



# **Better Than I Know Myself**

By Virginia DeBerry, Donna Grant



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The beloved #1 *Essence* bestselling authors of *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made* now deliver a novel in which you'll meet their most unforgettable characters yet. Carmen, Jewel, and Regina could not be more different. When they meet as freshmen at Columbia University, they're pretty confident that a friendship among them isn't in the cards.

Jewel is Hollywood royalty: as the teenage star of the TV show "Daddy's Girl," her face is instantly recognizable all across America. Now, though, she wants two things-to get a serious education, and to leave her controlling stage mother behind. Regina is the definitive upper-middle-class African-American girl. Her picture-perfect parents are what she calls "black Ward and June Cleavers" and their goals for her are like a stranglehold. No one can see, though, how far Regina's rebellious side will take her (or how treacherous it will become). Carmen is just trying to get by. A child of the projects whose father is dead and whose mother has vanished, Carmen has been raised by her abusive brother. Columbia is the way for her to get a better life-if she can hold down two jobs and keep her GPA up.

When the three of them meet, their lives are at a crossroad. And as the years progress, from the 1980s to the present day, they are challenged by drug addiction, fame, secrets from the past, sickness, betrayal, and the darkest things women can face. One of them won't survive. But what will be the lasting legacy of their friendship? *Better Than I Know Myself* is a novel of heartache, triumph, tears, and the unshakeable bonds among women.



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# Better Than I Know Myself By Virginia DeBerry, Donna Grant Bibliography

Sales Rank: #1232981 in BooksPublished on: 2005-05-01Released on: 2005-04-14

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.50" h x .86" w x 5.50" l, .75 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 384 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

#1 Essence Bestselling Authors Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant's novels are:

"Powerful." --Kirkus Reviews

"Refreshingly honest." -- Publishers Weekly

"Engaging." -- Essence

"Vividly realistic." -- Midwest Book Review

"Hard to put down." -- American Woman

More Praise for Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant:

"I laughed, I cried, I identified!!!"

- Sybil Wilkes, The Tom Joyner Morning Show, on Better Than I Know Myself

"They're back! Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, authors of one of my favorite books, *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made*, have returned with *Better Than I know Myself*. It has a prologue that grabs you, a story that holds you, and characters that you will care about."

- Clara Villarosa, Bookseller, The Hue-man Bookstore & Cafe, Harlem on Better Than I Know Myself

"Strong, colorful characters distinguish DeBerry and Grant's warm and moving African-American family drama...moves gracefully between the 1950s and the present day, and an unusually varied cast of minor characters add spice to the full-bodied tale."

- Publishers Weekly on Far From the Tree

"Keenly drawn characters...a seamless work...a winning book about real, flawed people."

- QBRL The Black Book Review on Far From the Tree

"With sassy dialogue and a suspenseful narrative, this novel whips through its prologue and 23 well-written chapters."

- Dallas Morning News on Far From the Tree

"Captivating and compelling...brave, realistic, and touching."

- Booklist on Far From the Tree

About the Author

**Virginia DeBerry** and **Donna Grant** are the bestselling authors of *Far from the Tree* and *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made. Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made* won the Merit Award for fiction from the black caucus of the American Library Association, the Book of the Year award from Blackboard, and the New Author of the Year Award from the Go On Girl Book Club. Virginia and Donna first met while working as models, and what should have been a rivalry ended up as a decades-long friendship. Virginia lives in New Jersey, and Donna lives in Brooklyn, New York.

From AudioFile

Lisa Renee Pitts is a marvel! Her depiction of a large cast of characters is remarkable. She lends distinct, expressive voices to lifelong friends Carmen, Jewel, and Regina but saves her best efforts for minor characters. Randy the rapist bears a mocking tone, Jewel's mother a haughty one, and Jewel's father a world-weary, gravelly quality. Pitts's strong characterizations make it easy to relate to the protagonists' hopes and struggles. Her narration of the ups and downs of these women's lives is marred only by the frequent odd pauses in her reading. Still, listeners will find it difficult to turn off their CD players. J.J.B. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### Janice Wilham:

Inside other case, little men and women like to read book Better Than I Know Myself. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important some sort of book Better Than I Know Myself. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can recognize everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple point until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or maybe searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's learn.

## Roger Alford:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question because just their can do this. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Better Than I Know Myself to read.

#### Sandra Bland:

This Better Than I Know Myself are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason of this Better Than I Know Myself can be one of several great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple studying food but feed an individual with information that maybe will shock your before knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Better Than I Know Myself giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day exercise. So, let's have it and revel in reading.

## **Marivel Tye:**

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become worry if you feel like an previous people live in narrow commune. It is good thing to have Better Than I Know Myself because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you rarely get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss that? Find this book as well as read it from right now!

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