

Author discusses interracial relationship



Carol Sue Gershman signs her book "The Jewish Lady, The Black and the Road Trip," for guests following a presentation at Books & Books in Miami Beach.

Photo & Story By Sergio Carmona Staff Writer

On New Year's Eve in 2004, Miami Beach Jewish resident Carol Sue Gershman, then 69, met a 67-year-old black man named Xavier. The meeting was followed by Saturday night dates and a road trip that inspired Gershman to write a memoir on the relationship, "The Jewish Lady, The Black Man, and the Road Trip".

The book was published in October and on Feb. 10th, Gershman, now 73, discussed it at Books & Books in Miami Beach to approximately 60-70 people. Before the presentation, she said that her book is about life, passion and living agelessly and what it took to cross racial lines.

"It's an inspiration to women that simply don't think there's anything ahead of them after they reached a certain age and think they've already had their lives and that they've already done everything they could do," she said. "They don't realize how much more there is out there and how much life there is in all of us."

Gershman's relationship with Xavier didn't last long because he walked out on her. She said that the reason she wrote the book was because she wanted to get him back. "Writing was my way of staying connected with him," she said. "Writing is my way of taking all of my negative energy and putting it into being with him everyday."

Sara Zucker: a Hollywood resident who was present at the discussion and a friend of Gershman, said she, along with her other friends, read the book before it was published and enjoyed it. It is a fabulous, fabulous book," she said. "It's about this woman who is so multifaceted that it's unbelievable."

During her presentation, Gershman said she had initial reservations about pursuing him because in the small town that she grew up in Bayonne, N.J., all of the Jewish girls married the same religion and race as her childhood was also spent with Jewish people.

She said that there was a shock in the town when the youngest daughter of a Jewish family dated a black man. However, she eventually decided to take him serious because she liked his company.

"I liked the person that he was and how he made me feel as a woman and that's what turned me into caring for him," she said. "He just brought in the best in me and the passion in me and together we had unexplainable passion for each other, but what I liked the most was his compassion to listen to what I had to say."

For more information on the book and author, visit www.jewishladyblackman.com.