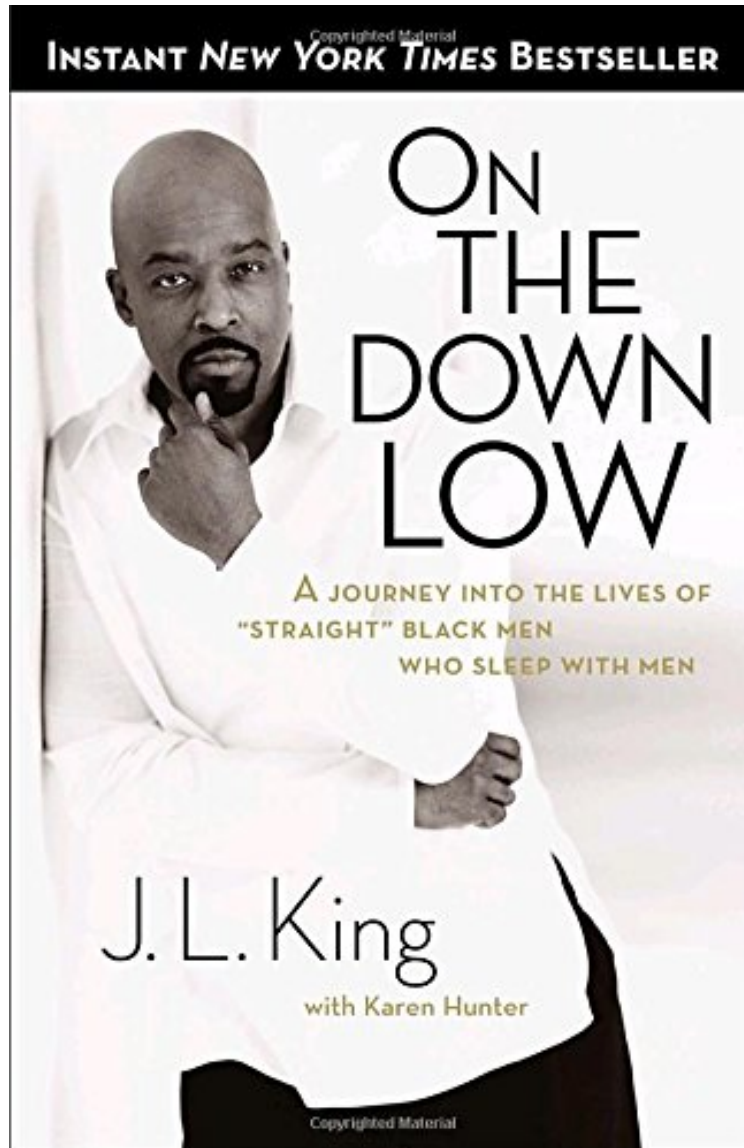


(Online library) On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men

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J. L. King

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#581467 in Books J L King 2005-04-05 2005-04-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .50 x 5.30l, .34 #File Name: 076791399X208 pagesOn the Down Low A Journey Into the Lives of Straight Black Men Who Sleep With Men | File size: 24.Mb

