



# Cheaters

*Eric Jerome Dickey*

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**Cheaters** Eric Jerome Dickey

**Cheaters** is the book that broke new ground for Eric Jerome Dickey, following the skyrocketing success of his first three #1 **Blackboard** bestsellers, **Sister, Sister, Friends and Lovers**, and **Milk in My Coffee**.

**Cheaters** takes on a larger canvas and cast of characters, and fearlessly explores how bad even good people can sometimes behave in the game of love. It has earned Dickey even more loyal readers, and was chosen as **Blackboard**'s Best Book of the Year. In **Cheaters**, Stephan loves em and leaves em, just like his daddy. Chanté thinks she's found her dream man—until his wife and kids come banging on her door. Jake is a player—left with bad dreams he just can't shake. Darnell is true to his wife...but the temptation's getting tougher every day. Tammy is caught between the man she loves, and the woman he's promised to. And while Karen lectures her friends about fooling around, she may not live up to her own high standards...

This is the world of Eric Jerome Dickey. It's heart-wrenching and hilarious, smart and soulful, and as honest and recognizable as your own—and that of everyone who never loved you back.

## Cheaters Details

Date : Published May 1st 2001 by Dutton (first published July 1st 1999)

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Author : Eric Jerome Dickey

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# From Reader Review Cheaters for online ebook

## Byron Washington says

GREAT BOOK!!!

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## LaTonya says

This is one of my favorite books by EJD. It has a great story line, lots of drama, and some humor too. I also loved the characters and I would definitely recommend this book. It was a page turner and I couldn't put it down. Thanks EJD for a very entertaining book that I could read again and again. A Great read.

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## Black Carrie says

I read this book in high school , Let me tell you....this book is so real !!!!. I liked Chantae & Tammy, but Chantae sure did sell herself short some times Karen was such a b\*tch..... Stephon got on my nerves he was such a dog..... Jack was worser though omg living foul asf I liked his fiance she deserved better. Jack is like every little boy in grown men bodies walking around these days. I,liked Darnell too it made me sad how his Dawn always knocked him down reading that makes me not want to be that type of woman nor wife to my man. Good title and who you expect to be a cheater was a REAL plot twist. Enjoyable insightful read about relationships problems that can still be relatable till this day The games people play in relationships are so unnecessary, and this book brings some of those things to light.

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## Ruby says

What can I say Eric Jerome Dickey can do no wrong when it comes to writing magnificent fiction. I'm very bias, I know I am.

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## Tiffany Spencer says

Cheaters

PLOT This novel is about six individuals (Stephane, Chante, Darnell, Tammy, Karen, and Jake) whose lives and stories intertwine through the one thing they all have in common, toxic relationships. Stephane is a player, that hops in and out of relationships as quickly as he changes clothes. A habit he's seemed to have picked up from dear old Dad. Chante seems to have it all together (financially stable, nice apartment, good neighborhood, degree) on the outside but she can't keep a man to save her life and winds up with the ones that are either ghosters, married, or sideline her somewhere in their roster of females. Then we have Darnell, an unhappily married man who's a lawyer, but aspires to be a writer. Darnell's wife Dawn is beautiful and on the outside and looking in it might seem like they have the perfect life. But the reality is Darnell has been feeling a void since the day the "I Do's" were exchanged. Then there's Tammy, a struggling actress/singer,

with family drama who also has an unfulfilling relationship. Then we have Jake, (the worst of the worst) who has a good woman (Charlotte) that loves him and that he's engaged to but because he can't seem to keep his piece in one place and is always looking for "the grass being greener on the other side" (or rather the sex being better in the next bed). So he creeps (from woman to woman). Lastly, we have Karen, a (seemingly) satisfied, single, woman, that's very judgmental and opinionated. And so the story begins as the main characters (Chante and Stephane) meet at a gas station after a series of fall outs and breaks ups lead them to this point. Then later they're paths cross again at a nightclub (Shelly's) and their friends all meet causing their stories to tangle into each other.

