

I Do? MEDIA FACT SHEET

WHAT: Is it still too late to board a train that's left the station? A lighthearted romantic drama-comedy, *I Do?* dares ask that question, following the trials and travails of Jasmine, a successful, rising star anchorwoman on the Atlanta market who, while putting her career on the line, doggedly pursues her ex-boyfriend in the vain hopes of reconciliation. One problem: he's engaged to be married, and she has only one month to win him back. Featuring the most likable anti-heroine on the fiction scene, *I Do?* is an amusing, emotionally poignant role-reversal romp through contemporary love and relationships. In the battle of the sexes, is love truly a war worth winning?

WHO: **Edwardo Jackson** is a graduate of The Lakeside School ('93) in Seattle, WA, Morehouse College ('97; B.A. Drama/English) in Atlanta, GA, and the University of Phoenix ('02, M.B.A.) in Gardena, CA. Previously published in the anthologies *Proverbs for the People* (Kensington, 2003) and *Intimacy* (Plume, 2004), the 30 year old writing dynamo is the author of several screenplays, as well as the prequels to *I Do?*, *Ever After* and *Neva Hafta*. Originally from Seattle, WA, Mr. Jackson resides in Southern California as a screenwriter and actor. He is also the co-founder and Chief Creative Officer of JCM Books, a division of JCM Entertainment, LLC.

WHERE: in stores everywhere
www.edwardojackson.com
www.barnesandnoble.com
www.Amazon.com

WHY: Clearly offering a stylish, uniquely contemporary voice, Edwardo Jackson's novel marks the return of a talent with an ear for honest dialogue, a knack for truthful, uncompromising storytelling, and a gift for brushing the emotions that color us all.

WHEN: **Spring 2006!**

J C M Entertainment, LLC

PRESSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Critically Acclaimed Author Edwardo Jackson Releases *I Do?*, The Third Installment in his *Ever After* Series

Washington, D.C. (February 2006) – “Love is a war worth fighting” – At last, the third book in Edwardo Jackson's critically acclaimed *Ever After* series, *I Do?* arrives on the D-Day for Love: **Valentine's Day 2006!** The much-anticipated sequel to 2002's hit, *Neva Hafta* takes up one woman's war on love, for love, with Jackson's trademark quick wit, breathless pacing, and breathtaking romance.

Set in Atlanta and Los Angeles, *I Do?* is a funny, intelligent, and heartfelt role reversal of the traditional romantic comedy. With an emotionally fearless female protagonist and a sympathetic, if not justified male antagonist, *I Do?* is a kaleidoscope of emotions from a singularly unique female point of view, as one woman throws not just caution but potentially her career to the wind, in the pursuit of righting the greatest wrong of her young life.

It's never too late to love someone back – At least that's what Jasmine figured as she interrupts her ex-boyfriend's wedding to give him the answer she should have given him six years ago—*I...Do*. But now, Nick...*don't*. Well, if Nick took no for an answer, Jasmine won't, waging an all-out onslaught on his heart with a love campaign so intense, so ludicrous, so heartfelt, it could only come from the woman who claims she “loved him first.” Exploring the bounds – and bonds – of love, commitment, determination, and destiny, Jasmine goes to her wits end and back to prove to Nick—as well as to herself—that if love is war, it's one war worth fighting.

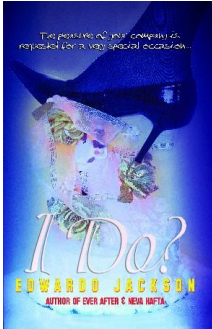
The debut offering under JCM Entertainment's imprint JCM Books, *I Do?* is published as a joint venture with the X Press of London, England for North American release on **February 14, 2006**. Supported by a multimedia promotional assault from the innovative marketing team of JCM Entertainment, *I Do?* added to a rabid fan base due to an international cover model search for the face of its protagonist, Jasmine. The model search yielded 500 entries from a dozen countries, plus thousands of votes from readers around the globe. Love her or hate her, Jasmine's story will be told - available for purchase online at EdwardoJackson.com, Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and traditional bookstores everywhere.

Edwardo Jackson is a graduate of Morehouse College ('97; B.A. Drama, English), Atlanta, GA, and the University of Phoenix ('02, M.B.A). The winner of the 1993 NAACP ACTSO Silver Medal in Playwriting, he is a screenwriter and actor, as well as a President of the entertainment promotional company JCM Entertainment, LLC. Originally from Seattle, WA, Mr. Jackson resides in Southern California.



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I Do?



I Do?

Author: Edwardo Jackson Novel/Relationship
Publication Date: May 2006 Paperback
Price: \$13.95 272 Pages
Size: 5" x 7.75" ISBN: 1-902934-43-1
Available at EdwardoJackson.com, Amazon.com,
BarnesandNoble.com, and bookstores everywhere.

