

KEEPIN' IT REAL

By Leslie Esdaile

Kensington/Dafina, 2005

Reviewed by :: Diamond Taylor

Tyrell Ramsey has the perfect plan to save his failing record company: become a contestant on a new singles reality TV show that promises a booty of \$250,000. But when he meets the show's producer, Natasha Ward, he finds himself more attracted to her than the show's participants.

But with her career riding on the potential success of the show, Natasha can't afford to engage in a relationship with Tyrell—though the heat of an exotic tropical cruise and the magnetic pull of romance are tempting.

This hip hop romance proves 'reality' isn't all its cracked up to be, and the results are hysterical. By the end of the story I was in love with the suave Tyrell. He had the moves, and said everything a woman wants to hear. I wished the author could have kept Kim (a crazy secondary character) around more because you just love to hate her. It was a little hard for me to get into it at the beginning—too much narrative and not enough dialogue-- but once I did I really enjoyed it. The characters were great. I do believe Leslie Esdaile has a slamming new reality TV idea on her hands.

4 ½ Kisses