



NK
LITERARY CAFE
MAGAZINE

INSIDER

WM PAUL YOUNG
THE SHACK

SPOTLIGHT ON:
S. L. JENNINGS

EXCLUSIVE

INTIMATE CHAT
WITH DONNA HILL
& TANANARIVE DUE

WE REMEMBER

Francis Ray

PORTIA'S RANDOM THOUGHTS...

ALL ABOARD
WAL*MART
SOUL EXPRESIONS
TOUR

SEXUAL ABUSE
FROM THE PULPIT
TELLING THE
HARD TRUTH
LENA SLEDGE

MARCH 2017



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Winds of Change . . .

Remember when Spring Break was actually called “Clean Up Week”? And that’s exactly what we did—clean everything. In our house, it meant washing the walls, cleaning the cabinets, chucking stuff out of the garage, getting rid of clothes that no longer fit—all of that and then some.

Well, we’re coming up on April and that’s a time where spring sets in (unless you’re from Chicago and snow is in the forecast three months after winter’s supposed to end). Spring is where we plant new seeds, make new friendships, and do what we can to revive ourselves. Well, none of that can happen without getting some of the old debris out of our lives. We have to get rid of excess, whether it’s material things that no longer serve a purpose for us or people who don’t mean us any earthly good.

This March issue of Naleighna Kai’s Literary Café Magazine is all about the winds of change and preparing for transformation.

Sometimes that means going within and dealing with the parts of us that we know might require some work related to forgiveness, stubbornness, self-doubt,

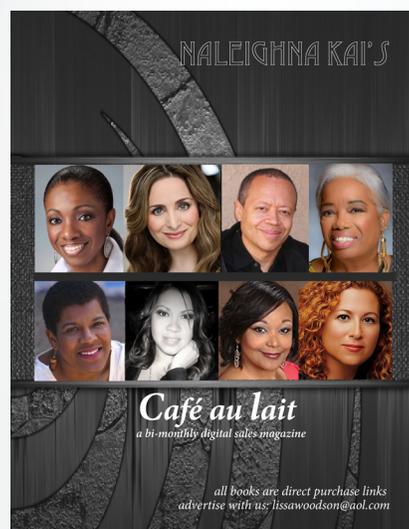
anxiety, and so many other emotions that impact our lives. March is the time to let things go so the ground is clear for you to plant the right seeds—love, joy, prosperity, gratefulness, peace—all of the things that we strive for and sometimes miss because the “ground” of our hearts and minds is so hard with all of the negative things that none of the good stuff can come in.

If in this year of 2017 you're still holding onto grudges so hard that they have their own zip code, it's time to let those grudges—and those people—go!!! Now, I'm not saying that we need to have folks all up in our space. I'm saying we can give unconditional love at the distance we need to feel safe physically, mentally and emotionally. Letting go must happen so you're not blocking the things that actually need to come your way.

I hope you enjoyed the first issue of NK LCM and will look forward to what we have month after month. If you know someone who would find it useful, ask them to subscribe so like you, they can receive it in their inbox when the new ones come out, or our companion digital mag—NK Café au Lait releases.

Naleighna Kai

Click to read the previous issues



A Time to Change

by Rev. Renee Sesvalah Cobb Dishman



“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the Master calls a butterfly.” --Richard Bach

Change is the one thing that is constant in our lives. According to the Oxford Dictionary, transformation means to make a marked change in form, nature, or appearance.

We are in a cycle of transformation--that time in life when nothing feels the same. Prayers seem to go unanswered, goals seem to be unmet, friends unexpectedly leave us, worlds turn upside down.

In January 2017, we were presented with a life-change that we are unable to dismiss or ignore--a gift that most of us would have rejected, or at least returned for a refund so we could purchase something more to our liking. But what we're overlooking is that this gift allows us to be transformed.

Already we've seen the beginning of that transformation for this world. A women's march took place in Washington, D.C., causing women from all over the planet to come together to say, "We deserve more and demand more." Many of these women could not even speak English but came together in solidarity, united in one voice and with one goal. The transformation was already in progress.

A precious diamond starts off as a chunk of black rock. Constant pressure being exerted upon that black rock transforms it into something bright, beautiful, and almost priceless. That is what happens to us. Pressure makes us become better; adversity makes us soar. Remember that Joseph who had the coat of many colors did not gain his greatest status or his wealth until a jealous brother sold him into the darkest form of slavery. He was transformed. The Bible says that "no weapon formed against us shall prosper." It did not say the weapon would not be formed against us. It promised that it would not prosper (succeed). Knowing this, we should embrace transformation with a steadfast hope that we will rise above each and every circumstance. The Master created the caterpillar to transform into a butterfly, but only after it has gone through a process of shedding off the old exterior (people, situations, adversity), and emerging as a totally new being.

In the words of Maya Angelou,

"And Still I Rise, Still You Rise, Still We Rise."



Now a major motion picture ... based off



FROM THE PRODUCER OF
LIFE OF PI AND THE BLIND SIDE

THE SHACK

MARCH 2017

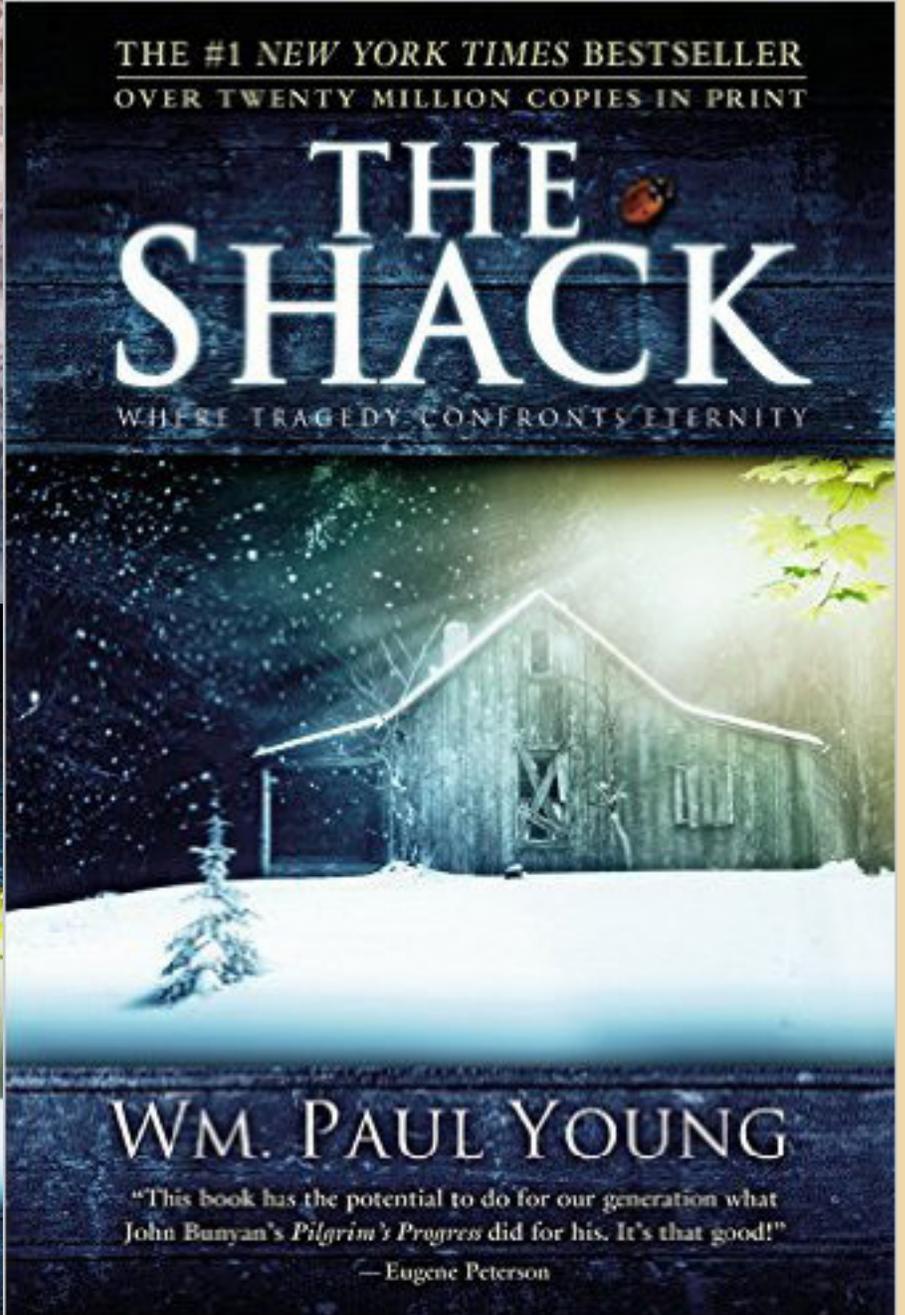
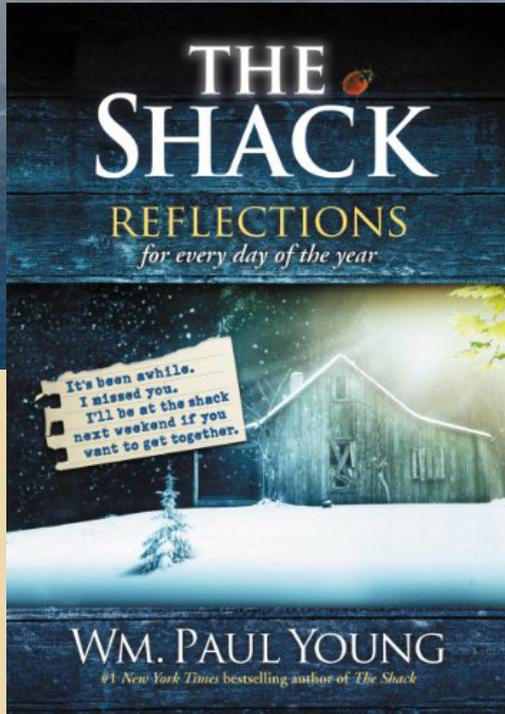
Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.

of the *New York Times* Bestseller.



DE.

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LCM SPOTLIGHT ON *S. L. Jennings*

by Naleighna Kai



Taint. One word—*Taint*. That book was enough to make me do a double and then a triple take. The back matter alone was ballsy, but the story itself lived up to the hype. The author, S. L. Jennings, participated in an Avon Publisher event at RT Book Lovers Convention when it traveled to Houston. I stood in line, waited my turn to grab a free copy of *Taint*, and I will tell you this—the author was gracious because I did the thing that wasn't exactly smiled upon at the event. I'm almost ashamed to say that I got back in line three

separate times to get autographed copies for my son and a book club president who I knew would help me promote the novel.

When I returned home, I posted the cover and the back matter on my page and in some online FB Groups by saying: “*Taint* by S. L. Jennings is off the freaking meter!!! It's an erotica read that will take you out of your comfort zone because it speaks from the mindset of today's male, but it's also a wake up call to women. I received a free copy at RT Convention, had it autographed by the author and read it in one sitting.”

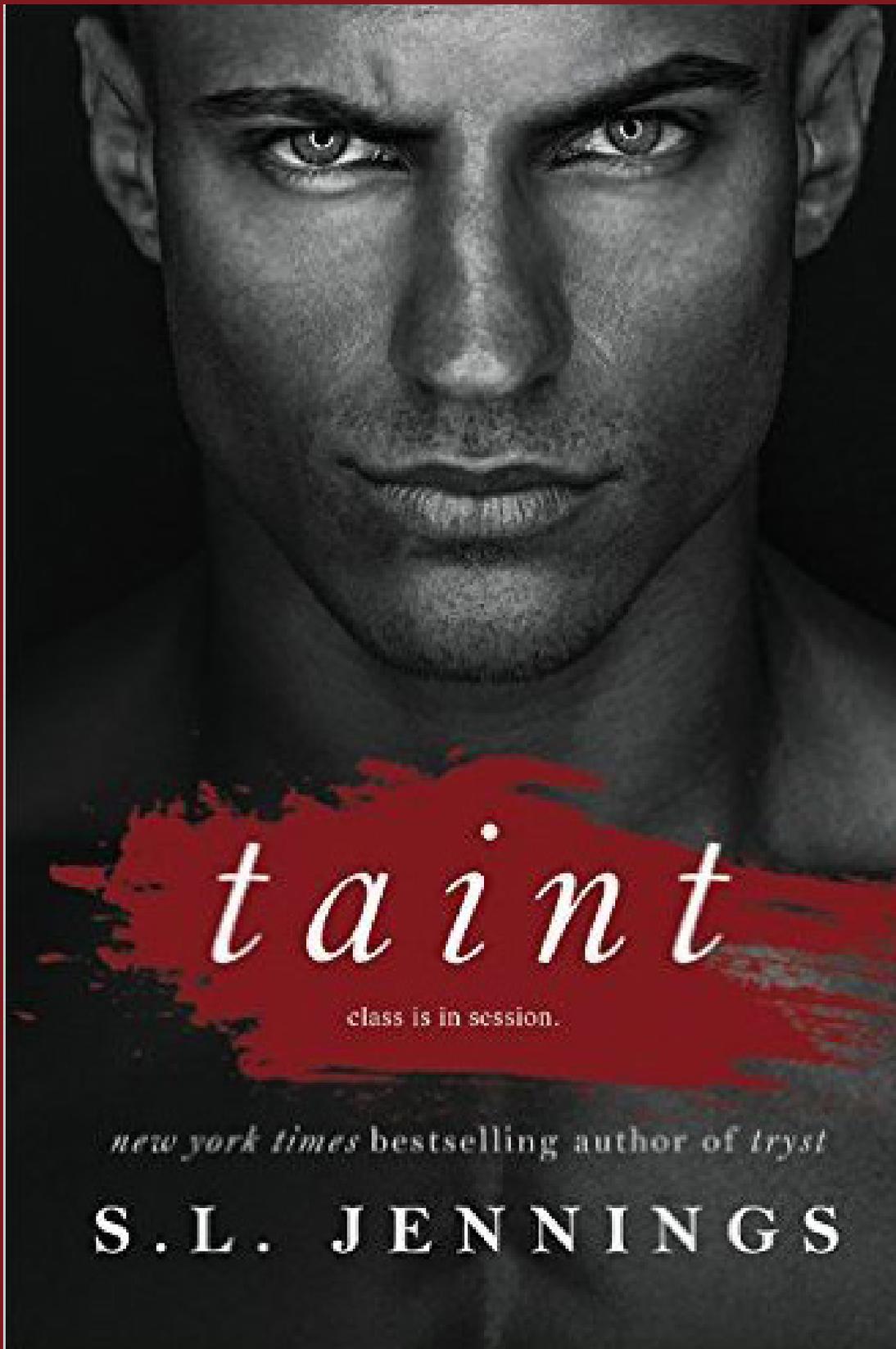
The response was overwhelming and so was the amount of copies that were snapped up with just those two elements alone—cover and back matter. Women loved it. They were shocked that it was so ... in your face. The most asked question? Is she a dude?