To order, please call 310-349-3309

Synopsis: A rising Atlanta journalist throws caution – and her career – to the wind in her blind, love stalker-like pursuit of her ex-boyfriend, determined to stop his wedding in a month's time to another woman.

Themes:

- Reversed/nontraditional courtship gender roles
- unrequited love
- female self-definition
- identity with and without a significant other
- singleminded determination towards a goal
- sisterhood and female loyalty
- second chances and righting wrongs
- the pitfalls of pridefulness
- belief in destiny
- the social expectation vs. personal weight of marriage
- heart vs. head
- career vs. motherhood
- personal relationship with God vs. religious self-righteousness
- becoming a better person through experience and relationships, good and bad
- the thin line between love and stalking
- journalism ethics

Marketing: Completed online international cover model search for character of Jasmine. Viral Internet marketing via *I Do? Update* periodic newsletter. Jasmine's Rules tank top giveaways and online sales. Website redesign by Black Butterfly Consulting. Neo-soul, poetry, and spoken word soundtrack produced by Brash Music featuring Anthony David. DVD electronic press kit forthcoming.

Edwardo Jackson, a graduate of Morehouse College ('97), is a writer and actor originally from Seattle, WA. Also the author of several screenplays and short stories, the previous two novels in the series, *Ever After* and *Neva Hafta*, are available from the X Press. He resides in Southern California.

I Do?

At a Glance

PUBLISHING INFO

Author: Edwardo Jackson
Publisher: JCM Books
Copyright: February 2006
ISBN: 1-902934-43-1
Availability: EdwardoJackson.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com, and bookstores everywhere

BOOK DETAILS

Completion Date: April 2001
Genre: Relationship/Romantic Drama-Comedy
Locations: San Diego, Atlanta, Los Angeles
Main Characters: Nick, Jasmine, Charlotte, Nadine, Tabitha, Jacque
Logline: A rising Atlanta journalist throws caution – and her career – to the wind in her blind, love stalker-like pursuit of her ex-boyfriend, determined to stop his wedding in a month's time to another woman.

ISSUES

- Living in the present versus living in the past
- Destiny versus controlling your own fate
- Societal pressure to marry
- Breast cancer and its effect on family and friends
- Career women and dating
- The thin line between persistence and stalking

QUOTES

- “I had no idea love would taste so much like blood.” – Jasmine
- “I think there are laws in California against stalking people, especially movie stars.” – Charlotte
- “Know that this woman, my daughter, loves *you* with everything she has and everything that she hasn't!” – Winnie
- “I love you, J, but I ain't goin' to jail for you.” – Charlotte
- “What is for me to say is that were you open to more spiritual instruction in your life, you *might* have made some different choices in your life that *might* have made you a little happier than you are today.” – Nadine
- “Jasmine, if you love me, if you ever loved me, please just leave me alone.” – Nick
- “Then it just hit me what I was doing. I was about to destroy a life. A marriage...Did this really have to be done? – Jasmine

Interview with Edwardo Jackson **(Selected questions from blagazine.com – 2/4/06)**

Why did you write your current book? Tell us about this book. How long did it take to write?

I DO? is the third book in the Nick-Jasmine EVER AFTER series. At the end of the second book, NEVA HAFTA, there's a cliffhanger where Nick, at his wedding, is forced to choose between his past (almost fiancée Jasmine) and his present (current fiancée Tabitha).

I DO? took a little over three months to write. I am a fast writer but this book is also a little shorter than my other work.

Where did the title come from?

Good question. I'm terrible with titles but, for some reason, I've always had this one in my head. Obviously, it's a play on those two little words that mean forever, but the question mark is also appropriate for the questioning of one's commitment. Even though Jasmine's entire intent is to throw doubt into the potential union of Nick and Tabitha, she also begins to question her own faith in her mission, this love she thinks he still has for her, and how far she should go to get it back.

Are you working on a follow up or something completely different?

I've got a couple of books in the can - a prequel to the EVER AFTER series called IN TALL COTTON. It follows Nick and Malloy separately as freshmen at Morehouse College - two wildly divergent boys from opposite parts of the country - and how they met and became best friends.

The other one is KIN. It's about two men, a 36 year old lawyer who claims he has "transcended blackness" and a 24 year old, pro-black, struggling basketball player who find out they are brothers when their birth mother dies. They're forced to live together for a month in order to track down their birth father and inherit a million dollars each, deconstructing their own ideas and preconceived notions on race, class, family, and life.

What challenges or obstacles do you encounter while writing? How did you overcome these challenges?