**MY THOUGHTS:** Overall this is one of my favorite books because it's written in such a real way! It doesn't give you a sappy, sugar, coated, fluff piece of happily ever after's at the end. Because YES THIS is how relationships go. It's RAW! It's gritty! It's keeping it 100! It's ugly. But at the same time this is how African American relationships are! Straight no chaser. As well as friendships. This story gives you the good as well as the bad. You'll have friendships like Tammy, Karen, and Chante but every once and a while there will be fights and fallouts. But when it all comes down to it these are your girls. The same ones that will bail you out when a loser (that you had no business with in the first place) uses you. Or you'll have friendships like Jake, Stephane, and Darnell that those are your boys and they'll have your back and cover for you when even when you're in the wrong and need them to come and get you out of some messed up bs situation you created at 4 in the morning. You're going to run into men like Craig, who will up and disappear for no reason. There are forums that go on pages and pages and pages of ladies that aren't even as bold or strong as Chante who can't get their comeuppance when men pull this thoughtless bull shit! Men who will try to use you and take advantage of the position you hold and then leave you hanging. This was so easy to relate to this novel because I KNEW these men. I knew a "Craig" that ghosted. I knew a "Craig" that tried to pull the same thing when I worked in retail by coming through my line and using me. (Although I wasn't dumb by the d like her). You're gonna find "Michaels" that are married with the crazy significant others that come banging on the door when you think they're committed to you and you only. Or "Thaibeeds" that just want you as side chicks (unknown to you because they can't tell you the truth that they have somebody). You're gonna have "Jakes" who you could be a "Charlotte" and be the best thing they ever had but they mess around anyway because they're SELFISH, a\*\*holes and then have the nerve to come back and wanna cry and beg when the game is up and the player has played himself out. Then they wanna realize what they had in front of them all the time. Then we have the "Stephane's" who I'm undecided about. The author tries to leave us with the message that a good woman (Chante) can change a man's (Stephane) ways and heart. And while I wanna believe that's true. We're the ones cheated. We don't get a "Cheater's 2" follow up novel. So we don't get to see if Stephane stays with Chante and for how long. Although I have to admit I had to speed read through some of their sex scenes! When a sex scene in a book with fictional characters actually makes you JEALOUS.... Then you have the "Darnells" who it's a little harder to pass judgment on because of their situations. Which just shows that what you see on the outside sometimes is an illusion. If I hadn't read Darnell's story and passed him on the street holding hands with Dawn, or read Dawn's FB (or would it be My Space when this was written) I probably would have envied them. (She seems like the one of those women who would post a ton of pictures with loving captions for show). Then as a woman I could easily relate to the women. I often felt like MAN. Has Eric Jerome Dickey been looking through my window or something? Because I have been "Chante". (HAVE I?) The woman with a degree that easily falls in love with love and is just as easily manipulated by it. Bouncing from relationship to relationship. "Searching Searching" (as the real Chante Moore sings). At times I've been "Tammy". In love with someone unavailable. The one I could relate to less was "Karen". And now I'll talk individual characters.

#### **CHARACTERS:**

**CHANTE:** Definitely my favorite character. And how interesting was it that the author specified she tends to

look like one of my favorite singers of all times (Chante Moore) the very one she's named after. Not only could I relate to her as a character and saw her situations vividly (because most of them had happened in my own life) I admired her fully! I admired that this lady truthfully didn't need all these sorry men. She had it together. (She just didn't see that). She had her own! But I UNDERSTOOD her NEED! I admired that like a lot of us who cry and eventually just give up on finding out why we got dumped for no reason, she REFUSES because this bastard OWES her an answer and she's gonna hunt him down until she gets it! And when she gets it she makes him pay LITERALLY! I like when she turned into a BAD ASS and switched it all up. Her look, her style, her attitude! The symbolization of her tattoo was inspired! I WANNA BE THIS WOMAN! She had sass! She had FIGHT! She had ATTITUDE! And she was beautiful (if she looked anything like Chante Moore). And I think she deserves better than Stephane Mitchell.

TAMMY: What I liked about Tammy was she was the peace-maker. She was the heart of her girls. I wasn't too crazy that she allowed herself to get as involved as she did with a married man but I can't judge her in full because I also know that stuff happens that sometimes you can't turn off. You love who you love. Sometimes it's not neat and clean. I thought she went a little far with taking off her bra in front of Darnell but for the most part, she exercised great control. I liked that despite where she came from (and her family issues) she was able to overcome all that in the end and was able to start her life over (in Paris). It was a little chilling when she said: "You know I'm not coming back". I don't blame her but I wondered why if she was so tight with Chante and Karen why she couldn't tell them herself. I also wondered why she couldn't tell them about her family. Ok, so well I wouldn't have told Karen but Chante?