J. L. King : On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep with Men:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EASY READ, SEEMS SINCERE, AND I LEARNED SOMETHING!!By S. DorseyI'll start by saying that I bought this book to learn...not everything, but to learn something. I believe the author does a good job explaining the DL behavior, so that the reader can get the gist of what it is, and why men choose to live that lifestyle. I am not reviewing (like some people have been), to give my opinion of the DL lifestyle, or give my take on the issue. I do not want to interpret the book for you, but just let you know that the book is an easy read, it seems sincere, and you will definitely learn something from it. I think the author provides some good clues to women, about how you can identify a man on the DL. He does just enough to open up about his personal situation and what he was thinking when he was living a double life. I believe the author is fair to straight men, by letting women know that most men are not engaging in the behavior. I believe a lot of men on the DL have given this book poor reviews because it exposes their actions and gives women the heads-up. A lot of women are giving the book bad reviews because they are angry at the author for being who he is, his past behavior, and the fact that he has been lucrative selling books on the subject of his dirty deeds. In sum, I suggest that you do not listen to the negative reviews, because you will learn something, and you will be entertained. Give this one a read, I recommend it!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book! Well written and very informativeBy Lynn LangExcellent book! Well written and very informative. I was researching the DL population and the author covered important details which gave me a deeper understanding of the subject matter. I am very thankful and grateful to the author for having the courage to write this book, because he helped me view into a world that I thought did not exist in my life. The knowledge I learned from this book and guidance from God saved my life from deceit of a DL man.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THANK YOUBy KateriI thank God for "forcing" Mr. King to reveal this dirty little secret that exists in the African-American society, as well as in other minority communities in this country. I understand the need to project a pristine, macho image, particularly given the hideous history of discrimination that has happened in our country for such groups. Still, we must admit that same sex attraction and coitus do not solely exist in the white community. All women must be made cognizant of the fact that this "problem" is a reality if for no other reasons than to protect their physical and emotional health.

A bold exposé of the controversial secret that has potentially dire consequences in many African American communitiesDelivering 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.A survey by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta found that nearly a quarter of black HIV-positive men who had sex with men consider themselves heterosexual. Essence

.com The closer a secret is kept, the more powerful the impact once it is finally revealed. Such is the case with author and activist J.L. King's intriguing look at the lives and lifestyles of black men who sleep with other men but do not consider themselves to be gay. These men live "on the down low," the "DL" for short, and their sexual activities have gained significant notice as the rate of HIV/AIDS infection in black women has skyrocketed, with the vast majority of cases coming from heterosexual sex. King is a veteran of the DL himself and his book serves partly as a social and psychological survey of the other men he has surveyed and partly as highly candid memoir. King was well regarded in his community, popular at his church, successful in his career, and married to a woman who had no idea that his secret life existed. But when she caught him in a lie and with another man, the marriage collapsed and King's long and painful path to self-awareness began. King cites the negative image many socially conservative black men have of homosexuality as an obstacle to those men being honest with their partners and themselves about who they are. Among the more intriguing elements of *On the Down Low* are the peculiar approaches men on the DL have to the sexual act, seeking a strictly physical sexual relationship with their secret male partners while remaining in more traditional arrangements with women. Whether this discrepancy is a product of scrupulously guarded secrecy and shame or the natural preference of an understudied sexual identity is one of the numerous questions raised by this book. Though the infection statistics make the DL a huge public health issue, King is neither a sociologist nor a medical professional. And while a more clinical look at this issue would be welcome, King accomplished what he set out to do: provide light and insight into a world that so many have worked so hard to keep in the shadows. --John MoeFrom BooklistKing is very straightforward about the phenomenon, called the down low, of "straight" men having sex with other men without disclosing it to the women in their lives. Having spent more than 20 years living the dual life of the down low, King is familiar with all the personal, psychological, social, and even religious implications of

living on the down low and the risks this lifestyle poses to the spread of HIV and AIDS. He recalls his struggle with self-gratification, the fear of exposure, and the responsibility to his family before coming to the conclusion that he owed his family honesty. King also cites respect for black women as a motive for disclosing his secret, though the reader might question how much respect he had for 20 years. But that's part of King's point in his disclosure, that men on the down low and the black community itself, with little tolerance of homosexuality, need to be more honest and open on issues of sexuality. This is a revealing look at an important social and health issue. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This book has folks buzzing like a tree full of cicadas. Philadelphia Inquirer There's a new book girlfriends have got to read. It's a page-turner. Newsday (New York) A wake-up call. Dallas Voice A good read. The News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne, Indiana) A revealing look at an important social health issue. Booklist King ultimately delivers a powerful and emotional story and must be lauded for having the courage to do so! QBR The Black Book