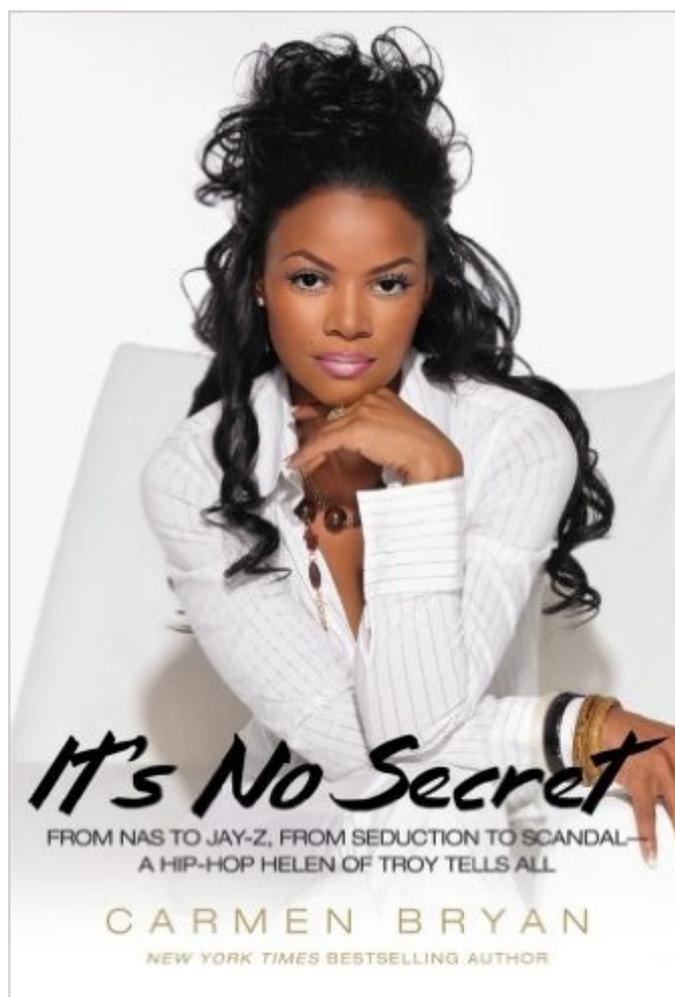


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It's No Secret: From Nas To Jay-Z, From Seduction To Scandal--a Hip-Hop Helen Of Troy Tells All



Synopsis

Carmen Bryan is no stranger to the rap world. Not only did she work at Def Jam and Capitol Records but she shares a daughter with hip-hop superstar Nas -- a relationship made extremely public through Nas's celebrity status, rap lyrics, and the ever-present media. Now, in *It's No Secret*, a strong, resilient Carmen bares all, telling her side of the story and leaving no detail unturned -- with the true candor and raw emotion of someone who has been there, done that, and survived. From a clandestine relationship with Nas's biggest rival, Jay-Z, that stirred up the biggest feud in hip-hop history, to seeing her reputation in tatters and a once loving relationship with Nas fall apart, Carmen depicts her trying journey to become the strong woman and mother she is today. After years of turmoil that included drugs, sex, greed, and violence -- and abandoning what she had always prized above all, her freedom -- Carmen took a stand, focusing on herself. After years of pursuit by the media, Carmen sets the record straight in *It's No Secret* -- and has no regrets.

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Customer Reviews

Carmen Bryan, best known as Nas' baby mother, has released her long awaited tell all, "It's No Secret-From Nas to Jay-Z, From Seduction To Scandal a Hip-Hop Helen of Troy Tells All." Readers who frequent the Internet know that this book was a long time coming. Buzz about this book circulated on popular hip-hop websites years before anyone had heard about the Karrine Steffans book *Confessions of a Video Vixen*. *It's No Secret* really doesn't have much merit for a reader outside of the hip-hop arena. Those who know and love hip-hop may find this story entertaining to a

