

PRAISE

for



AND IT GOES LIKE THIS...

by G. Andi Rhos

“What’s it like being a rich drug dealer’s woman? Sure you get the designer clothes, new cars, and even the expensive home. But at what price? In “And It Goes Like This,” a naive sixteen year-old fast food worker named Charlotte-Louise meets her knight in shining armor in the drug dealing Joaquin and becomes a quick study in dealing with rewards and consequences of being a dealer’s girl.

When Charlotte-Louise, the daughter of an alcoholic mother, is befriended by street savvy Candace, it changes her life. Not only does Candace help her deal with an unspeakable situation but she also invites her to a party thrown by her cousin Maribel, a drug dealer's woman. There twenty-year old Joaquin claims Charlotte-Louise as his girl, and the two hit it off. Not only is Joaquin honest about how he earns his money but he is surprisingly honest about his feelings for Charlotte-Louise. But is a ruthless drug dealer really capable of love or is she just another naive girl about to be played?

At the party, Maribel schools Charlotte-Louise on what to do if and when her man cheats and readers learn why women are drawn to them:

“...So whatcha gon’ do? Blow up the spot and lose your man

and let the next bitch get your man and all your shit? Fuck that!

“You suck that shit up and say, ‘Daddy, I need a new car. My car three years old. What people gon’ say--you got your woman drivin round in a old ass car--how you gon’ look?’ Watch you get a brand new car right off the showroom floor. Then you gotta have new clothes to go with your new car. And you gotta have new jewelry to go with your new clothes. Then how you gon’ look with a new car, new clothes, new jewelry and old ass furniture? Huh?”

Much like its predecessor “The Coldest Winter Ever,” “And It Goes Like This,” captures the dilemma many young teenage girls face in poverty: continue only dreaming of the finer things in life or take the risk of hooking up with a drug dealer to at least enjoy them, if only for a moment. G. Andi Rhos is a brilliant storyteller who accomplishes what many authors attempt and fail. She is wise enough to write street dialogue in the way it is spoken and manages to keep readers on the edge of their seats with an exciting story.

This book is not for everyone though with its explicit sex (especially between adults and minors), its mature language, and its glorification of the drug dealing world. It may take some readers out of their comfort zones. And though it is uneven at times and it is so concerned with the minutiae of every setting and every outfit the characters are wearing you want to skip past the narration and straight to the dialogue, you will still care enough about these characters to keep turning the pages until the very last one. Those who live in the drug dealing world will love its glorified look at street life’s sex, money and violence, especially its happy but unrealistic ending. If you’re looking for an entertaining and thrilling read, “And It Goes Like This,” will definitely do the trick.” Recommended.

— Emanuel Carpenter, *Midwest Book Review; The Rock News Magazine* (1/2008)