No, she's all woman, a young married woman with children who has written a book that speaks to the heart of women learning what it takes to please themselves and then someone else. Now that right there is Master Card priceless. When someone writes a novel that grabs my attention and has me reading it in one sitting, that's an author worth following. And I did, through the multiple genres that she writes in. L. A. Banks was the first author I knew of who wrote across different genres and had an adoring but different fan base in each one. S. L. Jennings pens contemporary fiction, erotica, paranormal and science fiction. This left me wondering, how the heck did she slip past my radar? Well, I can speculate all day long on how someone who has hit the *New York Times* bestseller's list escaped my notice, but my time is probably better spent being grateful that RT Book Lovers Convention showcased her talent for those of us who weren't "in the know".

Some authors like to put a thick line between themselves and their readers, but not S. L. Jennings. Since then, I've followed her posts on FaceBook when she, as a mother, endured a heart-wrenching experience when her son was treated unfairly. Her outrage mirrored that of my own and those of women who are left scratching their heads at the racial unrest in which the United States is mired. S. L. did not pull any punches in recounting the details while being open and vulnerable about the pain it caused. I admired her all the more.

S. L. Jennings, is a proud military wife to her high school sweetheart, a mom of three rowdy boys, and a *New York Times* and USA Today Bestselling author of contemporary and paranormal romance. When she's not obsessing over book boyfriends, you can find her hanging out with a few epic fictional loves at independent bookstores, or sipping a Bloody Mary at her favorite brunch haunt in Spokane, Washington. She's a self-proclaimed food snob, makeup junkie and lover of all things shiny, sparkly and kitschy.

LCM SPOTLIGHT



taint

class is in session.

new york times bestselling author of *tryst*

S.L. JENNINGS

This no-holds barred, sexy New York Times bestseller pushes the envelope like no other novel has as it spins the titillating, enticing tale of one man who teaches women everything they need to know to make their partners happy in the bedroom...while making their own wildest fantasies come true.

taint

Right now, you're probably asking yourself two things: Who am I? And, what the hell are you doing here? Let's start with the most obvious question, shall we?

You're here, ladies, because you can't f*ck.

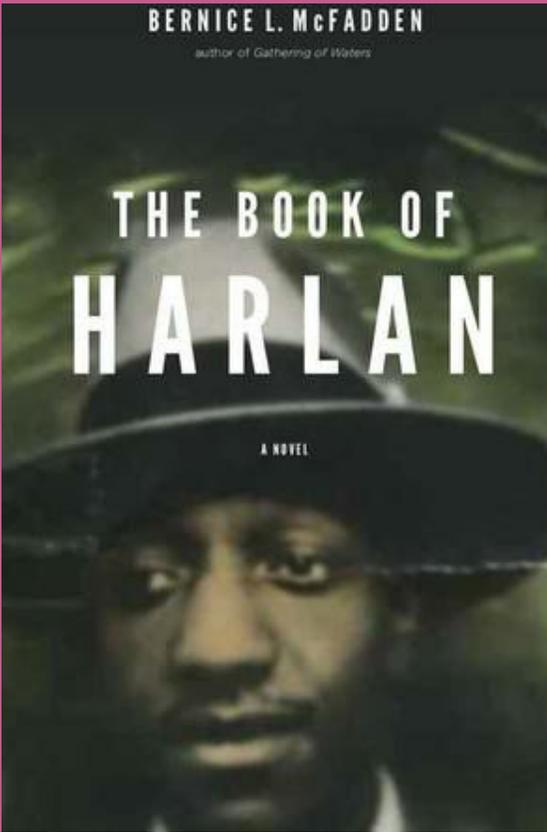
Oh, stop it. Don't cringe. No one under the age of 80 clutches their pearls. You might as well get used to it, because for the next six weeks, you're going to hear that word a lot. And you're going to say it a lot. Go ahead, try it out on your tongue. F*ck. F***ck. Ok, good. Now where were we? If you enrolled yourself in this program then you are wholly aware that you're a lousy lay. Good for you. Admitting it is half the battle. For those of you that have been sent here by your husband or significant other, dry your tears and get over it. You've been given a gift, ladies. The gift of mind-blowing, wall-climbing, multiple-orgasm-inducing sex. You have the opportunity to f*ck like a porn star. And I guarantee, you will when I'm done with you.

And who am I? Well, for the next six weeks, I will be your lover, your teacher, your best friend, and your worst enemy. Your every-f*cking-thing. I'm the one who is going to save your relationship and your sex life.

I am Justice Drake.

And I turn housewives into whores.

Now . . . who's first?



Congratulations

Winner of the
NAACP Image Award
for
Outstanding Literature



Bernice McFadden



Janine A. Ingram

Forgiveness is an ongoing process

Here is that “F” word again...

This is how I felt when it kept coming up in my space. Why do I have to be the bigger person? Why do I have to be the one always going around forgiving folks when they, as the old folks would say, done me wrong?

Forgiveness has always been an interesting process because growing up in the church it seemed like a weak idea. When you're slapped, you must turn the other cheek and get slapped again. What? Forgiveness never felt authentic. Remember when your parents told you to apologize (for something they felt you did wrong, but you didn't) or you were going to get a whooping? Most chose to say “sorry” instead of getting the whooping. That was common sense. Protecting one's own assets is true survival. But in some of those cases, I was not sorry for what I did. However, I have evolved from those days and have come to see forgiveness in a different light.

I was sitting in the middle of my bed when I got slapped with the F-word, yet again. I was angry because I didn't understand why life kept showing up for me the way it did. Things were not going the way I planned. Let me get real right here—I was hurt again by a man who I thought I loved with my entire heart. The pain was excruciating. I was crying to God again, practically screaming and cursing. (Whew I am so glad God is God, because I let loose.) Finally, when I calmed down, the only thing that I could voice was, “Why? Why God?”

A book sitting on my bed shifted and opened to a page that spoke on forgiveness. I stared at it for a moment, thinking, “I don't have anybody to forgive. I love everybody”. That's truly what a lot of people say and believe. A still small voice whispered to me to draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper, then write down the pros and the cons of the relationship that I had put so much faith in. The cons: rejection; abandonment; pain from him not showing up when he said he would; not honoring my birthday; voracious appetite for women, which all made me feel less than important to him. The Voice asked me, “When was the earliest you can remember feeling this way?”

A vision of myself as an eight-year-old girl appeared in my mind. I was sitting in the window waiting on my mother for my birthday. Definitely had a strong

conviction in my heart that she was actually going to come this time because it was my birthday. I sat the whole day. She didn't come, call, or write. I realized that the same things I was telling myself about this man I'd fallen for were the same words I'd said when I was that little girl longing for her mother to keep her word. I had told myself I was not important. No one loved me. I was unlovable, I was not good enough. Those devastating moments as a little girl became my reality as an adult. I went to bed crying that night and had for so many others.



Later I began to read the chapter on forgiveness in the book *Tapping the Power Within* by Iyanla Vanzant. I did the forgiveness exercises and they changed my life. In my evolution of forgiveness, I found that I had to first acknowledge my pain. I had to process it—meaning recognize that it was valid and not consider it wrong to feel a certain way. Then I had to get to the root of why this same experience kept showing up in my space so often.

Only after spending some time with myself and exploring the origins of my PAIN (an acronym for Pay Attention Inward Now) could I move into forgiveness, releasing and letting it go. When a person goes to the doctor, the doctor first has to listen to the symptoms, gauge the issue, and decide the best course of treatment, then put that treatment into action. That's what we, as spiritual beings, have to do when it comes to spiritual and emotional pain. Explore why the pain exists; gauge why the issue keeps recurring, find the best course of action to treat the symptoms—prayer, affirmations, meditation, etc. Then put the treatment plan in place.

The biggest part of the lesson was that forgiveness is not a destination, it is a journey. In my journey of forgiveness, I found true forgiveness comes from the heart. My job is to constantly do the work to Forgive. Maybe, it is yours too.

Janine A. Ingram is the founder of "The Love Journey. Inc," author of Born to be Rich, master speaker, filmmaker, radio personality and transformational life coach. She volunteers in human trafficking and domestic violence shelters and offers empowerment workshops teaching forgiveness, inner child healing, loving yourself, finding your purpose and living your dreams as well as vision board classes.

Chocolate Chat featuring

TANANARIVE DUE



hosted by **Cerece Rennie Murphy**

CRM: What inspired you to write *My Soul to Keep* and how did you come up with the concept especially to use Jesus's blood and the biblical references? I would immediately think of things I learned in Sunday school and different hymns from my Baptist upbringing.

TANANARIVE: I was single when I wrote it, having bad luck in the dating scene. I was also a reporter for The Miami Herald. The story came to me in two ways: Jessica's story of finding out that everything she believed was a lie, and the story of Dawit's incredible loneliness (and, unfortunately, selfishness.)

As for Jesus's blood, I was very inspired to learn of the Christian city of Lalibela in Ethiopia, which was Christian without Europeans. And I asked myself the one thing that could explain David's immortality, whether or not they were believers. Even non-believers could say, "Yeah, I could see how people would say that could make you immortal," and believers can ask themselves questions about the meaning of free will and how we use gifts from God.

CRM: Please share your earliest memory of "knowing" that you wanted to be a writer.

TANANARIVE: I have wanted to be a writer literally as long as I can remember. I wrote a picture book called "Baby Bobby" when I was four, and my mother made copies and was very supportive. And that was very much my journey as a young writer, a LOT of support at home and exposure to books and reading. I wrote a lot of fan fiction in junior high and high school for a paramedic show called "Emergency!"

CRM: Twenty-two books later, have you found a common theme or group of themes that you find yourself exploring over and over again, or is the theme different every time?

TANANARIVE: Almost everything I write is about some kind of interaction between past and present, and facing outer darkness while grappling with some kind of personal trauma. I create characters who have to learn and grow into their circumstances and

then become leaders--either of themselves or others.

CRM: How do you get into the mind of such dark characters without losing a part of your soul?

TANANARIVE: I was fascinated by the idea of what makes someone “monstrous.” No villain believes they’re a villain--our new President, for example, probably has no idea why the country is freaking out over him. So “dark” characters act out impulses that we suppress. Otherwise they are probably quite nice--like David dotes on Kira, but he would kill any of us in a heartbeat if he felt he needed to protect himself.

CRM: Excellent point about what truly makes someone “monstrous”. What do you wish Black readers understood about horror stories, in general, and your work, specifically? Why should someone who has never picked up a horror novel give it a try?

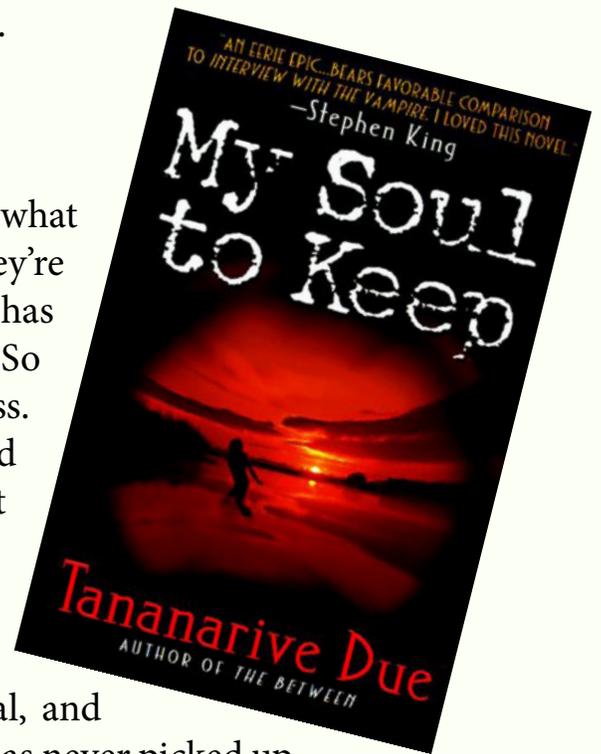
TANANARIVE: I can't imagine not knowing why horror is awesome (LOL)--just kidding--but for me, part of it is morbid fascination (like the way we slow down at car accidents) and part of it is pure escapism (since zombie hordes can also represent soldiers or police, but most of us are lucky enough that we have not had to flee from soldiers). On some level, as humans, we all know that at some point the sh** hits the fan and we need to get moving--although that doesn't always mean “running” in modern times, but it means “acting” in some way. Changing. Moving out of denial. The third component is that I have a hunger to create characters who face unbelievable odds and behave with courage.

CRM: I find speculative fiction a deeply spiritual genre. Do you agree?

TANANARIVE: Yes, I think so, because we are asking really “big” questions about the meaning of life, the meaning of time, the legacy of the past, human possibility, and best or worst case scenarios. The one common factor is a human response--if the characters are human--but even non-human characters reflect back on who WE are (and are not).

CRM: The Black community tends to be very wary of speculative fiction in general and horror specifically. How have you dealt with this resistance in your career from both readers and publishers?

TANANARIVE: That is a great question, and I do suspect that my writing in this genre has hurt some of my hiring chances at institutions not automatically familiar with my work, or who may be dismissive of the idea of “horror.” I recently taught a UCLA creative writing workshop where students were thrilled to be allowed to write speculative fiction. So there is a lot of work to be done, but institutions are getting more progressive. Slowly.



CRM: What is the scariest thing you've ever found yourself writing? How did you deal with the fear enough to write the story properly?

TANANARIVE: I may have just written it yesterday. I'm working on a historical novel about a haunted reformatory, and I have known for two years that I was writing up to a terrible beating scene (based on the true-life Dozier School in Florida, where a great-uncle of mine died in 1937). I am in love with my 12-year-old protagonist and don't want to be cruel to him, but I also don't want to sugarcoat how horrible this place was. And I finally got past the beating yesterday, so that may have been the scariest. Pure human evil. The haunted part is nothing compared to the way people treat children, or prisoners.

CRM: What is your favorite novel to read and reread, where each time you read it you discover another reason why you love it?

TANANARIVE: I teach Afrofuturism at UCLA, so I keep going back to Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower. The book has more meaning to me post-election, when her words "The only lasting truth is Change" truly helped me make sense of what had just happened. And her future sight. In terms of my own books, I love the audio book for The Good House and have listened to it many times. My Soul to Keep also has a good audio book.

