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Literature Review

Forever Sisters

The book Sister, Sister, by Eric Jerome Dickey, is a group of short stories that tells the tale of three young African-American women and how their lives are coming together, and apart, in Los Angeles. The first story talks about two sisters who separated emotionally by their mother. Their father left their mother when they were little girls. One of the sisters looks just like him, which causes the mother to hate her. As a result, she built up a rift between the two by favoring one and despising the other. The second story in the book is about two sisters feuding over a child. One of the sisters had a child at a young age and did not want him. She gave him to the other. When the real mother finally gets her life together, she wants her son back. This does not sit well with her sister, but eventually they find a compromise. The last story deals with several issues such as interracial relationships and death. Separating the sisters is a secret that one of the sisters has been hoarding for years. However, in the end, they are also able to mend their fences and become sisters once again.

There were several issues raised in these stories. For instance, I have three sisters, and like the ones in these stories, we often have barriers to overcome. Some barriers are easier to get over than others are. However, the gist of each of the three stories, no matter what the barriers, in the end, there is nothing that will break the bond forever.

The sisters in the last story were especially intriguing because they reminded me that regardless of what comes or goes sisters should always be there for each other. They made me
feel hope about the estranged relationship I have with one of my sisters at this time. I know that eventually we will find our way back to each other, and I find peace in that knowledge.

I was also able to relate to the second sister story, because even though my mother does not hate any of us, she has a knack for pitting one against the other. However, because we know and love her, we are able to see past her shortcomings and not fall into the trap that she so often sets for us.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys short stories with “happy endings”. I should caution however that the last story is a bit sexual in content in case that is offensive. Overall, this story relates the pitfalls and the camaraderie found in having sisters, and for that, any sister should be able to appreciate its content and themes of love, respect, and honor for your sisters.