



BLACK To Reality

Russell Blake

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BLACK To Reality is the fourth in the acclaimed BLACK series of noir detective fiction featuring Artemus Black, the world's losingest Hollywood Private Investigator. In this installment he is saved from financial calamity when he takes a case that requires him to work undercover on a reality television show, posing as an over-the-hill rocker trying for one last shot at success.

BLACK To Reality Details

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Author : Russell Blake

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From Reader Review BLACK To Reality for online ebook

Karen Kay says

This was my favorite Black book. I loved the thought of Black being a rock star and playing guitar like Jimmy Page or Keith Richards.

Fun, easy read. If you're looking for a detective story with action and lots of sarcasm, the Black books are worth your time.

Andrew Bernstein says

3.5 rounded up. My favorite of this series. Free prime loan, good palate cleanser. Fun, easy, brisk read.

cdf4206gmail.com says

As always a fun read. This time the star of the book was Muggsy the cat. It will be fun to see how his character develops when the next book comes out. This is a behind-the-scenes look at reality TV and rock bands.

I read this in 2 days. I find this type of book a cleansing after reading something of a more serious nature. Have fun, good beach read

Renee Long says

Good to the end

Another Black read that was good to the end. Looking forward to the next one.
Want to see if he inherits all of his parents money!

Karsyn says

My favorite of the series, and since it was such an enjoyable story, I decided to give it an extra star. Loved that it was him getting back into music and the story was quite fun and enjoyable.

It still had the main 3 things I hated ~ bitch of a mother (hate her with a passion), asshole of a therapist and Roxie being just slightly over the top. She was perfect after one point though, after that, it was the perfect amount of sass, with not too much. Sylvia surprised me as being a bitch and I would have had her hitting the road after the first time she flipped out.

I finally realized what one thing about Black I don't like is ~ he's a pussy!! He FINALLY stood up for himself and I wanted to cheer, realizing he does NOT do that. He doesn't stand up to his parents, who are (at least the mother) inconsiderate at best. He doesn't stand up to the therapist who is a creepy ass wife. He just doesn't stand up for himself at all, so when he finally did, it was great. If there's more of this series, I hope he grows a pair and starts acting like a confidant man, instead of a spineless one.

Cathy Ryan says

Black is back, broke and down on his luck. The rent's overdue on his apartment, Roxie's had no wages and there are no clients beating down his door. Add to that the move to a swanky new office, which unnecessary luxury, according to Black, is taking what little money he has left. Roxie is forced to look for another job until things improve. Then Black gets a call about a possible new client.

Reality shows are in the firing line in this story as Black is assigned to investigate possible shady dealings in a reality TV competition, Rock of Ages. He gets a chance to relive his long-lost fame by joining, as lead guitarist, one the groups who were knocked out last year. Brushing up on his guitar skills and getting a rock star make over, Black is again in the thick of the action. Could he actually have another shot at a career in the music business again?

I just love Black's character, his decency, generosity and sense of humour, not to mention his relationships with Stan, Roxie and Mugsy, who takes centre stage in this episode and eventually provides something of a life line for Black. Black is an authentic individual with normal, everyday issues in his personal as well as professional life, which most people can relate in one way or another.

Underneath all the humour there's some serious subject matter, including Black realising he's reached the age of 43 with not a lot to show for it except 'an eccentric wardrobe and an old Cadillac', complex emotional issues and dealing with abandoned and ignored dreams. His character development has advanced and he's less angry and bitter about the way his life has turned out.

Again, a realistic plot line with any number of suspects and an appreciable amount of Russell Blake's entertaining and witty dialogue. I really enjoy listening to this series, it's one of my favourites and RC Bray delivers a first-rate performance, balancing the humorous and the serious and handling the characters in an easygoing and distinct way.

I hope we see a lot more of Black in the future.

<http://betweentheelinesbookblog.wordpress.com>

Walt Mccluskey says

Black to reality

Continue to enjoy this author's works even though they are not as mystifying as several of others I've enjoyed. They have intricate plots but the hero seems to fall into the solution more than make logical

conclusion. Still enjoyable and worth recommendation.

Kim Cano says

Black to Reality is my favorite book in the Black series because Mugsy the cat is prominently featured. I always felt he was the real star, and in this book he becomes one on reality TV. I love how he kept getting all the attention when he did nothing more than eat and sleep and get fatter.

Like the other books in the series, I found myself laughing throughout. Dr. Kelso especially tickles my funny bone. And Stan turned into quite the badass this time. But the story isn't just humorous. Behind the hilarity a lot of issues are addressed. Like the lengths a person will go to when down on their luck to survive, dealing with aging and broken dreams, and trying to understand and come to grips with complex emotions felt for different people.

As Black went through his ordeal, I found it easy to connect with him. I think everyone has been in some variation of his shoes at some point in their life. What he chose to do in the end proves how much his character has grown since the first book. He makes a tough but smart choice.

L says

This book knocked my socks off, and I don't even know quite why. So, while I usually reserve 5 stars for novels that deal with issues of social significance, this has to be 5. (Of course, the case could be made that reality t.v. is such a blight on the land that it counts.)

If you read Blake, you know how fabulous his characters are. The relationships between Black, Roxie, and Mugsy, esp. the dialogue between those with speaking parts, make for top-notch, sometimes laugh-out-loud reading. That dialogue covers a wealth of confused and buried emotion, all around. Of course, Black's parents make an appearance. They are just so annoying! Nina, his ex, is less so here than in earlier novels.

In this book, Blake includes it all--characters, reality t.v., rock-n-roll, living and facing (early) middle age, the mob, Mexico, a top-notch mystery, and more. I couldn't put it down, leaving me to ignore my own cats (neither as large or destructive as Mugsy) and much more.

How I wish Blake could write them as quickly as I can read them!!!

William highwood says

Russell Blake at his best.

This book kept me looking to turn the next page, no wonder the author has truly risen to the top. I'm looking forward to his new reads.

Scott says

Artemus is all that AND a rock star lead guitarist, and then (spoiler alert!!) he turns his back on fame and fortune.

Please Mr. Blake, if it isn't too much trouble, could you please provide us with the further adventures of our favorite LA PI?

Jeff says

This is an engaging mystery with much laugh-out-loud humor and a bit of satire poking fun at reality TV. The characters are great and R. C. Bray nails the narration.

Jim Razza says

Fun read

Interesting characters, with some good twists and turns. Always some good light humor. This has been an interesting series. Read them all from the begining.

David says

Another entertaining mystery in the Black series. This time there is apparent corruption in a reality TV show for bands and Artemus Black is on the case. Once a famous musician, he is brought in to play guitar for one of the bands while getting to the bottom of problems backstage.

Fun book, last of the series so far (4th of 4), hope there is more to come.

Nadine A. Stevens says

Ayeeee My Man BLACK!!!!

As always excellently BLACK, this was much different from his other, but the bends and twist was there, I can just live his life over and over again, can't wait to see what he gets into next. Sylvia is starting to get in my nerve's, how can she have so many trust issues, there is a story there ?