My biggest challenge in writing is myself. I'm impatient and sometimes wish I could write the entire story in one fell swoop. And time. I never have enough time for ANYTHING. Otherwise, I find the process of writing to be pretty natural for me.

Who were your literary inspirations when you were growing up? What did you read? What do you read now?

Tom Clancy for detail, John Grisham for plotting, Terry McMillan for emotion, when I was growing up. In college, I did a term paper on James Baldwin, and he totally hijacked my style. I don't imitate Baldwin's style, but his layered, complex sentences definitely have affected, improved my writing.

How difficult was it for you to get your first book published?

Harder than some, easier than others. I was originally self-published through an Internet print-on-demand company. Not naming any names, but they were a nightmare to work with at the time. But within ten months of publication, I signed a two book deal with traditional publisher Random House.

What was the last book you read?

I am SO glad you asked! I just finished Lolita Files' SEX.LIES.MURDER.FAME. It is fan-bleepin'-tastic!

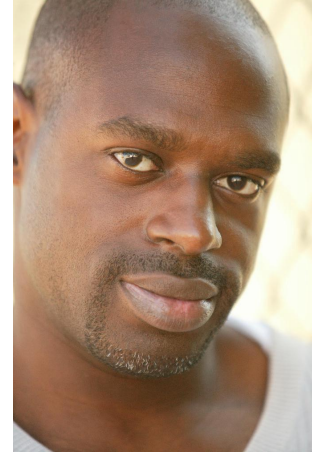
Can you offer any advice to hopeful writers out there who are currently working on their first novel?

First of all finish. Most people have a book in them, but many don't have the wherewithal to finish. Secondly, once you finish, if you're interested in having a writing career, do whatever you can to PROMOTE it, whether you self-publish or solicit agents and/or editors. Can't sell a secret. And lastly, but most important, respect the craft. I could go all soapbox and decry the state of literature, particularly black literature, but it'd be cacophonous by this point. While I say most people have a book in them, not everyone is a true writer. Doesn't mean they can't be, it just means they need to practice, practice, practice (yeah, I'm talkin' 'bout PRACTICE, A.I.), read other writers, and have brutally honest, constructively critical friends or peers who will help them advance their writing. Just because you've kept a journal all your life, or you dated a writer, or you were in jail with a lot of time on your hands doesn't make you a writer. True writers are artists, and true artists, hell, true human beings, are always trying to improve themselves. Same should go for your craft.

How can readers get in contact with you?

EverAfterANovel@aol.com. Also check out my website: www.edwardojackson.com - SOON to undergo a redesign, so keep your snickers to a minimum. Plus, my main character Jasmine in I DO? has a limited time only blog: www.jasmineselene.blogspot.com. Check her out - she's got mad opinions!

Edwardo Jackson



NOVELS

I Do? (2006, JCM Books)
Neva Hafta (2002, Villard Books/Random House)
Ever After (2001, Villard Books/Random House)
Ever After (1999, iUniverse.com, self-published)
Kin (2004, manuscript)
In Tall Cotton (2002, manuscript)

SCREENPLAYS

The Border (2003, unproduced); TV pilot
Highland Park (2003, story by, producers attached); co-written with Gregory M.T. Colleton
K-O-P-S (2003, rewrite, Urban Entertainment); co-written with Gregory M.T. Colleton
Twelve Nights (2001, unproduced, director attached); co-written with Gregory M.T. Colleton
Road to Freaknik (2000, in development, Fox Searchlight); co-written with Gregory M.T. Colleton
Boys Club (1999, optioned, Uncle Frank Productions)

TV

37th NAACP Image Awards (2006, Pre-Show writer, producer)
The Border (2003, pilot series, unproduced)
Street Gladiators (2002, creator, game show, producers attached)
Shades of Gray (1999, pilot series, 6 episodes, unproduced)

ARTICLES

THE REEL DEAL: Reviewz from the Street (Electronic Urban Report, 2000; HBCUNetwork.com, 2001; Urban FilmPremiere.com, 2003 -) - movie review column ghost written as "THE REEL DEAL"
ACT-SO Trip a Success for Seattle Youth. *Seattle Medium*, 1993

SHORT STORIES

Postcards from Hell (*Truth Be Told* anthology, Montage, 2006)
Broken Rules (*Intimacy* anthology, Plume, 2004)
And Then She Cried (*Proverbs for the People*, anthology, Kensington, 2003)
When a Black Man Loves a Woman (*Focus*, Spelman College literary magazine, 1996)

EDUCATION

Masters of Business Administration – June 2002
University of Phoenix, Gardena, CA

Masters of Fine Arts (incomplete): September 1997—June 1998
Professional Acting Program, The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Arts degrees Drama, English (Cum Laude, Honors, English Dept Honors) – May 1997
Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

President of JCM Entertainment, LLC. entertainment promotions company (1999 -)
Semi-Finalist, Slamdance Teleplay Writing Competition 2006
Judge, Playwriting, Original Essay, Beverly Hills NAACP ACT-SO Program 2000-2002
Who's Who Among College Students 1996-97
National Dean's List 1994-97
NAACP National Silver Medalist, Playwriting 1993
Certified Bartender
California Department of Real Estate licensed agent

F.A.Q.