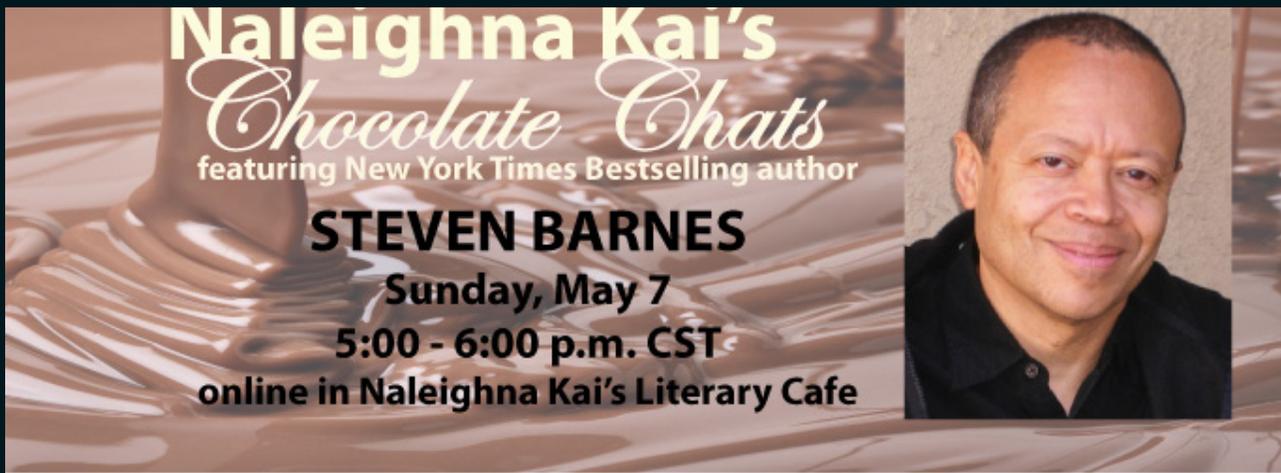
CRM: What advice would you give to someone interested in writing horror?

TANANARIVE: Well, this may get me in trouble...but here goes. 1) Watch horror movies and TV only for fun, never for inspiration, 2) Read the best horror you can find, but by no means limit your reading to horror: read lasting literature and literary classics too, and 3. Try to make your characters as big (or bigger) than the scary premise. The rule I learned from reading Stephen King is that readers will believe any supernatural premise if they believe in your characters. As a teacher, I tell my students that good writing is good writing period, whether it's a ghost story or two women having coffee.

The same rules apply to all writing, not just horror writing. Read a lot. Be diverse in your reading. Write a lot. Get feedback from readers who can help you grow. Write at least a sentence a day.



Cerece Rennie Murphy, host of the chat with Tananarive Due, Murphy is the national bestselling and award-winning author who has penned six books, including the Order of the Seers Sci-fi Trilogy, the Ellis and The Magic Mirror children's book series, and To Find You, a historical romance. To learn more about her work and upcoming projects, visit www.cerecerenniemurphy.com



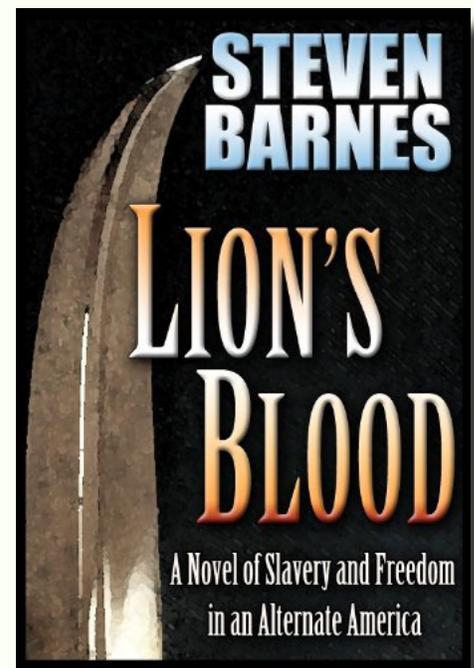
Naleighna Kai's
Chocolate Chats
featuring New York Times Bestselling author
STEVEN BARNES
Sunday, May 7
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. CST
online in Naleighna Kai's Literary Cafe



In this alternate world where the center of culture and power shifted to Africa, white slaves work for black masters. Set in the mid nineteenth century in a primarily Islamic America, *Lion's Blood* tells of a bond between Kai, son of a powerful leader and plantation owner, and Aidan, brought from the British Isles by slave traders to work on the plantation. As both grow to manhood, conflicts arise, and both are caught up in a war with invading Aztecs to the South. Kai's conflicted feelings and Aidan's longing for freedom are part of the broad canvas in this fascinating story of an alternate America.

About the author . . .

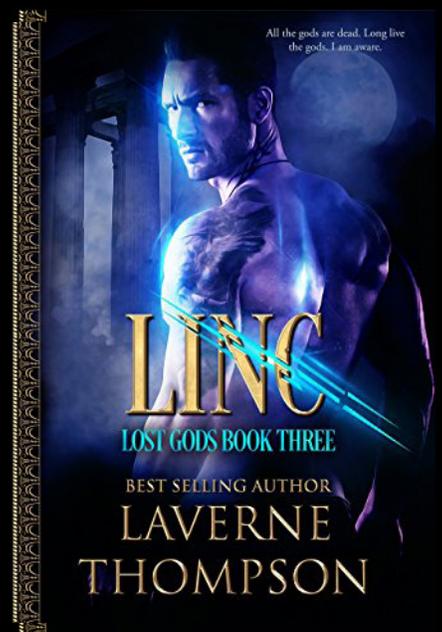
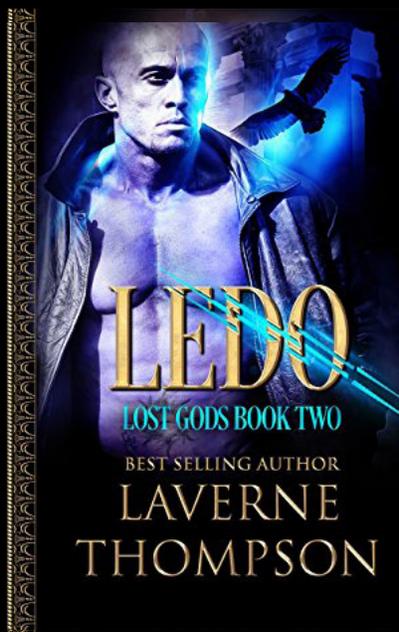
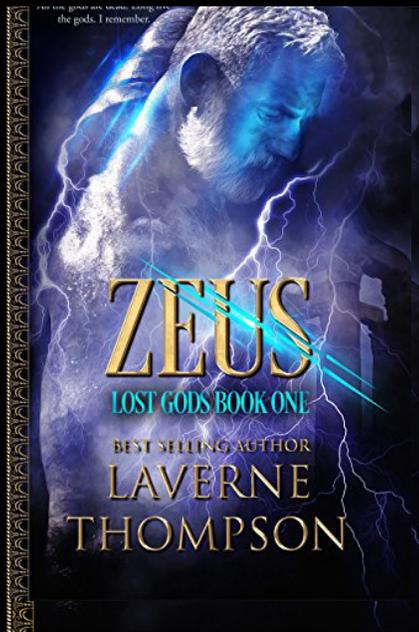
New York Times bestselling Author, Steven Barnes has published twenty-three novels and over three million words of science fiction and fantasy. He has been nominated for Hugo, Nebula, and Cable Ace awards. His television work includes *Twilight Zone*, *Stargate* and *Andromeda*; his "A Stitch In Time" episode of *The Outer Limits* won the Emmy Award; and his alternate history novel *Lion's Blood* (a tale of Islamic Africans colonizing the Americas prior to Europe) won the 2003 Endeavor. *Great Sky Woman* and *Shadow Valley*, adventures set 30,000 years ago in East Africa, were published by Ballantine/One World Books. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Tananarive Due, and son Jason.





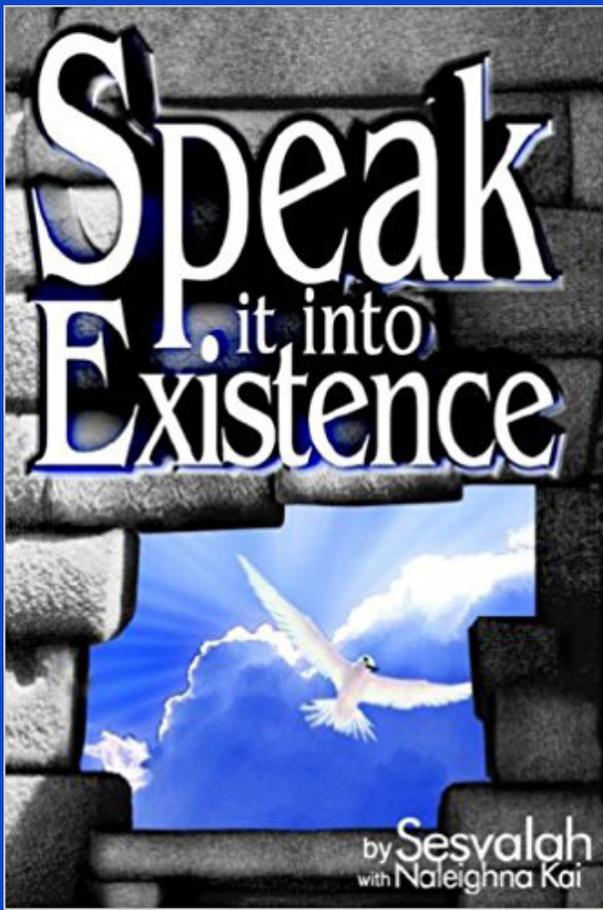
LOST GODS

ALL THE GODS ARE DEAD. LONG LIVE THE GODS. LONG LIVE ZEUS.



The 3 Book Series Available on Amazon for Kindle and Paperback

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Every word, every thought,
every action-controls the
flow of your life.

Do you choose your words carefully? Does your life reflect exactly what you say? Does the words: I'm broke, I'm sick, or I'm tired, sound familiar? What would happen in your life if you said: I am prosperous I am experiencing an overabundance of energy, or I am experiencing excellent health? Speak it into Existence expands on the belief that

If you change the way you think, you'll change the way you live.

"I took in the story of each woman, and the author's insight afterwards. Very inspiring and uplifting to me. It's a book that I'd go back to just for my own encouragement."

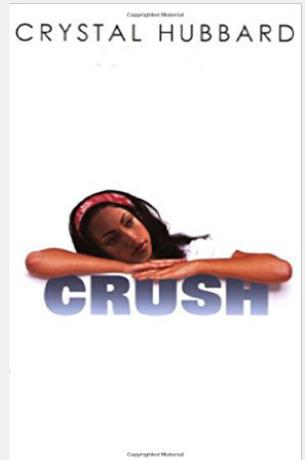
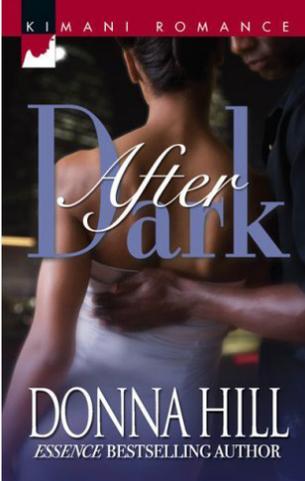
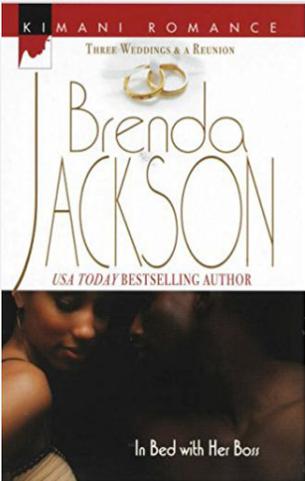
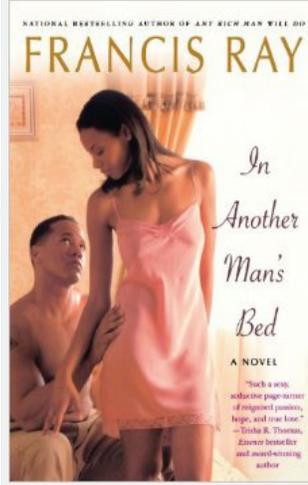
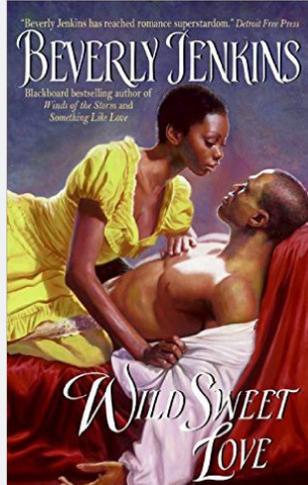
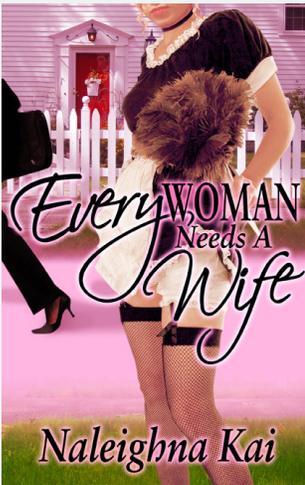
-- Christine Pauls, author of To Begin Again

"I read another book by this author and immediately knew that this was a book to add to my collection. This is an awesome read. Filled with lots of positive affirmations. This book aslo makes a good gift."

-- TJ , Amazon.com reviewer

Rev. Renee Sesvalah Cobb-Dishman, is a MSW, LCSW, a family and sexual abuse counselor, a Reiki Master, motivational speaker and founder of Prayer, Praise and Faith Ministries and Universal Temple of Healing & Truth. She is the mother of one daughter and her private practice is based in Chicago, where she resides with her husband of 27 years.





Growing up, I was hooked on School House Rock. Oh, don't act like you don't remember those Saturday morning specials that helped us learn without us even realize we were learning. By singing School House Rock's catchy little tunes over and over, I learned the different parts of speech through songs like "Verb! That's what's happening!", "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly, Get Your Adverbs Here", "Conjunction Junction, What's Your Function?" Remember the "I'm just a Bill" song? What little child knows how a bill gets passed on Capitol Hill? We did! I memorized my timetable through the School House Rock songs and cartoons, even the song that said "Three is the magic number".

Back when I was an author who had been in the industry for a short while, a woman named Pam Nelson of Levy Home Entertainment taught me that 19 was actually the magic number; at least it was for the literary careers of several Black authors chosen for an epic life-changing event.

Pam was the brainchild behind the Wal*Mart Soul Expressions Tour. Authors who came from ten different publishers and who wrote in a range of genres came together to travel across the Midwest for a 4-day, 12-store tour. At the time, more effort was being put into promoting authors whose hues didn't necessarily match my own. Cruise ship book tours like Get Caught Reading at Sea, as well as luxury bus tours, had been a staple of connecting mainstream authors to readers in big box retailers—but their focus had never been on Black authors. Only L. A. Banks made the cut on some of those tours, and those efforts crossed her over

into a market that welcomed her with open arms. Pam felt that lightning could strike more than once, and there were enough authors with dynamic writing styles and well-crafted books to assure that there would be something everyone would enjoy.