KAREN: Did not like Karen! Where do I start? Karen was the kind of character who just seemed to like to cause drama for no reason! Then she'd back that up with well I was just being real! It's a difference between being real and being nastily judgmental? Unfortunately, a lot of people don't know how to carry off "being real". And again I know a \*Karen" who is quick to point out what you're doing wrong in your life but when you return the favor they get pissy and excuse themselves (physically remove themselves) out of the conversation. Such as when Karen just all of a sudden conveniently had to go to the bathroom when things got hot. Tammy tries to make an excuse for her. "You know she's had it hard." A LOT of people have it hard! That's NOT an excuse to be an asshole to someone else. I didn't really feel sorry that Karen got that beat-down from Chante. Nor was I sorry that she got used by Craig. Did you really think you were different? I wondered was she the one he took to the play on Chante's birthday or was it the one that he claimed to be his "sister".

CHARLOTTE: WOW! Let me just give this character APPLAUSE! Other than Chante she was my 2nd favorite. Her comeuppance was just CHILLING! The first time I read this and found out what was causing those clicks on the phone. All the while she never loses her shit (like Toyomi). When it all goes down with Jake and he's caught through it all she's just a pillar of strength and CALM! I don't know how in the hell she held it all in. Although I don't understand one thing. Some people are more "tame" in sex and that's ok. You have to work with your partner like Darnell suggested. Give and take is what makes a relationship. However, I felt Jake just a little bit when he said she came in, did the same thing, didn't put any effort into wearing something sexy for him. (Although this is NOT an EXCUSE for Jakes BS) I just wondered would it have killed Charlotte to wear a little silk or something racy for the man?

PAMELA: I'm surprised tho that she up and left Jake. I thought she'd be happy. But then I guess even sideline chicks have limits. I kind of want to be mad at Pamela because it's different when you know a man is with someone and still choose to pursue the thing versus when you're just unaware and blind. However this day my anger with Pamela is minimum. Rather I'm gonna feel sorry for Pamela. She represents so many women in this world that settle for being side chicks and can't see that they deserve better. All that service she did for Jake and all the good sex she was giving could have been used on HER OWN MAN! But in this

social media age, it gets MORE and MORE and MORE accepted and that's what really makes me MAD. Pamela deserves better than Jake's trifling butt.

DAWN: Dawn would it have killed you to read the man's script? You don't have anyone to blame yourself for how your story turned out. That's ALL Darnell seemed to want you to do. I don't think he said he wanted to quit being a lawyer. He just wanted to pursue his writing ALSO. Dawn as a character was ANNOYING!! Always in Darnell's ear bitching. I could NOT marry someone who didn't support and encourage my passion. And then the slip she made at the end because of the assumption she made when maybe she should have asked the question did you sleep with Tammy. I was slightly impressed that she was bold enough to show up at the other woman's performance WITH her husband. Like yeah, I see you.

BRITTANY: I also have to give her applause because she finally got fed up with Stephan and kicked him to the curb after she realized he only came back to her when he was at an emotional low. I felt bad for her man (the one outside) that wanted to marry her. Because (like Charlotte) he has no idea that this woman (that obviously he's crazy over) is screwing around with someone from her past. And this just to me seems wrong because (unlike Charlotte) he's being toyed with. So you see it's not just the men in this story who are jerks.

TOYOMI: Hmm! She was OVER THE TOP but sometimes men drive you to be over the top by their bs. Although she already did a good job of that on her own. So I can't blame it all on Stephane. This is something else men do. In their speed to bed the next behind and pair of breasts that don't always get to know what kind of person they've penetrated until it's too late and they find that they're BAT ISH CRAZY and then they're stuck with and can't get rid of them. Just one of the "wonderful" aspects of being a player.

STEPHANE: I'm unclear how I feel about this character. From the first chapter, I guess we're supposed to feel sorry for him because he has "Daddy issues". His Daddy messed around on his mother and the gene passed down to him. Ok. Only he HAS pops that taught him better and he's still hoeing so now what? It wasn't like he didn't have a male influence in his life. So try again. I never understood until I had the misfortune of dating a "Stephane" and people would tell me (what at the time sounded like a whole bunch of bs to me) me "No one ever taught him how to love"! And I just can't give this character that. His Daddy's blood may run through his veins but he has his own mind. No one's making him mistreat these women. I think it also tired to use the excuse that he's in love with being in love. The only time I felt sorry for Stephane was when Samantha just walked away (and then tried to come back). Why he kept letting this continue I'll never know. But if this was also an excuse to play them before they play me, I can't get with this either. I can't even get with the idea it leaves us with that he's happy now with Chante and he's a changed man because that remains to be seen.

JAKE: UGG! I just can't with this character. All I'll say is GOOD FOR YOU! You got what you deserved in the end. LEFT ALONE by your woman AND your side piece.