degree. It's filled with a lot of juvenile relationship drama primarily about Carmen's relationship with Nas, and Jay-Z who is referred to as SC for the majority of the book. It's hard to not look at Bryant as an opportunist. She met Nas when she was twenty years old. He was a newly signed rapper and still broke for the most part. Obviously old enough to know about birth control Carmen is pregnant three times within their first year of dating. Carmen gives birth to her only child with Nas, Destiny and the rest of the book is basically about the relationship misadventures of young Carmen and Nas. Their relationship, if you can call it that, rarely seemed to be exclusive. Carmen chalks this up to a conversation her and Nas had with his father Ola Daru early in their relationship. Ola declared that a couple should only be faithful and exclusive if they are married to one another. Carmen details their ups and downs and the financial pitfalls she would find herself in due to Nas' poor business sense or when he decided he was going to cut her off financially. Career wise, Carmen mentions her brief employment at Rush Communications, Def Jam, and at Capital working for Tracey Waples. However, after the birth of Destiny and the rise of Nas' her career ended for the most part. As for dirt she mentions brief mutual flirting between her and Puffy and a short fling with Allen Iverson. The rest is all Nas and SC. As for Nas' current wife Kelis, she tries to vilify her as a stepmother but falls short. The things that Carmen complains about toward the end of the book are really no big deal when you look at single mothers who don't have children by high profile rappers. She complains when Nas stops paying her rent, car note, and child support. Granted, if her story is true, Nas did go about things wrong, but most single mother's only get child support, they don't get 100% lifestyle support as it seems she expected. There really is no benefit or real growth or empowerment in this book as it thinly aims to proclaim. The first 50 or so pages are about Carmen's early life and honestly those pages could have been left out of the book. There are also a lot of annoying exclamation points used in the book where not really necessary, perhaps to show excitement. What did Carmen learn from all of this? She sums it up in one paragraph, and I'm not exaggerating. "It's No Secret" is a quick read. There is just so much back and forth and going in circles about her relationship that it makes the reader want to skip pages. There is very little reflection or introspection. There are some nice color photo's of Carmen and Nas included in the book. The bottom line is, if you are a hip-hop fan you may find this book mildly entertaining.

I never thought I would read this type of book, but after hearing Carmen on the Wendy Williams show, I decided to pick it up. Wendy obviously has problems with Carmen Bryan as demonstrated by the attitude she had with this young lady on her show. Several times during the interview, Wendy raised her voice with Carmen and expressed her doubts about many of the things Carmen was

telling her. Because of this, I didn't think Wendy was giving Carmen the opportunity to discuss certain things that the listeners wanted to hear, so I purchased the book thinking that maybe Carmen's side of the story wasn't so bad after all... WRONG! Although Carmen did go through the typical relationship problems that women experience in high profile romances, she had COMPLETE control over whether or not to put herself out there as another industry ho. As readers will find after the first couple of chapters, before she even becomes involved with Nas, she had already set herself up as a trick in her teenaged years. During one of Carmen's relationships, prior to meeting Nas, she dated a drug dealer from Connecticut whom she moved to Connecticut to be with only to find out shortly afterwards that he would be going to jail. After her boyfriend goes to jail, Carmen forms a close relationship with his close cousin and eventually starts a relationship with him. As readers will see, Carmen is careful to blame the decision to get involved with her man's cousin on the fact that he had some other female(s) visiting him while he was locked up. However, this pattern of hers (blaming others for her promiscuity) continues on in her relationships with Nas, Allen Iverson, Jay-Z, Wood Harrison and others. What I also found funny was how Carmen makes it sound as if she had NO idea who Nas, Jay-Z or Allen Iverson were when she met them all. She makes it sound as if all of these high profile guys just happened to see a photo of her somewhere and decided to track her down. However, it was obvious to me that the only reason Iverson and Jay-Z even bothered with her was because of the fact that she was Nasir's girlfriend. And as many of us know, going after the girl of a man on top is an ego trip for a lot of men, so it made perfect sense for Iverson and Jay-Z to see if they could get a piece of what Mr. Jones had at home. And like the trick Carmen proves to be throughout the book, she WILLINGLY obliges them all. The fact that this woman also became pregnant during her relationship with Nas and didn't know who the father was speaks volumes about her character. So while I thought I would sympathize with her after hearing her on the Wendy Williams show, I now see why Carmen Bryan is no different from Karine Stephans or any other hip-hop groupie. Hanging around with other females who sound like groupies and showing up to every industry party possible does nothing to support Carmen's claims of getting back at Nas either.

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