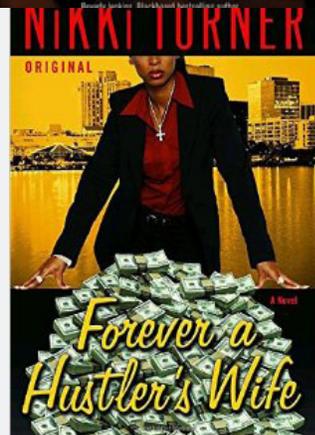
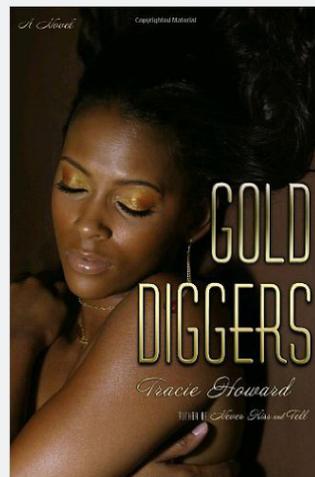
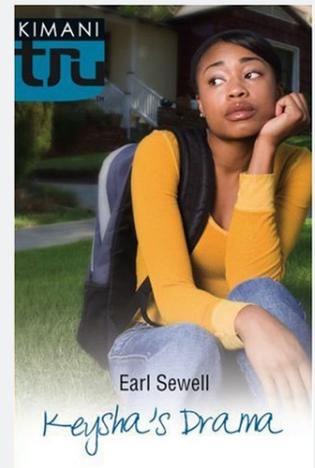
Pam's concern was legitimate. Because Black readership only accounted for 1% of the market, publishers, distributors, and big box retailers kept their focus on the other 99% and catapulted the careers of authors who already had a stronghold in the industry.

During the Wal*Mart Tour, we were treated like literary royalty—ate at the best places, stayed at five-star hotels, traveled to the stores in a luxury tour bus. Pam put her reputation on the line with this tour. So many believed it would not be fruitful, but she proved them dead wrong!!! Printed playbills pre-selling our work were distributed long before we arrived. The reader turnout was phenomenal from store to store; the sales in four days hit close to the 3,000 mark and that's not counting the ones sold at the culminating event at the hotel that brought even more readers. The sales impact on our careers was astounding. Not only did the twelve stores in the Midwest know of our existence, but stores nationwide carried the work of all 19 authors during the weeks after the Tour.

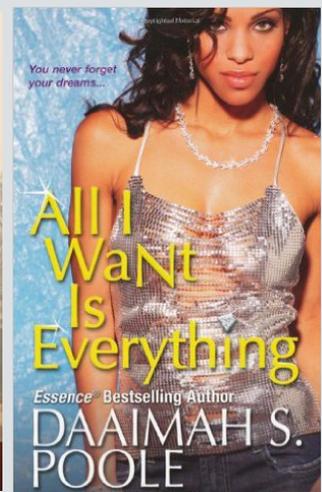
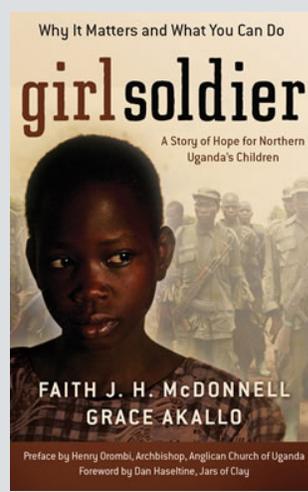
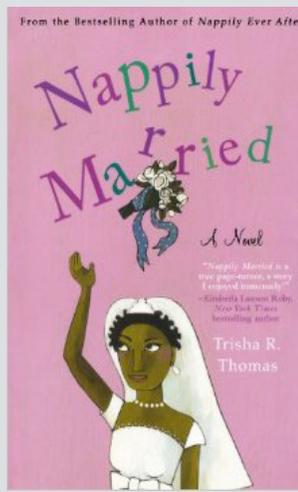
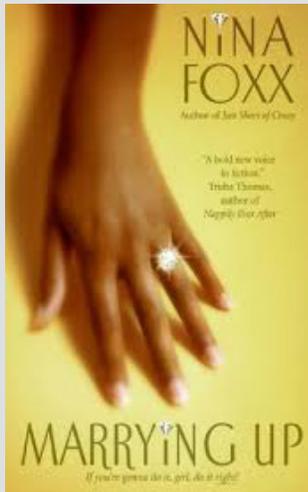
During the tour, I wrote a daily blog that I posted in one of the Yahoo reading groups I was in at the time. Later, I pulled the text from that blog, dropped it into a fiction novel I was working on,

and told a few juicy secrets about some of the things that happened on the tour (for instance, not even the authors on the Tour were aware that there was one store that posed a danger to us all).

The first half of *Was it Good For You Too?* is all about the time I spent with Brenda Jackson, Beverly Jenkins, Francis Ray, Donna Hill, Tracie Howard, Crystal Hubbard, Earl Sewell, Nikki Turner (still waiting for that Spades rematch!), Grace Akallo, Terri Woods, Selena Montgomery, Lori

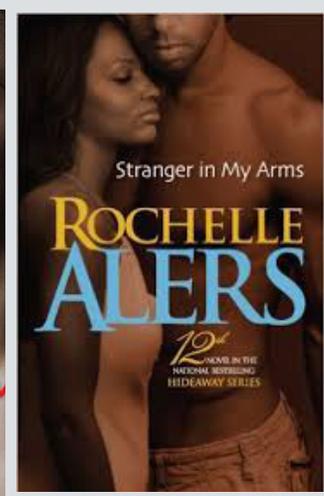
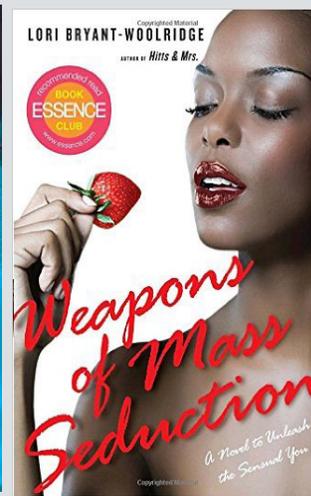
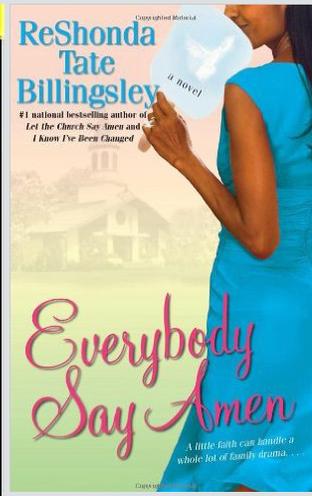
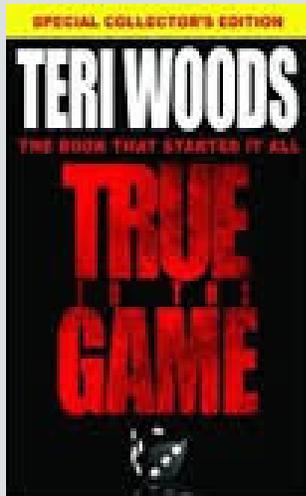


Bryant Woolridge, ReShonda Tate Billingsley, Nina Foxx, Rochelle Alers, Stephanie Perry Moore, Trisha Thomas, and Daaimah Poole. As if that roster wasn't enough, they brought actor Billy Dee Williams into the mix at several stores and at a major event held in a south suburban hotel. That man is still finer than frog hair. Radio Personality Bonnie "Hey Baby" DeShong was along for the ride and kept things lively.



What Pam did in planning and implementing a tour that put a focus on up and coming Black authors and blending them with New York Times and national bestselling authors, brought a level of success that hasn't been achieved by anyone since.

**Click here or visit the Naleighna Kai Literary Cafe
to view the Soul Expression Video**



All for *Love*

by Martha Kennerson



I'm often asked, "When you reach for something to read or you simply want to support another author, what do you look for?" My answer, passion. Those who have read my romance novels or know me personally, it's pretty safe to assume that I'm referring to romantic passion and you would be correct ... partially. Passion is defined as a strong and barely containable emotion about a person or thing. Which is why authors like Farrah Rochon is on my personal list of must-reads.

Yes, Farrah's work is everything I look for in romance, but it also manages to showcase the things that Farrah's passionate about—her home state of Louisiana, the New Orleans Saints football team, cooking, reading, writing, traveling the world and Broadway plays. Farrah has a Master's degree in Psychology, and initially worked in the oil industry before switching gears to become a full-time novelist. Her environment and life experiences play a major part in her library of work in the fact that she shares a piece of who she is as a person, and does it with an amazing eloquence that some romance authors are still trying to achieve.

I had the opportunity to meet this amazing young woman a couple of years ago when we were both invited to participate at an event in Louisiana. That was a real "fan girl" moment for me. Yet, she was so gracious in dealing with all my silliness. Once I pulled it together, Farrah happily shared invaluable advice about how to

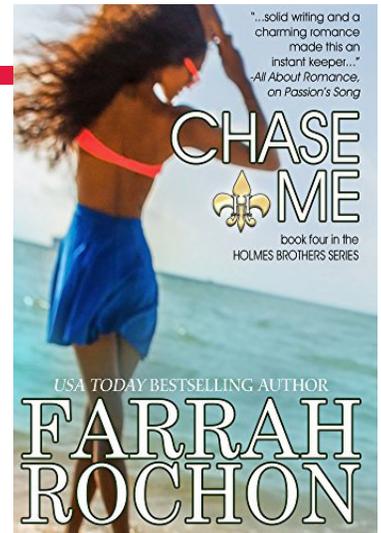
handle this ever-changing industry. I'll always be grateful for that moment as it, and one other life-altering event is one I won't forget anytime soon.

Farrah believes in allowing her characters to tell their own story. Farrah's passion comes though like light piercing the darkness starting with her debut novel *Deliver Me*, the first book in her Holmes Brothers series, and onward to in the fifteen exceptional novels created for Harlequin, to her current work, *Chase Me*, (the Holmes Brothers Book 4). If you haven't had the opportunity to indulge, I invite you to experience at least one. and you'll be hooked.

Chase Me

What was she thinking?

The last thing Indina Holmes needs in her life is three days on the open seas with her loving but nosy family. But that's exactly what she's in store for her when her brother guilts her into joining the Holmes family reunion cruise. When she needs a cabin mate at the last minute, her only option is the co-worker she's been sleeping with for the past year. Now, she just has to keep her family from trying to play matchmaker.



What was he thinking?

For the past eight months, Griffin Sims has pretended to be okay with the co-worker-with-benefits arrangement he's had going with Indina, but he wants more than just her body. He wants a real relationship. Indina's invitation to join her on a cruise is exactly the opportunity Griffin has been looking for to prove to the woman who has been sharing his bed that it's time for her to share her heart.

Martha Kennerson is the national bestselling and award-winning author whose love of reading and writing is a significant part of who she is. She uses both to create the kinds of stories that touch the heart. Martha lives with her family in League City, Texas and believes her current blessings are only matched by the struggle it took to achieve such happiness. To find out more about Martha and to follow her writing journey, visit her Facebook and Twitter pages:

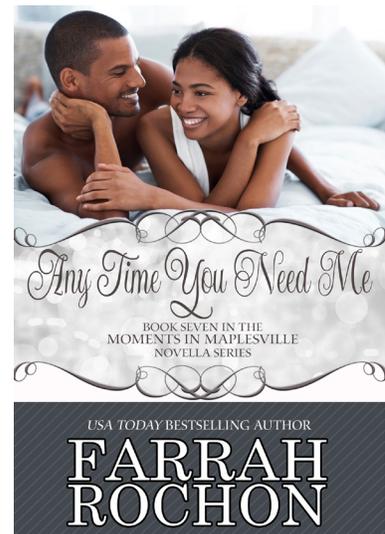
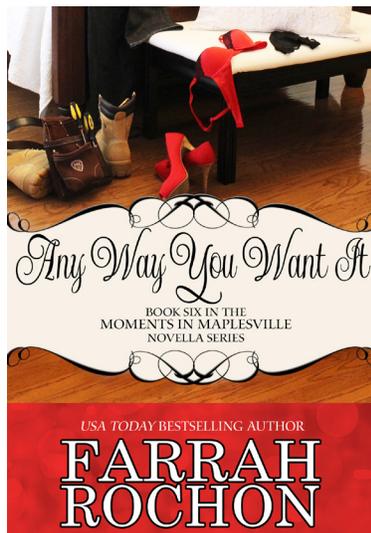
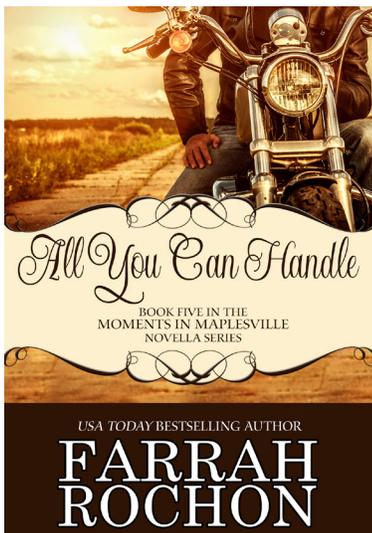
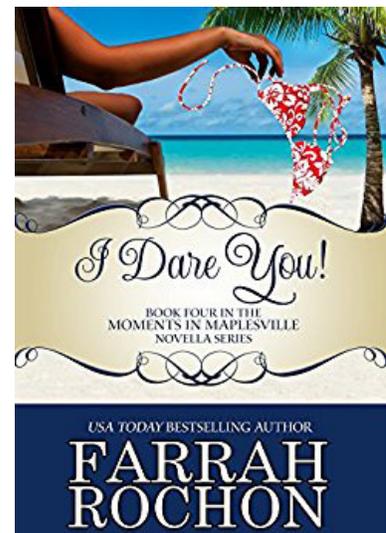
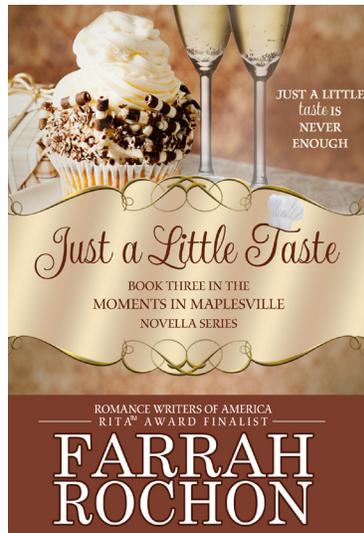
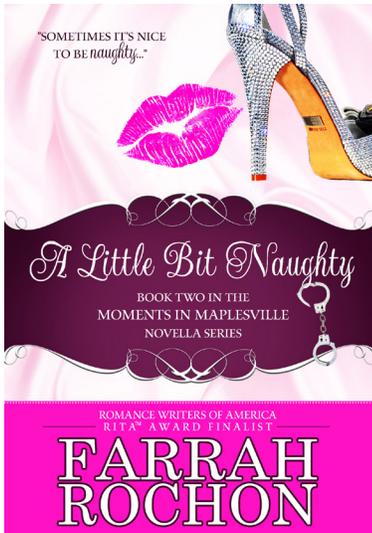
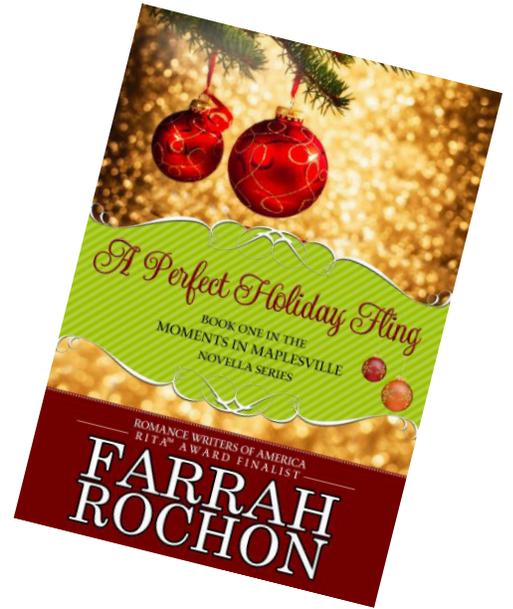
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USA Today's
Bestselling author

