

# AGATE

FINE PRINT.

---

## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Reader,

I'm writing to tell you about *The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl* (November 12, 2019; Agate Bolden; 978-1-57284-275-5; \$17) by independent film and television producer Marra B. Gad. In her debut memoir, Marra—the “mixed-race Jewish” woman of the subtitle—describes how she chose to help her racist, abusive, estranged Great-Aunt Nette after Nette developed Alzheimer's. The disease slowly erased Nette's prejudices, at last allowing Marra to develop a relationship with the woman who had shunned her in her youth.

Three days after her birth, Marra was adopted by a white Jewish family in Chicago. For her parents, it was love at first sight—but it was 1970, and they soon came to realize that not everyone loved so freely.

Since her adoption, Marra has always had trouble finding a community that would accept her. She is not “black enough” for black spaces and, in the Jewish community, she has often been cast aside or disrespected. The racism she has faced is pervasive; even within her own family, Marra has had trouble escaping discrimination. Marra's parents quickly chose to cut out those relatives who could not tolerate the color of her skin. Those relatives included Marra's beloved, glamorous, worldly Great-Aunt Nette.

Marra had been estranged from Nette for fifteen years when Marra discovered that Nette had Alzheimer's. For her family's sake, Marra decided to become her aunt's caregiver and give Nette the love she herself had never received. As Nette's memories dissipated, so did her prejudices. The disease stripped Nette of her hate, and its absence created the possibility for a new beginning.

*The Color of Love* is a story of our moment, ripe with themes of identity, racism, family politics, and more. Like other recent debut memoirs (*Educated* by Tara Westover; *All You Can Ever Know* by Nicole Chung; *Heart Berries* by Terese Marie Mailhot), *The Color of Love* is an honest and fresh personal narrative from a voice that needs to be heard. Through her one-of-a-kind perspective, Marra provides insight into the ways believers and survivors transcend brokenness, trauma, and prejudice through love.

I hope you will consider *The Color of Love* for review or other coverage. Author Marra B. Gad is also available for interviews everywhere. For more information about the book, to schedule an interview, or to request a review copy, please contact Jacqueline Jarik, Agate's associate manager of publicity, at 847-475-4457 ext. 4# or at [jarik@agatepublishing.com](mailto:jarik@agatepublishing.com).

Best,

Doug Seibold

# AGATE

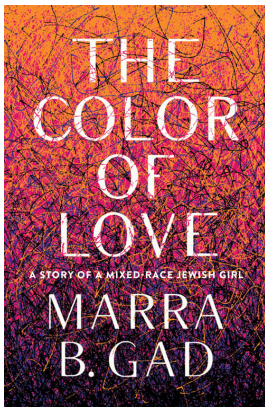
FINE PRINT.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jacqueline Jarik, publicity manager  
847.475.4457 ext. 4#, jarik@agatepublishing.com

## *The Color of Love* *A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl* By Marra B. Gad

**Hook: An unforgettable story about what you inherit from your family—identity, disease, melanin, hate, and most powerful of all, love.**



In 1970, three-day-old Marra B. Gad was adopted by a white Jewish family in Chicago. For her parents, it was love at first sight—but they quickly realized the world wasn't entirely ready for a family like theirs.

Marra's biological mother was unwed, white, and Jewish, and her biological father was black. While still a child, Marra came to realize that, in her world, she was "a mixed-race, Jewish unicorn." In black spaces, she was not "black enough." In Jewish spaces, she was mistaken for the help, asked to leave, or worse. Even in her own extended family, racism bubbled to the surface.

Marra's family cut out those relatives who could not tolerate the color of her skin—including her beloved, glamorous, worldly Great-Aunt Nette. But after an estrangement of fifteen years, Marra discovers that Nette has Alzheimer's, and that only she is in a position to get Nette back to the only family she has left. Marra watches as the disease erases her aunt's racism, making space for a relationship that was never possible before.

At turns heart-wrenching and heartwarming, *The Color of Love* is a story about what you inherit from your family—and what you choose to do with that inheritance. With honesty, insight, and warmth, Marra B. Gad has written an inspirational, moving memoir proving that when all else is stripped away, love is where we return, and love is our greatest inheritance.

**Marra B. Gad** was born in New York and raised in Chicago. She is an independent film and television producer and now calls Los Angeles home. Ms. Gad is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and holds a master's degree in modern Jewish history from Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

***The Color of Love* | November 12, 2019 | 978-1-57284-275-5 | 5.25 × 8 |  
Biography & Autobiography / Jewish | 256 pp. | \$17  
###**

# AGATE

FINE PRINT.

---

## Praise for Marra B. Gad's *The Color of Love*

Winner of the 2020 Midwest Book Award in Autobiography/Memoir presented by the Midwest Independent Publishing Association.

