



## The Sweethearts of Soul

By Evelyn 'Slim' Lambright  
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### Introduction

At long last the Sweethearts of Soul are being honored by the Rock and Soul Foundation. But instead of bringing the estranged sisters together, this tribute only stirs up more resentment and enflames old wounds. Now it's up to music journalist Legs Diamond not only to get to the bottom of the sisters' strange behavior but also to act as their family counselor and somehow get the sisters to unite as a team once again. Like any good reporter, she digs deep, discovering layer upon layer of family betrayals, forbidden love affairs, mismanaged money, unpaid royalties, and even murder. But along the way, a funny thing happens: Legs gets caught up in the family mischief and finds herself an honorary member of the Sweethearts. And when you're a Sister, your first obligation is to safeguard your family and their dark secrets, even if you were hired to expose them for the world to see. After all, "Nobody messes with my sister!"

### Questions for Discussion

1. The story opens with the mystery at the Blue Moon Motel. How did you feel about the resolution of this lead-in at the end of the story?
2. How does Legs' life sometimes parallel the Sweethearts'?
3. When Birdie first came into the Sherwood family, she did not speak. Why? How did Birdie finally find her voice as a child? What incident triggered her coming out of her silenced world?
4. Birdie is this mysterious voice throughout the story, telling her side through letters and answering machine messages. How does this technique work to support Birdie's fragile character?
5. Why do most of the women in this story seem to have ill-fated relationships with men?
6. Why did they call Birdie the hummingbird?
7. The SOS said that Fanya never tried to get in touch with them, even after MuDear's and PawPaw's funeral. Fanya's husband, the Music Man, said letters to the sisters were returned to Fanya unopened. Who do you suppose was sending back these letters?
8. How did Birdie die?
9. How is Sunni's, Bobby Lights', and Raven's dysfunction a reflection of the sisters' embattled relationship?
10. How would you describe Legs' conversations with Roe? Was there anything about the writing style that might have given away that Roe was actually dead?

### About the Author

Evelyn "Slim" Lambright, in her own words, says, "I've been a waitress, a bartender, a go-go dancer, a model, a singer, and a numbers runner, among other things, and am now employed freelance, but the less said about that, the better." She is the author of *The Justus Girls*, and she lives in Philadelphia.