FARRAH ROCHON

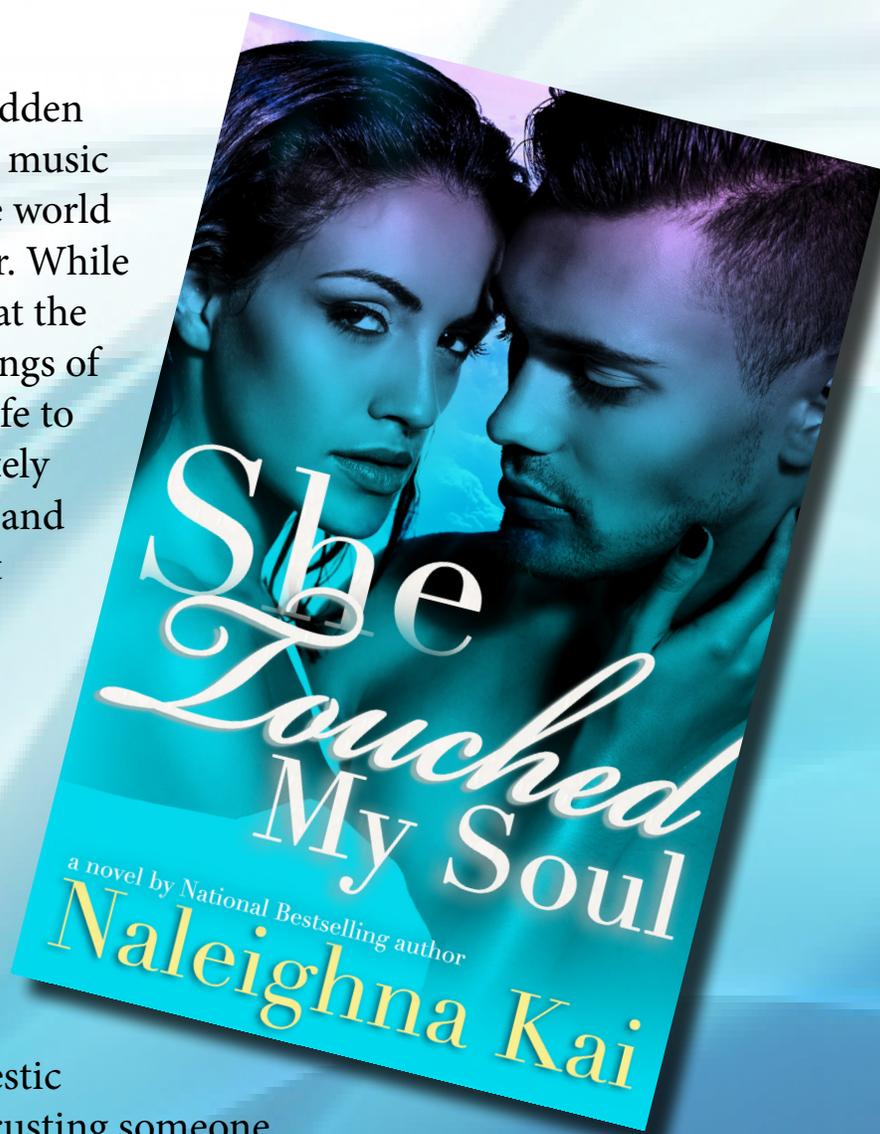


WWW.FARRAHROCHON.COM

Michael “Magic” Arrington’s sudden fame and startling climb up the music charts skyrocketed him into the world of Hollywood glitz and glamour. While all was exciting and wonderful at the beginning, the shady undertakings of the music business caused his life to take a downward spiral, ultimately separating him from his family and his hold on reality. Then he met Maya.

Maya Gervais has completely distanced herself from her past, even going as far as changing her identity to protect her from the one man who wants her dead. She is a civic-minded lawyer who champions for clients who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. So trusting someone enough to fall in love was never a consideration, especially since it could cost her much more than she was willing to give.

After the two have a chance meeting at a concert, a daring escape leads to an exploration of pain and pleasure that sets them both on the path to healing and an into an unlikely romance. However, the path to blissful happiness is never an easy one, as they both have their own demons to confront, including Michael’s jealous manager and Maya’s reluctance to deal with things she would rather forget.



WWW.NALEIGHNAKAI.COM



Portia's Random Thoughts

1. Yes, my Christmas tree still matched my living room, but I did take it down. Reluctantly. Coordination is everything.
2. If you ignore me once, ignore me for the rest of your life.
3. Only a skilled fisherman can catch a Pisces woman. (And you'd better have the right hook). #teamPisces
4. Someone is always watching, even when you don't think they are. (Try not to do something that requires bail money)
5. Having a vision means nothing if you don't see it through.
6. You have not had the full internet experience until you read a trending hashtag created by the phenomenon called Black Twitter.

Shout out to Luvvie Ajayi!

Shondaland/Shonda Rhimes is developing her book, *I'm Judging You*, into a TV comedy.

What I'm listening to:

Off the Hook (the entire album)



Hailing from Indianapolis, Indiana, **Portia A. Cosby** is a novelist, screenwriter, blogger, and poet known for her unmistakable wit and relatable characters. The Indiana University and Full Sail University alumna resides in the metro Atlanta area and is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

www.portiacosby.com
www.runthatwithportia.com

MISSING

Persons Report

filed by Portia A. Cosby



If you've been an avid watcher of BET's **Being Mary Jane**, you may know where I'm going with this. I'd like to know where I must go to file a Missing Persons Report on Mary Jane Paul. She's been missing since the end of last season, and I'm concerned.

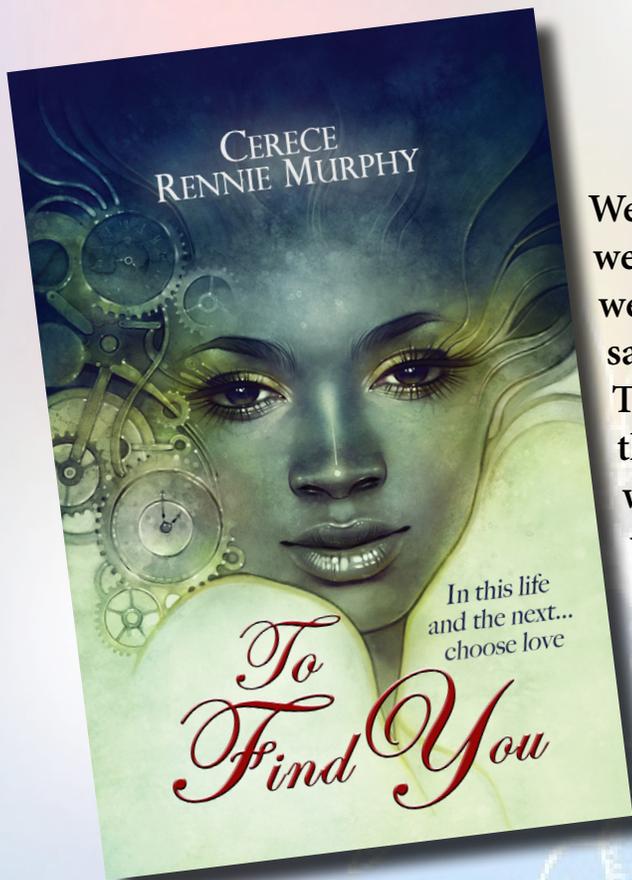
As a lover of the written word, I appreciate great writing whether it is within the lyrics of a song or the pages of a novel or screenplay. No television show can be great unless its writing is relatable and purposeful. This is true whether we're talking about a drama or comedy. From Episode 1 of *Being Mary Jane*'s first season, I was all in. I related to her as a Black, single, professional woman living in Atlanta. Mary Jane was flawed, successful, witty, and in search of love. She made bad decisions, but they were within the context of where she was at that point in her life.

Week after week, I tuned in to see what happened next with her latest relationship or what hilarious conversations she would have with her girlfriends. I grew to love and sometimes hate some of the supporting cast and was interested in what they were up to. But about halfway through Season 3, the show felt ... different. The heart and soul was missing. The storylines felt rushed or incomplete and I stared at the television screen after the season finale like, "Um. That's it?"

Enter Season 4, which is airing now. I don't know who this woman is, but I want Mary Jane Paul back – the one who had a good heart but occasionally had cuddle buddies, fell for a married man, read her best friend for filth, and provided financial help to her struggling family members through gritted teeth. This woman that shows up on my screen now is not her. What pains me most is that she may never return. The absence of the show's showrunner/writer/producer, Mara Brock Akil is surely felt. This show was her baby, her vision ...wait . . .

I think I've solved my dilemma! I don't need to file a report. The real Mary Jane Paul left with Mara Brock Akil.

Reader's Paradise



We humans believe that with all of our education we understand it all, but there is one topic where we fall short; the power of love. Celine Dion sang a song that reminded me of *To Find You*. The verse goes something like this; Even though there may be times it seems I'm far away. Never wonder where I am because I am always by your side. If we really understood the breadth of our emotions this line would blow us away; Cara, Anna and Ama understood this.

Their romantic journey begins in Ghana and ends in DC in the year 2051, several different stories all about the power of love. *To Find You* reminds lovers and teaches others how.

How to sacrifice for love, how loyalty plays a big role when it comes to matters of the heart and where there is hope there are possibilities. At times I found myself needing to stop and breathe then I would quickly pick the story right back up. It was definitely an emotional rollercoaster.

Murphy did an outstanding job developing the characters and giving them issues that matter to the readers. Like family values and tradition, race relations, government scare tactics, love and hope.

For such a time as this *To Find You* is the elixir for our souls.

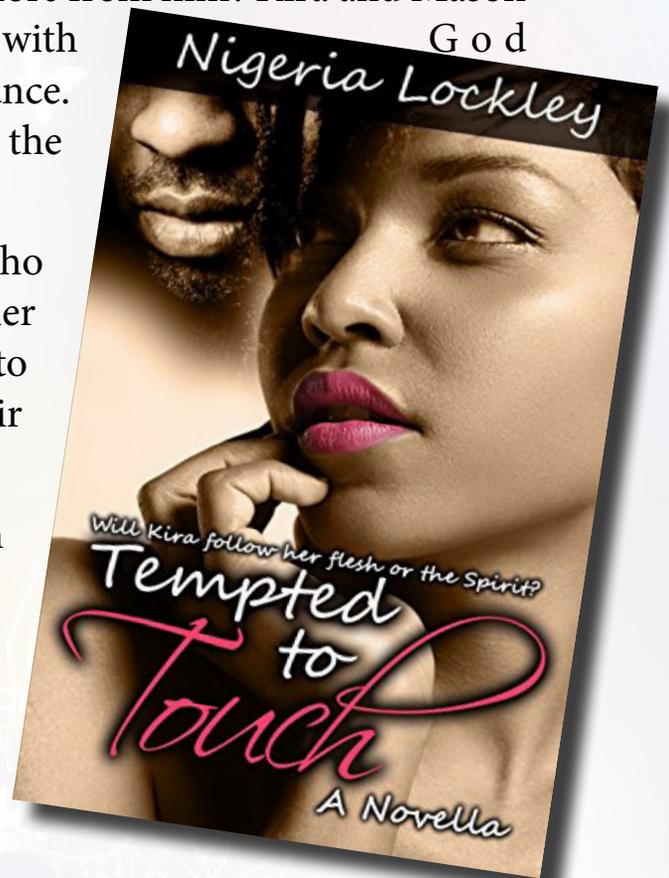
What do you do with your feelings of neglect in your marriage when your husband is on fire for the Lord and you need more from him? Kira and Mason have a great marriage but their relationship with God is on different levels, which causes an imbalance. Which is ok because relationships shouldn't be the same anyway right?

Kira has shifted her focus to her son Nate who suffers with Sickle Cell and she plunges into her work as Human Resource Director. She loves to sing and has no desire to sing in the choir at their church where her attendance has dwindled.

As we know all too well things happen when we lose our focus in a marriage and the door to temptation opens and in walks something which is actually dressed to look better than what you currently have. For Kira temptation goes by the name of Quincy McAdams; her ex who appears to have made it in the music industry and he wants Kira to ride along with him.

This could be the boost she needs to get her house out of foreclosure, help with her feelings of neglect and revive her marriage or the polar opposite could be the result.

As we know in our own lives sometimes trial and tribulations are just the wakeup call we need to recognize when a relationship has gone off the path. Lockley has penned a very realistic tale of temptation and how sometimes if you don't have the right person in your corner rooting for you and your marriage temptation could become sin.



Laverne (Missy) Brown's objective is to bring her personal brand of engaging reviews to a larger audience across most genres of books. As a book club officer, avid reader who has been writing reviews since 2000, she wants to connect readers with independent/self-published authors. In case you're curious (and what book lover isn't?) Missy's all-time favorite book? There are too many to list. If you are interested in finding out more about Missy, you can reach out to her on Facebook at Laverne AsIam or email her at readersparadise4u@yahoo.com

Warning!!! This article contains a viewpoint about a sensitive subject matter. If you're only here for book recommendations, light-hearted articles, and reviews, you might want to keep scrolling to the next article.



Your silence is complicity. Your defense of the abuser is your endorsement of his behavior.

Tell the Truth ... Shame the Devil

The Hard Truth About Sexual Abuse from the Pulpit

by Lena Sledge

I've seen the posts on Bishop Eddie Long and received many inboxes from my page, with inquiries on my thoughts. I didn't reply because I am just tired of the hypocrisy. I'll probably piss some people off, but here it is. (And I won't acknowledge any b.s. So, just scroll on by).

What bothers me is when someone posts about his sins, someone else trails behind with a comment about not judging people, taking the Bible's words out of context. The Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean we cannot show discernment. How do you determine what is a sin without judging? How do we determine right from wrong without judging?

My problem is the bishop was a man. A man who molested boys. Period. We rally behind him because in the Black community we raise up the man in the cloth and neglect and disregard the victim. We turn our backs on the victim, and offer no prayers or solace to them. It happens all the time. Like knowing Uncle Walter is a child molester, but still having him at Big Mama's house for Thanksgiving dinner with all the children present that he's molested.

