

one and grows more flagrant as the book progresses, Tanya dithers through the entire novel deliberating whether she should file for divorce. Roby strives for an ironic twist in making Tanya a counselor for battered women, but this only makes her seem more duped and self-destructive. Because the pointlessness of this marriage seems so clear, there isn't much of a story aside from the stock characters who contribute to the tawdry drama: Alicia, the Blacks' sensitive, six-year-old daughter; Tanya's supportive best friend, Nicole; and James, the perfect man whom Tanya meets. While the book aims to inspire and send a strong Christian message, calling for women to take charge of their lives, the narrative is written in such clichéd prose that it cannot effectively address the serious issues of marital strife and domestic violence. 22-city author tour. (Jan.)
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From Roby, *Behind Closed Doors* (1997) and *Here and Now* (1999), tackles the subject of marriage and the black church. Tanya and Curtis Black are the first family of a prominent Baptist church in Chicago. The family's move from a small church in Atlanta was the appropriate step up for Curtis' career. Although Curtis had dreamed of this type of advancement, he is not prepared for the changes and sacrifices that it requires. While Curtis succumbs to the temptations (women and money) his newfound power affords him, Tanya battles to save her marriage. She is forced to deal with some painful and unexpected truths about herself that help her deal with her circumstances and relish her independence. Revenge, greed, lust, and dishonesty are at the root of Tanya and Curtis' problems; yet, they learn that even in the most tempting situations, acting out negative feelings and impulses always results in negative consequences. They learn to value the important things in life and are able to start life anew. *Lillian Lewis* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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