“A timely and touching memoir of a biracial girl adopted by a Jewish family. . . . For a good life-affirming read, I highly recommend *The Color of Love*.”—**Ron Stallworth, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Black Klansman***

“An astonishing and important story, memorably told, with lessons that reach across race, religion, and culture.”—**David Wolpe, Max Webb Senior Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles and author of *David: The Divided Heart***

“Gad’s message about resisting hate is solid. . . . [An] honest memoir about looking behind hate to find some semblance of peace on the other side.”—**Kirkus Reviews**

“In *The Color of Love*, Gad tells her story in straightforward, unadorned prose. . . . The reader is left to marvel at Gad’s magnanimity. In the face of a lifetime of racially motivated aggression, she consistently chooses love.”—**Jerusalem Post**

“In beautiful, fearless prose, Gad tells a story. . . that is alternately heart-wrenching and heartwarming.” —**JUF News**

“Marra B. Gad’s is a compelling story, beautifully and authentically written, about her life as a mixed-race Jewish girl adopted by a white Chicago family in the ’70s. The compassion, patience, and caring required of anyone in Marra’s position is exquisitely demonstrated in this book: it has a lot to teach us.”—**Jane Wolf Frances, social worker, psychologist, and author of *Parenting Our Parents: Transforming the Challenge into a Journey of Love***

“This beautiful memoir will stay with readers long after the last page is turned.”—**The Reporter**

“A book I wish had existed when I was a young Iraqi immigrant in Kentucky trying to make sense of my own ‘otherness.’ But whereas I spent *my* youth working to correctly pronounce my *r*’s so I sounded American or being called Mexican because *Iraq* was not yet a household word, Gad was confronting flat-out racism from her own relatives. Her unflinching account of these inconceivable experiences is balanced with compassion and an empathy for those who judge her. And that makes her a total badass.”—**Ayser Salman, author of *The Wrong End of the Table***

“Offers a Jewish mode of love. . . . Institutions have much to learn from reading *The Color of Love*.” —**Jewschool.com**

“A memorable page-turner that you will not want to end.”—**Rosa Blasi, actress and author of *Jock Itch***

“An easy narrative on a complicated experience. It is a deeply personal story through which the author has shared a perspective that is seldom told.”—**Jewish Book Council**

“A timeless parable of hope, love, and the possibility of transformation. . . . Like all great storytelling, it is one book you just can’t put down.”—**Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**

“Marra’s journey to unconditional love, forgiveness, and compassion in the face of hate and rejection is nothing short of miraculous.”—**Tina Alexis Allen, author of *Hiding Out***

# AGATE

FINE PRINT.

---

## **Q. & A. with Marra B. Gad, author of *The Color of Love***

### **Why did you decide to write this memoir now, at this point in your life?**

I have always been very private about my life. Part of that was because people had not seemed comfortable, willing, or interested in discussing what I acknowledge are sensitive, delicate, and deeply personal things around my personal story. So I stopped trying to tell it. I believe that there is currently a window to discuss issues of identity, race, and religion that is far wider open than it ever has been . . . and that now there is a space to share my story. I hope this story can be a part of the long-overdue larger cultural conversation about acceptance for all and the ways intolerance, racism, and hatred affect others.

We live in a time when racism, hatred, anti-Semitism, and intolerance are on full display—from the verbal abuse on social media to the violence at play all over the world. We need to talk more about the impact of these things on all fronts.

If now is not the time to share a story like mine, I don't know when is.

### **You have an extensive background in film and television production. How has your experience with visual storytelling informed your approach to narrative writing?**

I feel really grateful to have worked with writers—first as an actress and now as a producer—for a very long time before I became one myself. From a storytelling perspective, I like to think that my background in TV and film helped me to understand the importance of painting pictures with words. Practically, I think that my professional background helped me to understand how best to engage with my editor and manage the process for myself, and that, while the story and the writing are mine, it does take a team to make a book come to life. And I am thankful for my team.

### **When your Great-Aunt Nette was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, you stepped in to care for her when no one else would—even though she had been unkind to you. What did this experience of caretaking teach you about second chances?**

In many ways, it felt more like a first chance than a second chance. The Alzheimer's quite literally turned Nette into someone that I had never met . . . and who had never met me. In that light, it really was a strange sort of new meeting rather than a second chance. That said, I do find myself grateful that I was open to experiencing her at all given our history. I would say that an open heart and mind are absolutely necessary if one is to consider a second chance. Or a do-over. Or, really, even when meeting someone for the first time.

# AGATE

FINE PRINT.

---

**Your book deals with so many painful experiences. Were there any parts that were particularly challenging to revisit?**

The chapter about my father's death and funeral was excruciatingly painful for me to write. I am blessed with an extremely detailed and vivid memory, but that meant that I relived that time with each word that I typed. I cannot bear to read that chapter. To this day, that remains one of the most searingly painful times of my life.

It was also difficult to be so open about the times when I allowed myself to be made less—whether it was related to my dating life or related to Nette. I speak openly in my book about times in my life when I lessened myself, and to write it and then read it is difficult. But it's too important not to share.

**In the book, you talk about being a “mixed-race, Jewish unicorn.” What advice would you give to other young “unicorns” who may be struggling with their identities?**

First, I would want to tell my young unicorn friends in every corner of the world that they are gorgeous and perfect exactly as they are. That it is their uniqueness that makes them beautiful, and that, while at times it feels like we are alone, we are not. There are kindred spirits everywhere. We just have to find ours.

I would also encourage my young friends not to keep their pain to themselves. I kept mine to myself for far too long, and it did not make matters better. Find someone that you trust and that you know sees you and tell them what you are feeling. Ask for support when you need it.

To be a unicorn is a great gift and there is magic in it, but even magical beings need support.

**What do you hope readers will take away from *The Color of Love*?**

It is my deepest hope that people will come away from it considering that love is always an option, especially when it might seem easier to choose the opposite of love or when others are choosing the opposite of love. The choice is always ours, and love is always, always, always an option.

**What's next for you?**

We are excited about turning the book into a film and are currently entertaining offers for that. I have a feature film and three television shows currently in development, and I'm really looking forward to writing another book. I'm debating between a children's book and a novel. Perhaps both! Being a writer is definitely my newest frontier, and I'm looking forward to exploring everywhere that might take me.