

FABULIST

By Tawni O'Dell

Fabulist is a volatile, sexy, timely thriller about a beautiful writer attempting to navigate her industry's views on racism and cancel culture while also battling personal passions that threaten to push her to the brink of her own sanity.

Taylor Donovan is a doting mother, smart, witty, and a brilliant novelist with bestsellers in her past but an uncertain future ahead of her. As she enters her fifties, she finds herself struggling to survive in a publishing world that seems to value social network numbers over talent and one that is actively pursuing writers of color. In an effort to compete, Tay writes a remarkable novel featuring an African American character only to be told by her agent that no one will publish it with a white author's name on the title page.

Tay is depressed and vulnerable the night she first discovers Curran Murphy on her Facebook page. A troubled, foul-mouthed, antisocial Irishman half her age, his posts are critical and often vulgar but despite his crideness, there's no denying his rare intellect. Tay becomes obsessed with his angry adoration of her and his almost freakish ability to read her thoughts.

When Tay and Curran finally meet in Ireland, they begin a wild affair that Tay barely understands and cannot control. She tries to end it, but Curran comes up with the idea of tying her to him forever through the act of sharing a dangerous secret. He introduces her to his friend, Kane -- a black man with passions and disappointments of his own -- who agrees to pose as the author of Tay's novel. Tay's agent joins their plot and the four of them set about fooling publishing insiders and the rest of the reading world. The novel becomes a #1 bestseller and Kane becomes a celebrity author but then the scam begins to fall apart . . .

A brave exploration into the many faces of desire and betrayal, *Fabulist* is a smart, provocative, relentless work of suspense with an ending that will leave the audience gasping.