korey shows his interest in Enchanted, not only with her voice. He seems to be attracted to her; never mind he is 28 years old. Enchanted falls in love with him too. Is this her happy ending, like in all of the Disney movies?

Korey's charm and following had a strong hold over her. But Korey has a dark side to him. Many other younger singers had reported abuse when working with Korey. He could never, ever hurt Enchanted. She is not like the others.... unless. Reality crashes down when Enchanted wakes up to a bloody mess and zero memory of the night before. Korey was killed, but by who?

Grown gives a very magnificent perspective from an abused and groomed adolescent. Making Enchanted's situation even more conflicting, Korey is also a famous artist. This leaves seemingly everyone disliking her and not believing her experience. Not only is Korey's following and the media against her, but all of her classmates and their parents too. Rape culture is very apparent throughout the book.

The only part I think was a bit confusing was the plot with Gabriella. The details start to get blurred when mentioning Enchanted's friend. *Grown* is very fast-paced, with a lot of action involved. The story may be unsuitable for some readers. I would recommend it for readers of the ages 14 and up.

Every page is uncomfortable and unnerving, giving you just a glimpse of what real abuse and rape is like. It leaves you sadly wishing you could take away the pain and hurt from victims. The book loosely based off of R. Kelly and his pedophilic behavior. This book portrays the struggle of the poor black women, one of the most oppressed minority in the U.S. Our society, especially the music industry, is totally against the African-American women, as evident throughout the book. It is wonderful that this book was written, and some light can be shed on rape culture, the oppression of black women, and the inequality of the world.

Recommended Titles:

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Allegedly by Tiffany D. Jackson

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

