



Black Shoes

Michael Obiora

Meet successful London property developer Daniel Martins. He has everything a man could want: his own booming business, a luxury pad, an expensive sports car... all at the tender age of twenty-five. But should he appreciate this more because he is black?

Daniel doesn't think so. As far as he is concerned, his hard work warrants his position. Gone are the days when, by default, black men were seen as gun toting, drug selling, urban music making individuals. Times have changed; the colour of one's skin is trivial. It's the twenty-first century; racism is a thing of the past... isn't it? It's only policemen and shop assistants who constantly remind Daniel of the stereotypes assigned to his race. Surely this shouldn't be enough to send him on a mission to prove everybody wrong? After all, it could cost him his relationship with his best friend, who happens to be white. It could cost him his career and make him become the very stereotype that he longs to refute. Despite all this, Daniel is hell-bent on challenging every prejudice, and desperate for his late father's approval. But how dangerous has his obsession become?

His brother thinks he should convert to Islam, while Daniel hopes his therapist can help him conquer his anger, and explain the strange wizard who breathes smoke through his nostrils. In the meantime Safra, Daniel's beautiful long-term girlfriend, wants more commitment, but an obstacle in the form of another woman – who also happens to be white – may lie in the way.

Through the exploration of love, friendship, paranoia and ignorance, *Black Shoes* looks at a professional man's quest to find his way through the maze of negative stereotypes, and his own personal battle with his identity.

About the Author: Michael Obiora was born in North-West London. At ten years old he landed a part in the hit children's school drama, *Grange Hill* and went on to appear in such programmes as *Sea of Souls*, *Judge John Deed*, *Dr Who*, *Afterlife* and *My Family*. His stage work includes lead roles in the award winning plays *Fallout* at the Royal Court Theatre and *Elmina's Kitchen* at the Garrick Theatre in London's West End. It is for his role as flamboyant receptionist Ben Trueman in BBC One's *Hotel Babylon* that Michael is most well known. He is a keen Arsenal fan, enjoys travelling, cooking and an eclectic mix of music. *Black Shoes* is his first novel.

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Tel: 0116 279 2299, Fax: 0116 279 2277, Web: www.troubador.co.uk, Email: books@troubador.co.uk