We turn our backs on the victim, and offer no prayers or solace to them. Like knowing Uncle Walter is a child molester, but still having him at Big Mama's house for Thanksgiving dinner with all the children present that he's molested. We force the victim to be a victim all through childhood, never a survivor.



We force the victim to be a victim all through childhood, never a survivor. But the Bishop is raised up as a survivor, just as Uncle Walter is positioned as a survivor when he is allowed to sit at the table and break bread.

Silence is complicity. Defense of the abuser is an absolute endorsement of his behavior.

It's okay to forgive the preacher who rapes. Yet, we are somehow more comfortable forgiving and dismissing the rape if the act was against our daughters, sisters, or granddaughters. We show more disgust when they rape our sons, nephews and grandsons. We show disdain toward the male victim for not being able to stop it, for being almost of consenting age and not fighting back. We ostracize them. And if the male victim is gay, then not only is he ostracized, he's judged and cast out and told he will die. We do all this while claiming not to judge the pastor, deacon, preacher or bishop, and while still being faithful in giving him tithes and the offerings of those same children every single Sunday. And when confronted, the mantra is, I forgive because God forgives. And yes, He does, but what about our daughters, sisters, nephews and brothers? What has been offered to them?

Had the bishop been White, I think people's comments and views would be different. Yep, I said it.

We accuse Christians of passing judgment when they speak out against sin. We are supposed to be able to discern and speak the truth with love. So my condolences to his family, and my continued prayers to his victims. I wonder, has anyone thought about them. What it feels like to know your abuser is gone?

For those who have never been sexually assaulted, it's hard to understand the distaste a victim carries for their abuser. The guilt and shame that is played and replayed in their minds everyday while their abuser is hailed as a righteous man, redeemed by his admirers. The hurt, the pain and strength it took to tell a soul what happened. Or how victims who dream of the demise of the abuser are affected when it comes to fruition. The ridicule of being called a liar by church folks, or called queer, loose or even too unattractive for anyone to abuse in the first place. Or the countless victims that never ever told a soul.

Yet, church folks judge all the time when it's convenient for them. Forsake the children for the favor of a man in cloth.

So I judge. But when I judge, I try not to judge un-righteously, unfairly or to be hypocritical in my judgment. "In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Matthew 7:2)

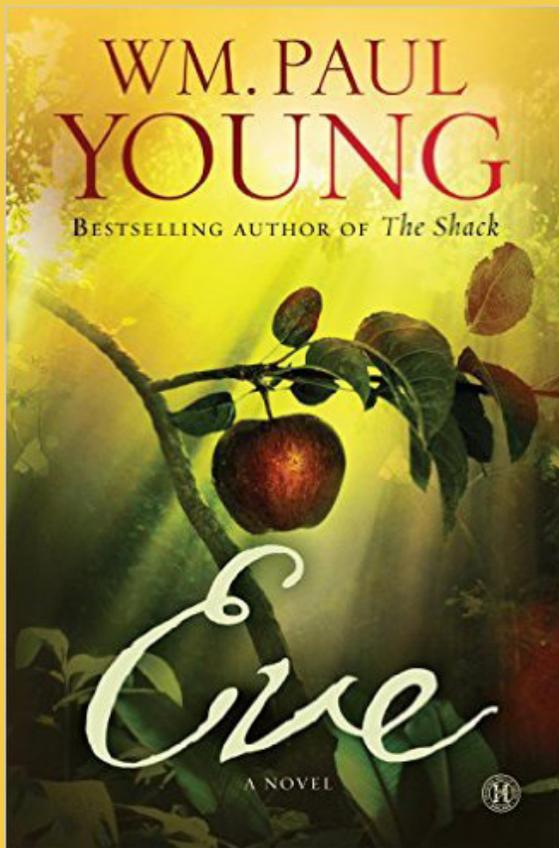
Yes, I spoke some hard truths here, so don't even think of trying to come for me today. As a survivor, I'll eat you alive.

Judge *that*.



Lena Sledge is a native of Detroit, Michigan and currently calls Alabama home. She shares writing advice and tips for aspiring writers on her award-winning blog, Lena Sledge's Blog. She also shares marketing information for writers and authors on how to market their books through social media on her Facebook fan page. She gives several workshops throughout the year and is available for speaking engagements and book club discussions. Lena is also the publicity chair for the Alabama Writers' Conclave, one of the oldest writers' organizations in continuous existence in the United States.

Visit her website at www.lenasledge.com or through her blog at www.lenasledgeblog.com.



From the author of the twenty-five-million-copy bestseller *The Shack* comes a captivating new novel destined to be one of the most talked-about books of the decade.

When a shipping container washes ashore on an island between our world and the next, John the Collector finds a young woman inside—broken, frozen, and barely alive. With the aid of Healers and Scholars, John oversees her recovery and soon discovers that her genetic code connects her to every known race. No one would guess what her survival will mean...

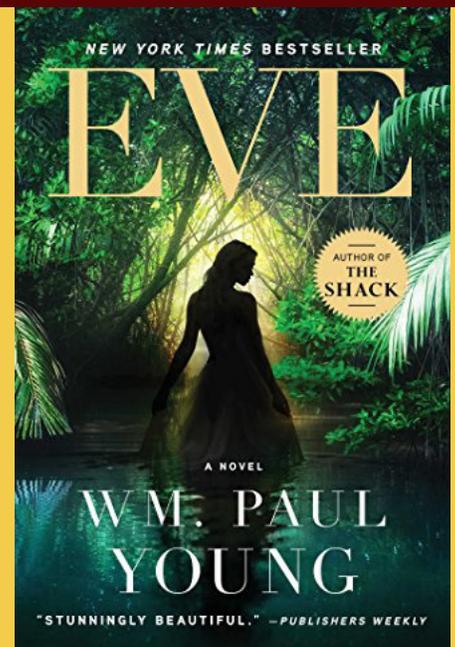
No one but Eve, Mother of the Living, who calls her “daughter” and invites her to witness the truth about her own story—indeed, the truth about us all.

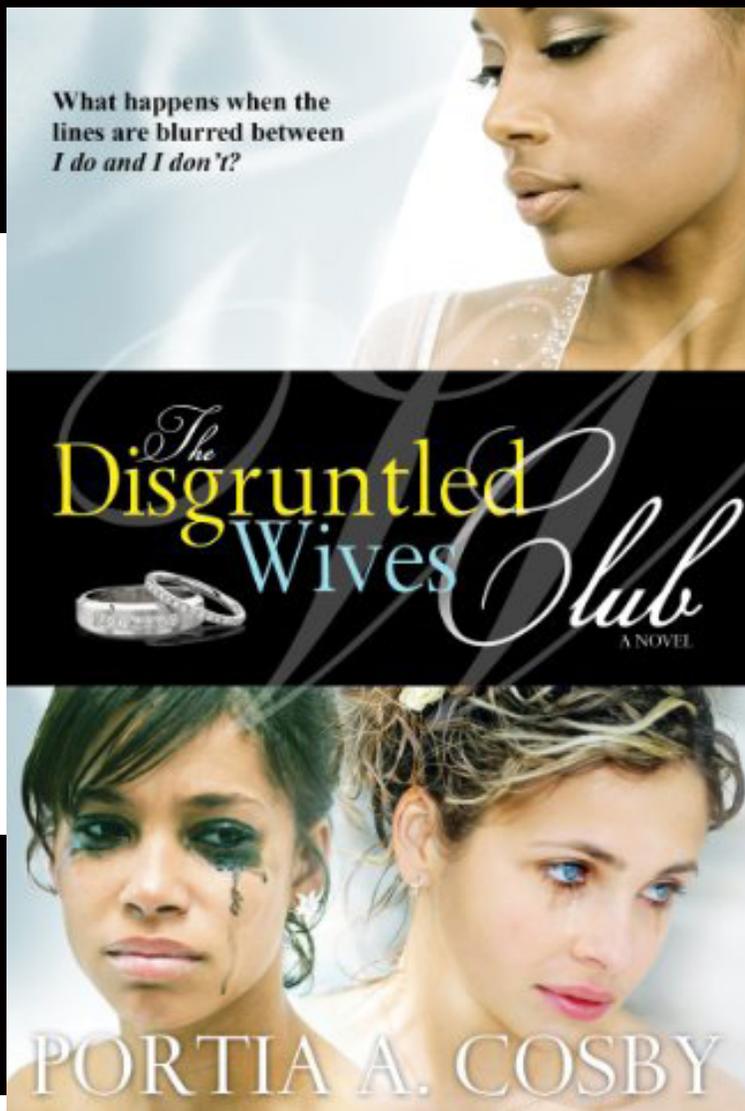
As *The Shack* awakened readers to a personal, non-religious understanding of God, *Eve* will free us from faulty interpretations that have corrupted human relationships since the Garden of Eden.

Thoroughly researched and exquisitely written, *Eve* is a masterpiece that will inspire readers for generations to come.

Two Covers . . . same book

Eve is a bold, unprecedented exploration of the Creation narrative, true to the original texts and centuries of scholarship—yet with breathtaking discoveries that challenge traditional beliefs about who we are and how we’re made. *Eve* opens a refreshing conversation about the equality of men and women within the context of our beginnings, helping us see each other as our Creator does—complete, unique, and not constrained by cultural rules or limitations.





“I agreed to ‘for better or for worse,’ but I need more “better” and some of that cherishing we spoke of. Can I review my contract, please?”

Dana Hall has been more than patient with Ric and his never-ending issues. She has supported his pipe dreams and bitten her tongue when he’s lost his jobs, but infidelity is inexcusable. When Ric adds the P.Y.T. from work, numerous text messages, and risqué emails to the stewing pot, he finds he has created a recipe for disaster. It’s his secret ingredient, though, that sends Dana over the edge.

“If love doesn’t hurt, why am I holding this ice on my jaw again? Did ‘until death do us part’ mean he’s going to kill me?”

Willow Townsend is torn. On most days, Vaughn could tutor Prince

Charming in the art of being a good man. Then, there are the other days...She understands that a woman should be submissive to her husband, but is pretty sure the Bible didn’t mean for it to be achieved through violence. After Vaughn throws his worst temper tantrum ever, will she leave her convoluted fairytale or wait around for the happy ending?

*“We said, ‘in sickness and in health,’ but ... herpes?
I was thinking cancer or kidney failure.”*

Crystal Moss is married to R&B superstar, Dante. Due to the nature of his profession, she has adopted the “If I don’t see it, it isn’t happening” rule when it comes to groupies and cheating and found a way to cope with her lonely nights. When Dante gets sloppy and breaks one of their rules, the tabloids have a field day and Crystal is faced with a tough decision: kill him in his sleep or while he’s awake?

Born to be Rich is about creating wealth from the inside out ...

Are you living in fear or are you living in trust? Are you letting life just sweep you along by making you a victim of fear, limited beliefs, circumstances and challenges life seems to throw your way? Success is never an accident! Manifesting prosperity and fulfillment is the result of consistently applied strategies, actions, and a willingness to overcome anything that separates you from living your full potential.



The journey to a life filled with love, joy, peace, balance and abundance is all about tapping into the unlimited power and talents that were with you the moment you were born. Born to be Rich, with its powerful affirmations, prayers and inspiring stories, will help you shift from being ordinary to becoming extra-ordinary!

Janine's story is certainly one of great courage, particularly, as she reveals the circumstances of her early life. Her amazing growth and belief that she is born to win has transformed the lives of many people reading her story. It takes conviction, commitment and confidence to create the life she presently enjoys. More "true" stories are needed in this era of reality shows to help uplift others. -- Claudette Redic

I absolutely loved this book. It changed my perspective on the wealth and attaining wealth as well as appreciate what i have. It gave to me the gift of loving everything in my life and learning to accept and love that which is not perfect. I highly recommend this book!

Blog Talk Radio Morning Show Number (602)753-1902

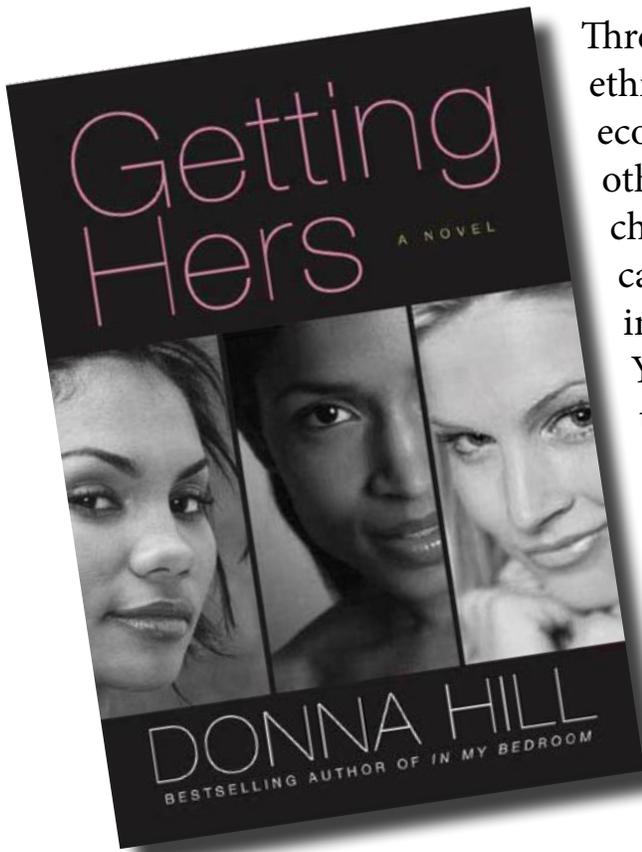
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<https://www.facebook.com/TheLoveJourneyInc/>

Harper's Court



Three women from completely different ethnicities, backgrounds, and social economical status, first laid eyes on each other at a doctor's office. An unfortunate chain of events brewing in the background causes them to become stuck in an elevator in an upscale building in downtown New York. As they're waiting to be rescued, the hot-headed Latina, ivory-skinned CEO, and gorgeous Black woman with an illicit lifestyle, began to discuss things they thought would forever stay a secret. Soon, they discover that they all do have one thing in common—one person in their lives that needs to be eliminated.

Hours later, they settled into a hotel room to discuss some hard truths and even harder details as they come up with a plan they believe will work. Each of them will draw a name of their intended targets without any one of them knowing who was chosen. Now the three women are responsible for taking care of a total stranger's problems in such a way that neither one of them will get caught. Unfortunately, bad intentions will have their own challenges and the women are forced to learn who they can trust and one decides to renege on the deal when it is much too late.