Frequently asked questions

- ***Where did you get the idea to write *Ever After*? What inspired you?***

I was bored one day in class and I started the first chapter out as a freewrite on a perfect relationship. I was a little frustrated with the type of woman I was meeting in Chicago so I started fantasizing about the perfect relationship. I set up a beautiful caring woman, a handsome, caring man, and the perfect setting. And as any writer will tell you, conflict is needed to drive the story. So I imagined this man getting rejected on the most vulnerable, important question a man can ask a woman. It just took off from there.

- ***How long did it take you to write this book?***

I wrote the first draft of the self-published novel in the spring of 1998 in about four months. I was in grad school at the time in Chicago and I spent most of my time writing it at night or when I was bored in class. It took so long because I was in a play and going to school full time as well.

- ***Are you Nick?***

No, contrary to popular belief. This *is* a work of FICTION.

- ***How did you get your book deal? As a writer, how can I get a book deal?***

There is no one way, or right way, to get a book deal. A lot of authors have previous careers and turn to writing once they have accumulated enough security to take a stab at it. I have been fortunate that writing is my first career, the only thing, along with acting, that I have ever wanted to do.

A popular route to becoming a published author among African-Americans these days is via the self-published route. *Ever After* was originally published in late December 1999. I spent the next ten months promoting it via a self-financed promotional tour, networking, and attending conventions like the industry-leading Book Expo America. That is where I made some of the contacts and associations with great people in the publishing and writing world that I still value today. After relentless promotion and selling of the book, I was able to attract the attention of a few publishing houses, which in turn attracted representation for me, who went in and helped hammer out a deal with Random House.

My advice to writers who would like to publish is to try the self-publishing route if you have not been able to attract the attention of agents and editors directly. Once that self-published book comes off the subsidy press, you need to market yourself aggressively. Borrow, cheat, and steal all good promotional ideas from those who have done it before you and achieved any degree of sales success. It does take talent and an ability to entertain a reading audience, but also it takes promotion. You could have the best writing in the world but what good does it do if nobody knows about it? Promotion is pro-motion. Keep working hard and keep writing!

- ***Who's your Jasmine?***

I'll know when I meet her. ;-)

Get to Know...



JASMINE SELENE

Height: 5'9"
Age: 30
Born: Toronto, Ontario
Resides: Atlanta, GA
Occupation: Television Anchor
Goal: To win Nick back.

I just wanted to say a few words because I feel like I've been grossly misunderstood. I love Nick – always have, always will. When he proposed to me in the beginning of Ever After, I loved him, but I wasn't ready. I mean, we were only 24 years old! It was just too soon for me. I didn't want to say yes and burden him with a mistake for which we both would pay the rest of our lives.

Now, I know. I'm ready. I'm self-supporting. I'm more than capable of bringing something of equal value to a relationship, a marriage. I wish I wasn't, but I was made to love Nick. I wish I didn't, but I do. I know it looks bad the way I'm pursuing Nick – maybe even "crazy stalker bitch" bad – but I truly do believe we were made for each other. This is bigger than me, bigger than some interrupted wedding, bigger than the mistake I made in the past of letting him go. This is destiny. Nick was made to love me. He did once, he will again.

Why come back after all this time? Can't you just leave Nick alone?

I'm just trying to right a wrong, before it gets worse. Put it like this: I'm at the store the day after a sale, trying to talk the salesman into giving me the sale price. Is that so bad?

Do you have any idea how much harm you did, breaking up Nick's wedding? What if that were your wedding?

Oh, I'd beat her down, too. I don't blame Tabitha for being mad, even violent, towards me. I deserve it. But I couldn't "forever hold my peace" when I know she's marrying the wrong man. Because he's my man.

Aren't you a little...DESPERATE to pursue Nick so strongly? Where's your dignity?

"Love has no pride, no face to save, no rules to follow. Love is courageous. Love knows no fear, for all it seeks, and gets in return is love." Nick wrote that to me in a letter eight years ago. *That's* where my dignity is.

Why don't you get another man instead of trying to steal someone else's? You're cute, have a good job, and live in Atlanta. How hard can it be?

Let's just say that I've had my offers. But if someone offers you hamburger when you're holding out for steak, no matter how hungry you may be, you still want steak.

If you believe in destiny, then why don't you let Nick come to you?

Sometimes destiny needs a push. J