

Reviewer: Thom Cantrall

### Staff Reviewer

Title: "Love Laws"  
 ISBN: 98-1-4357-2620-8  
 Publisher: Lulu/Mary Muhammad  
 Genre: Young Adult  
 Author: Mary Muhammad  
 Reviewer: Thom Cantrall

As a reviewer, I am often asked to read and discuss books outside of my usual and accustomed reading area of interests. Most often this has not been a pleasant experience. There have been times that it was most difficult to render an unbiased and fair review on a book that I would not normally pick up off the shelf...Let alone read with enough care and concern to render an opinion as to its worthiness. This book did not fall in that category in any way.

Although I would seldom choose a young adult novel by preference, I found this work to be most enjoyable. The main characters, Jessie and Shanty soon become larger than life, bigger than real teens. I was quickly captured by the charm of two above average teens as they wended their way through the intricacies that are life in the final days of a girl's High School life.

That this all occurred in an inner-city, large school environment so totally foreign to someone who graduated from a tiny high school in a semi-rural farming area only compounded the aura of mystique surrounding the characters.

I found the story interesting and the character development exceptional. That Jessie and Shanty were life-long friends and were devoted to one another was obvious. Less obvious but none-the-less as important were their interactions within their "crew". Russell, Richard, Dustin and Crystal all had their places and all were part of growing up.

The only negative aspect I found with this work was a need for a more careful proof-reading. There is one glaring error present and it repeats. The author uses the words "loose" and "lose" several times in her narrative and not once were they used correctly. "Lose" does not mean to remove restraints nor does "Loose" mean to mislay or misplace. All other instances were more typographical errors of the type common to word processors with spell checkers. It should be noted that these errors are minor in nature and do not detract from an eminently readable novel.



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