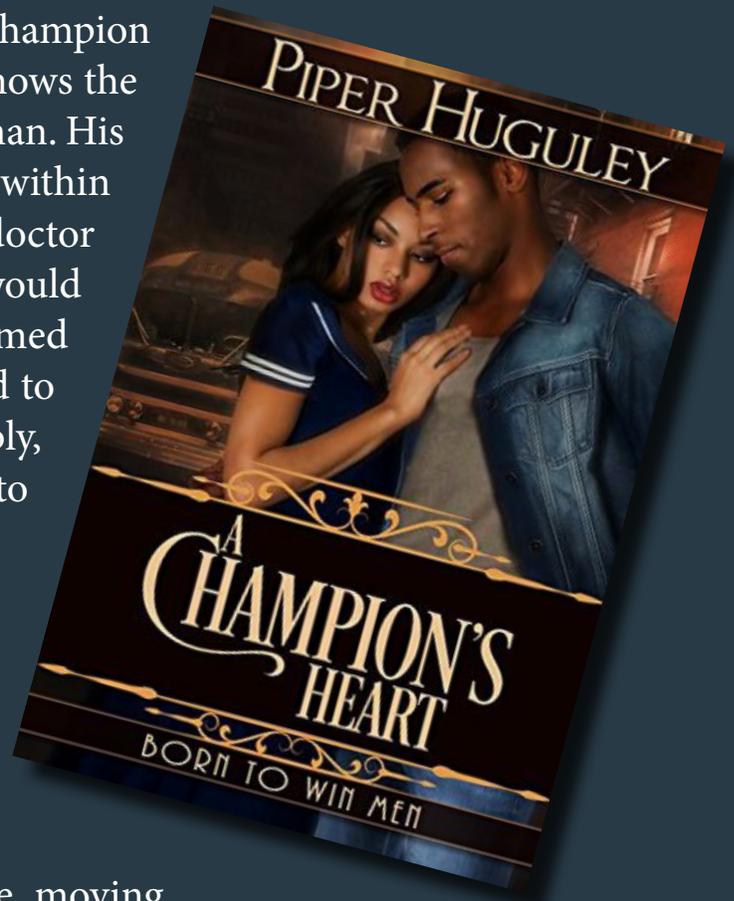
Donna Hill is known for sizzling romance, but this one was a different kind of heat. I was hooked from the very beginning, and the story line and the suspense woven into to the plot kept me guessing until the very end. Highly recommended.

Champion left Winslow, Georgia and his one true love, Cordelia “Delia” Bledsoe. Now Champion has an empty heart, a 60-2 record, but knows the real money is in boxing against a White man. His goal is to fight in at least one more match within a two-month period, but the fact that his doctor warns him that another hit to the face would be detrimental, complicates things. Armed with this knowledge, but still determined to have enough wealth to retire comfortably, Champion goes back to his home town to train.

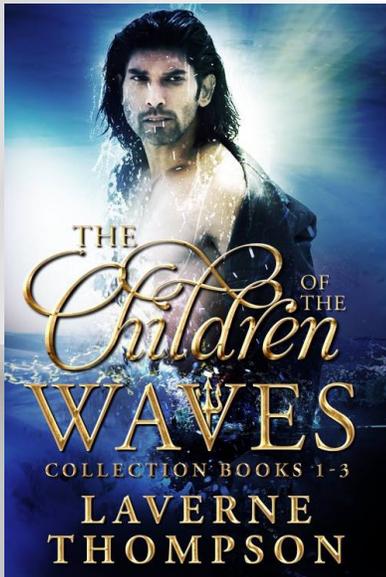
While there, he runs into the love he left behind seven years ago. Delia is now a local schoolteacher who has one child of her own to raise, plus has taken on the task of raising several abandoned former students. Since graduating college, moving back home to take care of her children, dying parents, and her sister, but longing for a type of love she had with Champion, life hasn't given her easy moments.

It's not too often that you want to knock some sense into the heroine while you're also rooting for the hero, but that's exactly the emotions that reading the story brought on. There were several times I wanted to shake Delia because of her stubbornness, but as a woman, I understand her wanting to avoid another heartbreak. Champion was a teenager when he handed her heart to her by breaking it into pieces, but he matured, gained sense and came back home to reclaim his one true love. This was an exciting read that was full of surprises. You will not be disappointed.

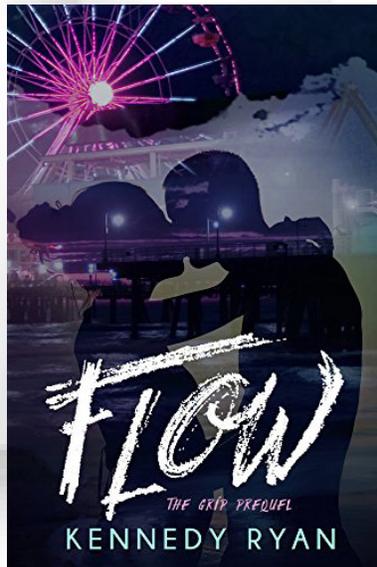
Shannan Harper is an avid reader and book lover turned blogger. She hails from Chicago and when she doesn't have her nose in a book, she's thinking about her next read.



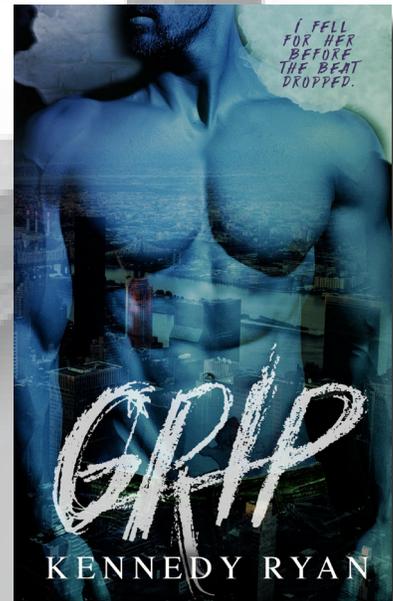
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Digital Box Set - 3 novels



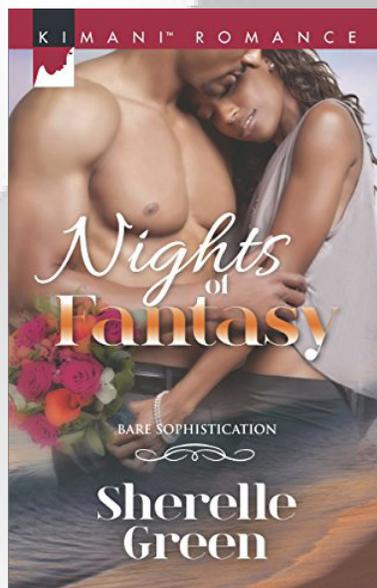
Free Prequel to Grip



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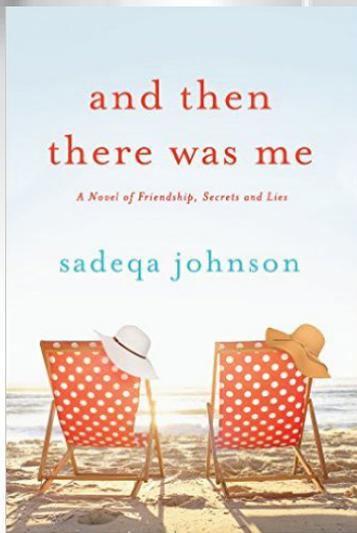


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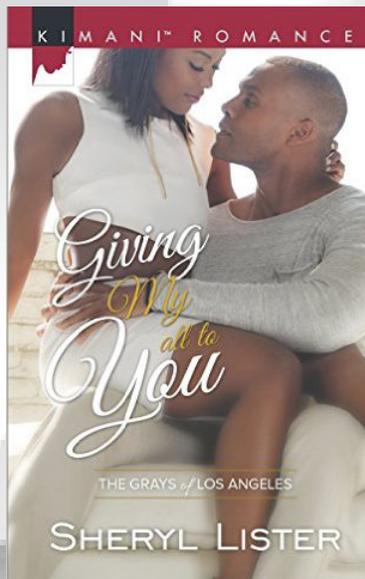


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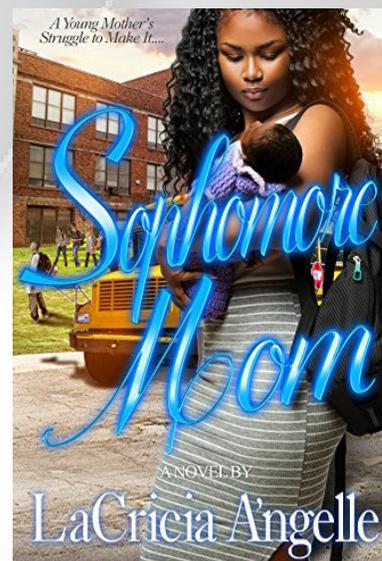
Have a new book releasing soon? Send a copy of the book to Naleighna Kai, 1507 E. 53rd Street, #858, Chicago, Illinois 60615 and email the cover image, blurb, one paragraph bio, and release date to harperscourt77@yahoo.com



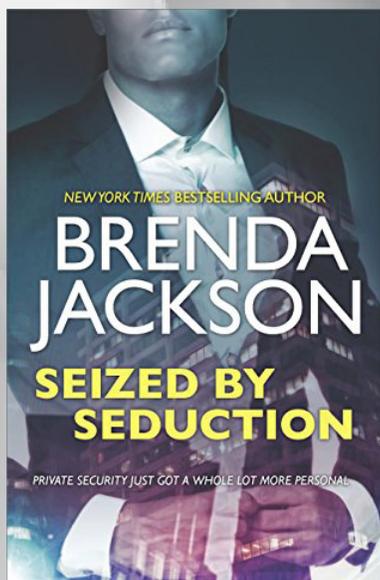
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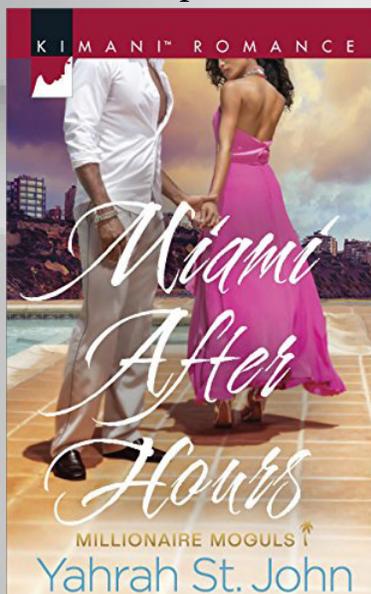
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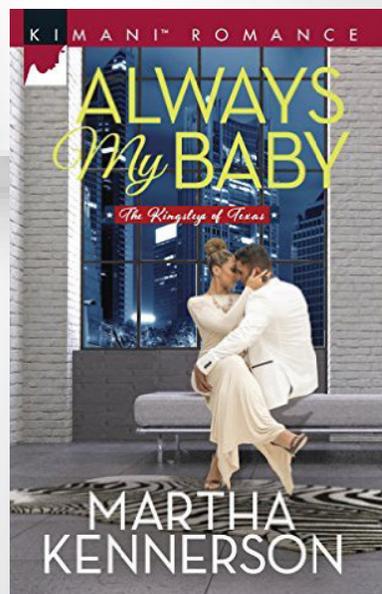
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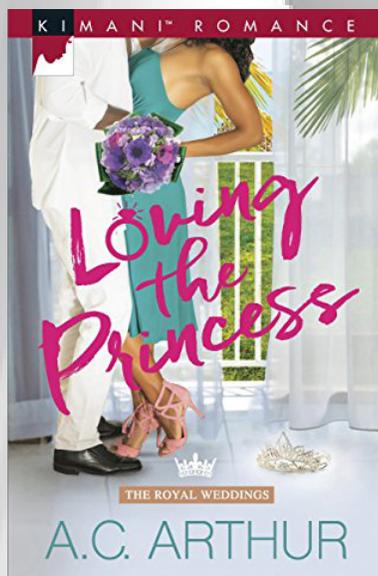
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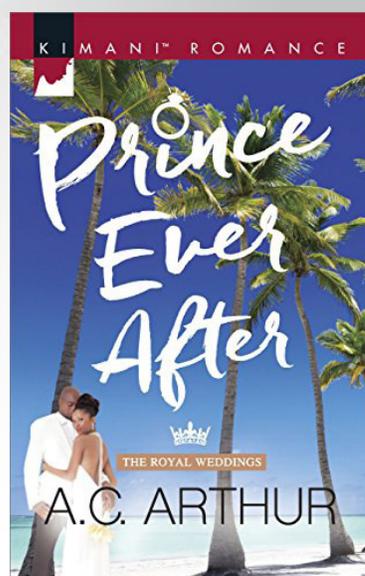
April 18



June 1



June 27



July 1

The Frost Zone

Jason Frost

Last Days of Ptolemy Grey is the story of a ninety-one year old Black man named Ptolemy. He has dementia ... of sorts. I'm sure most doctors would diagnose him as that, but I'm not as convinced. Seems to me this man had more life in his "last days" than most people do in their seventy-one point seven years on this planet.

Walter Mosley creates a beautiful story with some ... provoking people. Ptolemy is a walking, dying encyclopedia of his Black experience. And many others as well. The man is dying, he knows he's dying, and he's okay with him dying. What hurts him most is that his mind is going away. His remaining family is like the rest of ours; some good, some bad, some looking for a quick come up.

What happens, however, is what makes Walter Mosley one of the masters of this beloved craft. A mahogany beauty (Robyn) finds her way into the life of Ptolemy and she is one of the few bright lights to walk hand and hand with him in the end. While Robyn is his chaperone in "real life", the person that guides him is someone we never really meet.

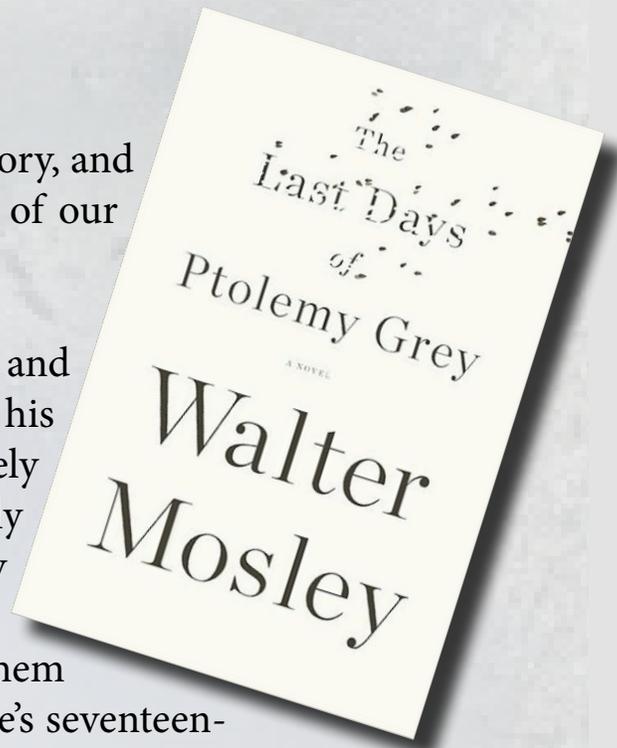
Leave it to Mr. Mosley to create a (ghost) character that is more powerful than the (live) characters. Coydog McCann is the character of whom I speak. He's a teacher, he's a guide, he's a mentor, and he's a friend. Together, Ptolemy and Coydog have a deep, deep friendship that borders on the strongest type of brotherly love. This bond grows stronger over the years and Coy needs Ptolemy to help him complete a mission of sorts when he dies, and Ptolemy needs Robyn to do the same.

