



## Ida B.: A Novel

*Karen E. Quinones Miller*

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### **Ida B.: A Novel** Karen E. Quinones Miller

Ida B. Wells-Barnett Tower. The place held such promise when it was built in the late 1970s. It was Harlem's hope for a new beginning -- an affordable, safe residence for people who couldn't afford to live downtown. But that was more than twenty-five years ago, before the devastating crack scourge hit. But the residents of Ida B. are resilient. They've built their own community and they look out for one another to the best of their abilities. Neighbors may argue, and even fight, but whenever one of them is in trouble, the whole building rallies around.

Twenty-five-year-old Brenda Carver is a welfare mother of four children who longs to be a writer; Rosa Rivera is an aspiring actress who will let nothing stand in the way of her career; Sharif Goldsby is a political activist determined to change the world, starting with Harlem and the Ida B. There's also Miss Jackie, the middle-aged, back-stabbing gossip; Vincent, the former bank robber turned scam artist; Mrs. Harris, the elderly neighborhood fence; and high school honor student Ricky, who hopes to be one of the scramblers on the corner -- hawking crack to passersby.

When a building resident kills herself and two of her children, the tenants make a collective vow to care for her surviving child.

But that's just the beginning of the tragedies facing the residents of the Ida B. A shocking crime occurs in the building, and everyone becomes a suspect. With accusations flying, the tight community of the Ida B. begins to collapse under the strain. And, to top it all, they learn that their home of more than twenty years is about to be torn down.

As the search for the killer intensifies, unsung heroes step forward -- at great personal risk -- to right the wrongs that have been done. In Karen E. Quinones Miller's world, the people who stand out are the people who survive, and go on, against all odds, to share their wisdom and find their dreams. In a modern take on the classic sentiment, "There's no place like home," "Ida B." affirms that home is a place we love, even when it is less than perfect.

### **Ida B.: A Novel Details**

Date : Published August 3rd 2004 by Simon & Schuster (first published 2004)

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Author : Karen E. Quinones Miller

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## From Reader Review Ida B.: A Novel for online ebook

### Andrew says

I very much enjoyed this story about the tenants at Ida B, an apartment building in Harlem. With some very well developed characters, the author brings out the best in the community and shows how they come together even when they encounter tragedy and a shocking crime.

I would definitely recommend this book which captures the daily lives of a fictional group of residents.

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### Jeanna Brown says

Ida B. is the story of the Ida B. Wells projects in the Bronx, NY. The main character is a young woman who got pregnant at a very early age; and she has 3 children all by different men. But, she soon begins to really see herself worth and she begins to write stories about the housing projects and soon gets a book publishing contract

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### Emily says

This is a powerful story with very real characters. The pacing was a little uneven, and Miller could have used the help of a better proofreader, but those are surface issues that will be improved upon as the author continues her craft. Here's a story that will stick with me for a while.

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### Ms. Independent says

I really liked this book. To see a community that come together to love, support, and protect it's own was a very good thing to read about. This book kept me interested with every single word. Has some great and lovable characters as well as those we love to have.

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### Nascha says

I really enjoyed this book. Set in my hometown, Harlem, Ida B. is about the residents of a fictional apartment building located in East Harlem. The residents, a colorful cast of characters that include: Brenda Carver and her four children, Rosa Rivera, Sharif and so many more. A fast paced novel, Miller's dialogue is wonderful--so real and crisp, she really captures the voice of Harlem in her books. The plot is a little heart wrenching but the outcome is positive for all. When I read urban literature, I look to writers like Ms. Miller who capture the plight of urban life without glamorizing crime and giving hope to all those who read it. Sincerely enjoyed this one.

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### **Natasha says**

I enjoyed reading about this close knit group who were more than tenants in a building, more like family who looked out for one another. Some parts dragged on for me and I was ready for them to get on with the juicy parts. It was a little too much dialogue I could have done without but it definitely had some hard hitting climatic scenes. The tragedy this small community saw was devastating, so much had occurred in a small amount of time, they didn't even gave time to recover from the previous blow it seemed. Overall I did like the concept if the story, made you think what would you do if faced with the decisions these young people were faced with.

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### **Keyona says**

This book was just...wack lol. I don't know how else to say it.No wonder I can't get rid of it..

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### **Nicole says**

Absolutely loved this book so much that I could not put it down...as sad as it was.

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### **Annette says**

"chukles" at the first comment... you can't rate what you will never understand ...applauds the second reviewer!!! I stumbled upon this book and fell in love PERIOD!

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### **Janaia says**

While visiting the US, I bought this book for \$2. First off, it was good; no it's not the best writing but the story line was interesting and it's a quick read (on the plane ride home). Not a book to run out and add to your collection, but if you at the library; check it out. A trip to a different neighborhood than most of us is used to. Interesting.

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### **Tara says**

I was trying to get Ida B by Hannigan, and didn't double check the author... Oops. This book has a good rating, so I'm sure it teaches something about overcoming life, but I didn't make it past the first few pages - and I wish I didn't read that far. Way too much swearing, graphic vulgarity, and then crude sexual references thrown in - I have no idea what the rest of the book contains, but that was enough for me to close it. Always double check the author!

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## **Racquel says**

I loved this book! Most of all, it was hilariously funny to me. The lessons and meaningful relationships in this book also added to it being a great read. It's so funny to me though, that while reading this book, someone at the bus stop told me how they had read the book and loved it. Intrestingly enough, one of my really good friends was also reading it the same time I was. Would definately recommend. It was a cute book.

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