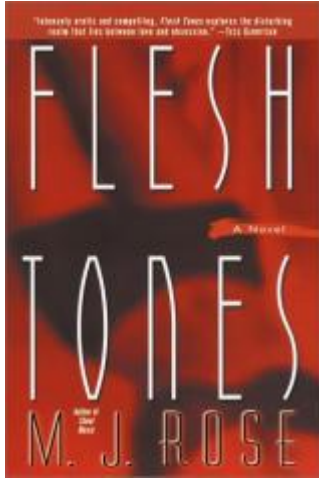


## Flesh Tones

by M. J. Rose

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### About the Book

Genny Haviland is on trial for her life...and her love. Flash back twenty years, to a time of sexual awakening for seventeen year-old Genny. She has plunged into an affair of turbulent passion with Slade Gabriel, a man twice her age who has recently joined her father's gallery as one of its most exciting and controversial artists. During their brief time together, Gabriel etches himself into Genny's body and soul. When he discovers that she is the daughter of his patron, he ends the affair, which makes him the love and loss of her life. Two decades later, they meet again and nothing has changed: the connection, the sense of destiny, everything pulls them together until the spark turns to conflagration....and then tragedy. Gabriel learns that his future will be not Genny, but a slow and agonizing death. He implores her to help him end his life.

Using the courtroom as the fulcrum from which the story springs, M.J. Rose weaves a tale of obsession, eroticism, and mystery. It is about a family in crisis, a woman and man whose love has been painted from a palette of vibrant and primitive colors. **Flesh Tones** asks the ultimate question: to what extremes do we go when someone we love asks for our help to die?

### Discussion Guide

1. Genny says: "I'd built a life -- not admitting I'd built it on top of a shattered one. I'd learned my lesson about the kind of passion Gabriel and I had shared. No different than any narcotic, it brought both euphoria and destruction. I preferred living mid-range; no highs, no lows. And I swore that if he ever did come back to me, I'd keep my word and send him away."

How does Genny's passion fuel the book and push the story forward? How does her passion for Gabriel, mirror his passion for his art?

2. Many readers slides between thinking that, as the prosecuting attorney contends, Genny killed her lover intentionally, then, think the character is incapable of such a thing, and then back to thinking she might be guilty, after all. Did this technique work for you? At what point did you make up your mind as to whether Genny was guilty or not?

3. **Flesh Tones** grapples with what love is and what love requires of us. This is not the newly-married, happily-ever-after kind so common in fiction, but the all-too-real, long-term kind, full of shared history and the necessary compromises that break our hearts. How do you feel about a book that looks at this side of love? Was the author successful at painting a portrait of a doomed yet ultimately uplifting relationship?

4. Genny's mother is portrayed as a the epitome of self-control. Does this depiction belie the true woman?

5. Later in the novel, what is the significance of the Picasso that Genny chose from the gallery on her thirteenth birthday?
6. What was in Genny's background that would prepare her for a passionate affair with a man twice her age?
7. It has been said that M.J. Rose painted this novel, using a palette of only the most vivid colors. What are the many ways she uses art themes and metaphors to tell Genny's story.
8. There are several scenes, and allusions, to Genny saving Gabriel's life. Do you agree? And if so, what is the significance of this?
9. In the novel, Slade Gabriel is called "the consummate selfish artist", a man who "...pursued painting...fed on it..." Do you think he was? Did you think his talent gave him permission to be act the way he did and make the demands that he made?
10. Elizabeth Rosser, Gabriel's daughter, appears only briefly in the novel, yet her presence is a powerful one. In your opinion, what does the author intend to convey through this character?
11. Genny leaves Slade Gabriel alone to die. How can she do this and still convince anyone that she loved him?
12. There is an ethical issue at the heart of this novel - do you think Genny was right or wrong in helping Slade Gabriel to die? Do you think there is ever a good reason for the wrong thing even when it is for the right reason?

#### Author Bio

M.J. Rose, is the international bestselling author of ten novels: LIP SERVICE, IN FIDELITY, FLESH TONES, SHEET MUSIC, LYING IN BED, THE HALO EFFECT, THE DELILAH COMPLEX, THE VENUS FIX, THE REINCARNATIONIST and THE MEMORIST.

Rose is also the co-author with Angela Adair Hoy of HOW TO PUBLISH AND PROMOTE ONLINE, and with Doug Clegg of BUZZ YOUR BOOK.

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She is a founding member and board member of International Thriller Writers and the founder of the first marketing company for authors: AuthorBuzz.com. She runs two popular blogs: Buzz, Balls & Hype and Backstory.

Getting published has been an adventure for Rose who self-published LIP SERVICE late in 1998 after several traditional publishers turned it down. Editors had loved it, but didn't know how to position it or market it since it didn't fit into any one genre.

Frustrated, but curious and convinced that there was a readership for her work, she set up a web site where readers could download her book for \$9.95 and began to seriously market the novel on the Internet.

After selling over 2500 copies (in both electronic and trade paper format) Lip Service became the first e-book and the first self-published novel chosen by the Literary Guild/Doubleday Book Club as well as being the first e-book to go on to be published by a mainstream New York publishing house.

Rose has been profiled in *Time magazine*, *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *Business 2.0*, *Working Woman*, *Newsweek* and *New York Magazine*.

Rose has appeared on "The Today Show," Fox News, "The Jim Lehrer News Hour" and features on her have appeared in dozens of magazines and newspapers in the U.S. and abroad, including *USA Today*, *Stern*, *L'Official*, *Poets and Writers* and *Publishers Weekly*.

Rose graduated from Syracuse University and spent the '80s in advertising. She was the Creative Director of Rosenfeld Sirowitz and Lawson and she has a commercial in the Museum of Modern Art in NYC.

She lives in Connecticut with Doug Scofield, a composer, and their very spoiled dog, Winka.

Visit M. J. Rose's two blogs, [Buzz, Balls & Hype](#) and [Backstory](#). You may also visit [www.Reincarnationist.org](http://www.Reincarnationist.org) to find out more about THE REINCARNATIONIST.

#### Critical Praise

"[A] Sexy Summer Read....One of the books that'll soon be burning up the beach."

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