DARNELL: Now unlike his friends, I don't dislike this character as much. And this is the ONLY one in this story I give a pass to because all this man wanted was support from his woman. And that isn't even that much to want. And I won't (and don't) blame him because he turned to another woman to get what he wasn't at home. The earring was a nice touch and the end of going to Paris not coming back to find Tammy was nice.

POPS: I liked this character. I liked that out of all this crappy, behind, men we see he was supposed to be the example of a "good man". And he was. He stepped in when his friend did his woman wrong and did right by her. When she fell on hard times he brought food by. He even raised her kids as if they were his. When he saw Stephane screwing up (like his Daddy) he calls him out on his ish and he tells him don't bring it around

his house. Pops didn't play. And you know what? I think there ought to be more men like Pops. Role models. Little boys turn into trifling men who only imitate what they see in front of them. It's men like this that can change these kinds of toxic relationships demonstrated by these men in this novel.

**RATING: 10 I LOVED THIS BOOK!** I loved it for its TRUTH! I loved it for its RELATABILITY! I loved the strength (and weaknesses) of each character and how each one gave a life lesson. Stephane shows (well verdict still undecided but the author's intention probably) that men can change for the right woman. Chante show's us the beauty of evolution and strength of a woman (in all relationships), Jake shows us (men) not to be short-sighted and lose the pot of gold because your chasing rainbows and lepricons. Charlotte shows us (as women) to always be one step ahead of not only your man but men in general. And don't forget to switch it up every now and then for your man. (It's hard enough to keep these men). But be a little unpredictable, sexy, and fun. With Dawn, we learn to always support your man. Because what you don't do the next woman will. From Darnell, we learn don't get so caught up in your career goals to neglect the person you've committed yourself too. You should put the same kind of hours (and work) into your relationship that you do your job. With Karen, we learn DON'T BE A DAMN FOOL! If you see signs that someone isn't about ish then how bout you LEAVE THEM and not wanna cry and act like your all surprised when they don't treat you right. The lesson from Tammy DON'T TEMPT MARRIED MEN but the up side is that if your lucky enough sometimes they do leave. With Brittany, it's don't be a Pamela its women have some respect for your damn selves and don't be side chicks! PLEASE! And with Pops, it's always be a role model men to your sons. Did I miss anybody? Basically, I can read this book over and over and over and love it every single time. You definitely won't be cheated if you read this novel!

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### **Jamaica says**

This is the second book from Mr. Dickey I've read. I wanted to give this book at least 4 stars, because after reading *The Other Woman*, I was anxious to read his other work. Now, don't get me wrong, the writing is great and the characters were engaging it's just...the theme is so stereotypical. It's about a group of friends who meet and then their lives change as far as relationships and family life goes. The main male character, Stephen, is a player. Been one all his life and the main female lead is a hopeless romantic who is desperate for a man's love.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be loved, but there's a point where you got to say, I can do bad all by myself. It's not the end of the world to be single and spending Valentine's Day with the girls. I guess I was irritated that the circles of friends ended up being involved with each other one way or another. But that was the point of this book, I guess.

All in all, Mr. Dickey did a good job of writing a cliché well. I didn't hate this book, just didn't enjoy it like I thought it would.

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### **Melvin Hunter says**

Eric Jerome Dickey!!!! So far, excluding the Gideon series, this is my favorite book by EJD. I absolutely love how EJD moves aside as the author and let the characters speak in their own voice. The character development in this book had me both hating and loving the characters at different points in the story. It was

a good story with a good but unexpected ending. If you haven't read Cheaters, check it out.

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### **Teduchess66aol.com says**

I read this book years ago after meeting Mr. Dickey at a book signing. Interestingly enuf, he'd ask me my name n where I lived I told him and it's weird the character Tammy (my name) lives in the IE (where I live) she sings. (I sing) amazing.. Physically at that time she was plump back then so was I.. Felt as if I was reading about myself.. Amazing!!!

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### **Brooklyn Darkchild says**

Everyone cheats.

Or So "They" Say.

I guess it depends on the circumstances.

Well, this is the story of 2 groups of friends: Stephan, Jake and Darnell, and Chante, Tammy and Karen; and the absolute mess their dating lives are in. Stephen is the resident "pimp", juggling several women at a time, Jake is the commitment-phobic who somehow finds himself engaged yet still keeps a woman on the side and Darnell is the "happily" married friend who finds himself tempted to cheat because...well:

Whose marriage is "happy" all of the time???

On the other side of the coin there is Chante: who goes through men like water simply because she gets caught up in them before she finds out who they really are; Tammy: the artistic free spirit who hides deep secrets, even from her friends; and Karen: who hasn't achieved all that her friends feel she could yet is highly judgmental of Chante's merry-go-round cast of lovers.

