



## Dear Yvette (Throwback Diaries)

By Ni-Ni Simone

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All sixteen year old Yvette Simmons wanted was to disappear. Problem is: she has too many demons for that. Yvette's life changed forever after a street fight over a boy ended in a second degree murder charge. Forced to start all over again, she's sentenced to live in a group home far from anything or anyone she's ever known. She manages to keep her past hidden, until a local cutie, known as Brooklyn, steps in. Slowly, Yvette lets him into her heart and he gives her the summer of her dreams...

But in Yvette's world things are never as they seem.

Brooklyn has a few secrets of his own and Yvette's past comes back with a vengeance. Will she face life head-on? Will she return to her old ways? Or will an unexpected letter decide her fate?

**“Simone’s story is reminiscent of Sistah Souljah’s groundbreaking *The Coldest Winter Ever*...a hard hitting tale of the inner city’s unforgiving streets.” —*Library Journal***

**“Simone knows how to tell a story...and she can also bring the drama.”  
—*RT Book Reviews***

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## Dear Yvette (Throwback Diaries) By Ni-Ni Simone Bibliography

- Rank: #683273 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-11-29
- Released on: 2016-11-29
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—It's 1989, and 16-year-old Yvette Simmons is living in the Douglas Gardens apartment complex in Newark, NJ, with her two-year-old baby, Kamari, and Nana, to whom she isn't related. When Kamari's father tells Yvette that she's been accused of snitching by a former friend, Yvette fights her ex-friend at a bus stop, cutting up her face. Yvette is charged with assault with a deadly weapon, but she takes a plea deal to live with Kamari in a "professional parent home" in Norfolk, VA. Yvette is used to being abandoned by adults. Her mother, a crack addict, has been in and out of her life. After Yvette's arrest, Nana decides she wants nothing to do with Kamari. Even Yvette's old friends won't help her. So the plea deal is her only good option, and she and Kamari live with Ms. Glo and another teen, Tasha. At first, Yvette has her guard up and has several angry outbursts, but over time, she makes friends, has a romantic relationship, and learns to love living with Ms. Glo and Tasha. Simone develops Yvette into a nuanced character who, over time, sees that she can handle her problems in ways that are different from how they're dealt with on the streets of Newark. Many teens will also enjoy the 1980s street slang and fashion references. **VERDICT** This series installment is sure to be a hit with YA readers who like problem novels, realistic titles, and urban fiction.—Adrienne L. Strock, Nashville Public Library

About the Author

**Ni-Ni Simone** is a Jersey girl with an obsession for reality TV and celebrity gossip. She never intended to write teen fiction, but her editor and the literary gods had other plans. She whipped up her first novel, *Shortie Like Mine*, in two weeks, and has been in love with writing ever since. *Shortie* was the first of Ni-Ni's books to be selected by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) as a Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, and it's also a Virginia Readers' Choice Selection. When she's not writing, Ni-Ni is soaking up inspiration from music, TV, and most of all, the teens out there hanging tough no matter what comes their way. Ni-Ni lives in North Jersey with her husband and their children. Visit her online at [ninisimone.com](http://ninisimone.com), on Facebook at [NiNiSimoneOfficialFanPage](https://www.facebook.com/NiNiSimoneOfficialFanPage), and follow her on Twitter @IamNiNiSimone.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Debbie Bennett:**

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