Trust and believe that somehow or another these two groups are destined to meet, and to clash...and to??? I bet you can figure out at least some of it on your own, but other bits will leave you breathless.

I LOVE EJD's style of writing: the choppy sentence fragments that are more bits of thoughts and images than actual dialog/descriptions. One of my characters, Princess, is written in this style. His metaphors are laugh-out-loud funny, his pace is mile-a-minute, and there's never a dull moment or lack of action anywhere. I have to admit that I was somewhat disappointed with the resolution of one of these couples storyline. To say anything more would be to have to click the dreaded Spoiler Alert button, but suffice it to say I wish they had Left It Where It Was Out. Their original decision was a much braver one I think. One the whole, though, this book left me full and satisfied, like a Sunday dinner at Big Mama's house. Simply delicious...

DISCLAIMER NOTICE: I bought this book from an online friend who was "looking for a good home" for some of her books.

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### **Jen McGraw says**

This was my second book by Eric Jerome Dickey and he did not disappoint!



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## Nikki says

Great Book!!!

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## Stephanie.gonzalez says

The novel im reading now is called Cheaters by, Eric Jerome Dickey. So far in the book, Stephen is cheating on 3 girls and having fun doing it. Chante got cheated on by a married man who has kids. Darnell and his wife are having some issues with Darnell always busy typing his book.

This book is written by chapters but each chapter is about a different person, and how cheating is involved in their life and how they cope with it. This book only talks about three peoples life, Stephan, Darnell, and Chante.

My connection to this book is that I have a friend who has cheated on their loved one but has played the game well because that person still does not know.

I wonder if Stephen would get caught by one of the other girls. I wonder how would he feel and his reaction to it.

I predict that Stephan will soon end up settling down with one girl but not so sure of what girl.

I enjoy reading this book!

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## La Mala 🖐️ says

Primero està Stephan , el que tiene màs minas de las que puede manejar PEEERO todavìa està a tiempo de pasar a OTRA vida .

Le sigue Jake ,que es igual de infiel que Stephan PEEERO no va a cambiar nunca .El eterno pirata . El que va a tener sesenta años y va a seguir corriendo atràs de cualquier veinteañera que se le cruce.

Le sigue al final Darnell , el que todavìa cree en la monogamia y pretende ser fiel para toda la vida ---Hasta que cae rendido ante una chica sensible que no hace màs que admirarlo . Sin embargo , a diferencia de los anteriores Darnell es el que se resiste . (Y eso que lo de el es amor) . El que es infiel con el corazòn.

El 90% de los hombres que aparecen ademàs de esos tres principales son una ~~basura~~ tras otra . (Bah ,en mi opiniòn, obvio. Y ,~~basura~~ es una palabra fuerte pero todavìa no se me ocurre otra). Todos meten los cuernos ,todos mienten , todos traicionan de una manera u otra .

A ver....

No quiero caer en la misandria que mi psicòloga cree que me domina el caracter de tanto en tanto pero me parece honesta la manera en que el autor representa a esa mayoria de hombres . Punto .

Màs alla de mi opiniòn sobre lo que trata la historia (bastante larga , por cierto) , el libro me gustó muchísimo . Es entretenido , dramático por momentos pero al final resulta ser el más light que leí -hasta ahora -de

Dickey . Habla de la infidelidad , el machismo ,la amistad entre hombres ,la amistad entre mujeres , la mala influencia de los matrimonios en conflicto sobre la crianza de los hijos , los celos entre amigos y otras cosas más.

Muy bueno.

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### **Camille says**

Loved this!

Very well written

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### **Nikinnia Smith says**

Stephan is a young man who is haunted by his father constantly cheating on his mother when he was younger. Now an adult Stephan has turned into his father. Never settling down and going through a string of women. He and his 2 friends, Jake and Darnell meet 3 female friends, Chante, Karen, and Tammy. Stephan and Chante hit it off immediately as does Darnell and Tammy. Darnell is an unhappily married man. His wife does not understand him and is not affectionate towards him. He soon starts to fall for Tammy as she understands him completely. Darnell eventually leaves his wife for Tammy.

Stephan and Chante however have a few obstacles as they both try to fight their feelings for each other, and Stephan has not given up his cheating ways completely. They end up happily together.

Chante is also betrayed by her best friend who was sleeping with Chante's boyfriend. This book has lots of juicy drama. I have read many of EJD's books and this one has become one of my favorites. A juicy plot and not so much sex as with some of his other books.

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