To help with this Ptolemy chooses to be a guinea pig for an experimental drug that will help him be lucid his final days. In spite of his dementia, this man is far from crazy and the drug doesn't give him clarity... it sharpens it. The name he gives to the doctor is classic. As with all of Mosley's novels the surrounding cast is splendid. Every single one. Even Alfred. This man can not miss. Thank you Walter for yet another.

More about the novel . . .

A masterful, moving novel about age, memory, and family from one of the true literary icons of our time.

Ptolemy Grey is ninety-one years old and has been all but forgotten-by his family, his friends, even himself-as he sinks into a lonely dementia. His grand-nephew, Ptolemy's only connection to the outside world, was recently killed in a drive-by shooting, and Ptolemy is too suspicious of anyone else to allow them into his life. until he meets Robyn, his niece's seventeen-year-old lodger and the only one willing to take care of an old man at his grandnephew's funeral.



But Robyn will not tolerate Ptolemy's hermitlike existence. She challenges him to interact more with the world around him, and he grasps more firmly onto his disappearing consciousness. However, this new activity pushes Ptolemy into the fold of a doctor touting an experimental drug that guarantees Ptolemy won't live to see age ninety- two but that he'll spend his last days in feverish vigor and clarity. With his mind clear, what Ptolemy finds-in his own past, in his own apartment, and in the circumstances surrounding his grand-nephew's death-is shocking enough to spur an old man to action, and to ensure a legacy that no one will forget.



I'm a book lover. Period.

<http://rubiconreader-rubiconreader.blogspot.com>

Naleighna Kai's Chocolate Chats featuring

Donna Hill



NK: Donna, you were known for writing romance for so many years, what made you switch to writing *Getting Hers*, something with a darker edge? Where did the idea for putting random strangers together to solve each other's problems come from? That was genius.

Donna Hill: Quiet as its kept, I love mystery and suspense and always looking for a way to bring it to my own writing. I got the idea from watching Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train*. I put my own twist on it with women trapped in an elevator during the NYC blackout.

NK: You captured each woman so well that I felt that I knew and understood each one of them. I rooted for them and wanted them to succeed and actually didn't mind what happened to their enemies. That's major skill. Outside of the Hitchcock angle, how did you ensure that the novel had a spin that stayed true and original to your voice?

Donna Hill: My thought, I suppose, was that I could show that we, as African American authors, were not monolithic and could write whatever we wanted. I feel that whenever I write whatever it is, my voice will remain the same. I think that holds true for most writers. We can move in and out of genres and still stay true to our voice. You don't change as a writer, only the story.

Christine Pauls: *Getting Hers* was actually my first read by you. I liked that the women were of different ethnicities and backgrounds in *Getting Hers*. They all brought something to the table. With such longevity in this industry, how did it all start for you?

Donna Hill: I wrote my first novel in 1990. I actually started out writing short stories for the Confession magazines back in the late eighties. Then I moved to short stories.

NK: So from short stories, then to romance. You were one of the first authors picked up for Arabesque/BET books. What was the best thing you learned from being under their umbrella?

Donna Hill: Well, first and foremost that Black folks read books and were eager to see themselves on the covers and the pages. I realized that there were so many other authors like me that only needed an outlet for our stories. You have to remember that when I started the AA romance didn't really exist as it does now. It was uncharted territory.

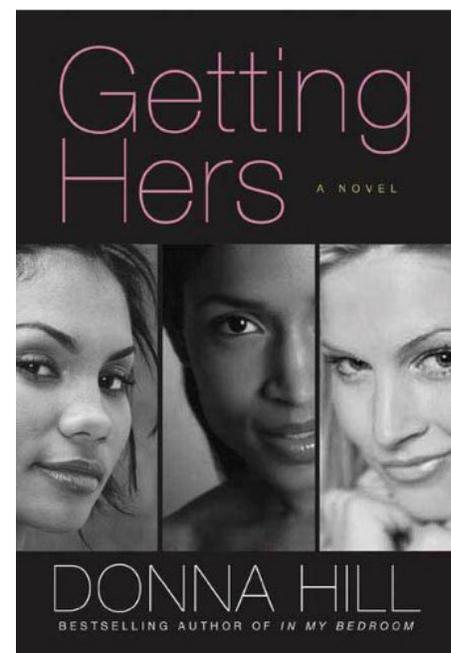
LaToya Hopkins-Kimbrough: Yes! My older sister, Lawanda, used to read Donna Hill's paperbacks when I was a teenager. I was so happy to read books with characters that looked and sounded like me. I grew up reading my mother's Jackie Collins, Danielle Steel, and VC Andrews. Your books, along with other Arabesque books, were like a whole new world for me.

Lawanda Metcalfe: I remember being a member of Arabesque book club where they send you 4 books a month by black authors. I loved them so much I would not read anything else.

NK: After focusing so long on Black Romance, was it your intent to appeal to a wider audience when writing this novel, or it was just a benefit of showcasing a multi-ethnic character base?

Donna Hill: I don't think I really thought about it as trying to cross over, but more about writing what I wanted to write at the time. That was the impetus for me.

NK: Did you intend for Wicked Ways to be part of the deal, or did that come after you saw the awesome reception to Getting hers?



Donna Hill: Good question. I had no intention of writing *Wicked Ways*. But the feedback from readers was so strong I felt compelled to do a follow up. But I knew it had to be strong, not a rehash, but to let readers know what happened to the women and that you must be careful what you wish for. :-)

Cerece Rennie Murphy: Fifty books later, do you still have the same love for the writing process as you did in the beginning? What, if anything, has changed for you? I have had the pleasure of meeting you several times over the last few years. You have always been generous and lovely. Thank you so much! It has meant a lot to me personally, as a writer.

Donna Hill: I definitely still have a love for writing! There is always a story brewing in my head. I am working on some new stuff, going in a new direction. *A House Divided* returns me back to women's fiction. And I have another project in the works *They Call This Place Here*--an epistolary novel.

Naleighna Kai: Did your background in the service industry with a focus on empowering women have any effect on how you crafted the characters in *Getting Hers*?

Donna Hill: Hmm, interesting question. I would have to say that the life we live and the experiences that we have find a way to filter into our work, mostly unconsciously.

NK: Could the women, in making that pact, blame it on the alcohol? What was it that drove them to move forward with things after they actually sobered up?

Donna Hill: The entire idea was one based on the notion that none of them knew what the other would do and there was a sense of security and safety in that knowledge.

Christine Pauls: Out of all the books you have written, are there any personal favorites?

Donna Hill: Favorites! that's a tough one. let's see *Rhythms* and its sequel *What Mother Never Told Me*, *An Ordinary Woman* and *In My Bedroom*. I also loved writing *DIVAS INC.*! (my homage to comedy). As for romances one of my all time favorites was *A Private Affair*! Quentin Parker makes a reappearance in my upcoming novel *Surrender to Me*. It's part of the *Lawsons of Louisiana* series. This time Rafe Lawson gets his story and Q is his best friend.

NK: With so much weight in your career being in romance, did you find, like readers who weren't a fan of mystery, that your fan base came with you on this mystery/suspense train?

Donna Hill: That was a risk I had to take. Again, I didn't want to focus too much on trying to satisfy everyone. That is impossible. But I felt if I could maintain my style and my voice, throw in a little romance and most of all tell a good story readers would come along for the ride. Getting Hers and Wicked Ways are not the only romantic suspense that I've written. Also there is Guilty Pleasures and Interlude. Most recently I contributed to an anthology Approaching Footsteps This is so cool. I have not done an online chat in ages! Thank you Naleighna Kai for inviting me and for all of you showing up. I deeply appreciate it. You are still the hardest working woman in Showbiz!!!!

Naleighna Kai: Thanks for the compliment, Donna. It was my pleasure. Could you post a way for readers to keep up with you and your books?

Donna Hill: Right here on FB. you can find me at [facebook.com/donnahillwriter](https://www.facebook.com/donnahillwriter) and please join my fan club [facebook.com/donnahillfans](https://www.facebook.com/donnahillfans)

Also visit Donna Hill online at www.donnahill.com

Well, good night all! thank you again for coming. Back to work for me. I feel my editor nipping at my heels. Happy reading!

If you've read *Getting Hers*, then keep the party going with *Wicked Ways*.

"A story rich with wickedly dark yet sparkling characters."
—LOLITA FILES, bestselling author, on *Guilty Pleasures*

DONNA HILL
NATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *GETTING HERS*
WICKED WAYS
A NOVEL



Remembering Francis Ray



*“She would actually blush when she had to read the sensual scenes in her book. Sometimes she couldn’t finish because she couldn’t look at the audience. I thought it was the sweetest thing. On the Wal*Mart Tour, when Dream Girls came on the screen, her arms went up and she swayed from side to side singing every tune.”*
—Naleighna Kai

“She was a kind and talented writer. I had the pleasure of interviewing her and she was so humble and down to earth. I remember her telling how she was still working as a school nurse and writing. Gone too soon for sure.” —Kisha Frazier

“I never met her but I love her books. I think she even sent me one that I was looking for and couldn’t find it.” — Jennifer Copeland

“Cavalcade Crimson Ball. I think 2010 at Navy Pier, Francis Ray, Donna Hill and Beverly Jenkins SB Moss and myself were eating lunch. Then we went back to the hotel to nap while everybody else went shopping.”—Laverne Aslam

“I never met her, but she was one of my first African American romance authors. I loved her books.”—LaToya Hopkins-Kimbrough

“She loved Pepsi and she would always scold me wanting to know who I killed off in my book!” —Donna Hill

“My fondest memories of Mrs. Francis Ray is that I had the opportunity to meet her and have my books signed by her at two events. She was such a nice lady and awesome book writer. I have had the opportunity to purchase all of her books.”
— Joyce M. Hudson

“I actually had a message from her daughter about spending time with my mom as she was passing away. She was very sweet and her words were consoling.”
—Anita Roseboro-Wade

“She was the nicest, sweetest, kindest lady! I met her and Donna Hill and Brenda Jackson at an event in Oakland back in the 90’s and then saw her again at RSJ in NYC in 2002! I have all of her books too! She is definitely one of my faves!!”
— Jessica Garrett

“I never had the opportunity to meet her, but her book, Incognito, was the first AA book I read and inspired me to write. I have had the opportunity to meet her daughter, Michelle, who is as sweet as they come.”—Sheryl Lister

“She had come to D.C. For a romance writer conference so I grabbed my girl and we caught the train uptown. I found her in the crowd and told her how much I loved her work. She said: let’s take a picture. So my daughter snapped and we smiled!”
—Candy Jackson

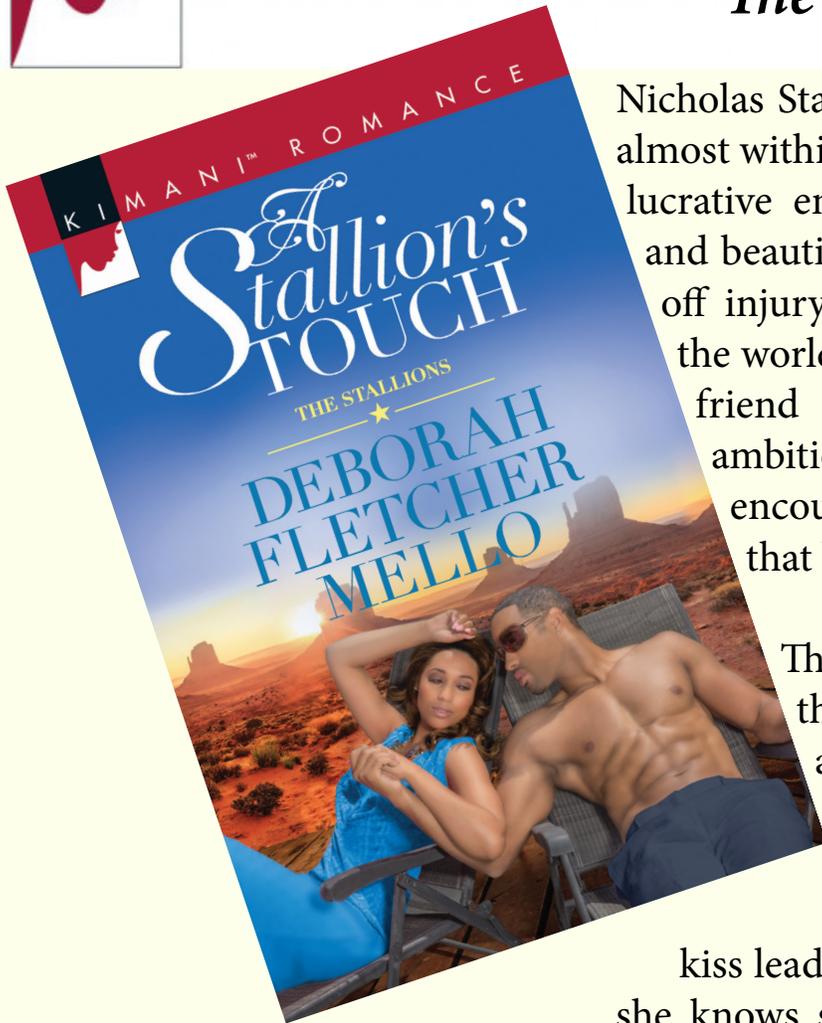
“I never had the pleasure of meeting her but her passing saddened me. I fell in love with her books, especially The Graysons and the Grayson Friends. It always hurts when a talented person has been silenced forever.”—Victoria Adams-Kennedy

“We were at the first Bayou Soul Writers and Readers Conference in New Orleans . I had the honor of escorting her and her daughter to and from the writers luncheon and to the Essence writers pavilion. I remember we were sitting in the back and I insisted that she go to the head table and she said, ‘Nope I’m gonna sit here eat, laugh and talk to you and these readers at this table.’ We had so much fun at that conference.”
—Kim Gotbooks Knight

“My fondest memory of her is when she was here in Chicago in June 2006 and was surprised that I owned all her books, even a first printing of Fallen Angel. She explained how their novels use to carry others on the covers.”—Rhea Alexis M. Banks

“I met Francis at RSJ 2002. I was just an aspiring author attending my first literary convention. I was like a kid in a candy store!! She was gracious, kind and gave some sage advice. Truly memorable woman.”—Lisa Watson

The sweetest medicine



Nicholas Stallion's championship dreams are almost within reach. The star quarterback has lucrative endorsement deals, A-list friends and beautiful women on call...until a play-off injury changes his life. He's angry at the world—and butting heads with family friend Dr. Tarah Boudreaux. Yet the ambitious neurosurgeon's unwavering encouragement sparks an intimacy that blindsides them both.

The Nicholas that Tarah met before the accident had wealth, fame and charm. All of that pales in comparison to the driven, determined man she's falling for now. And when a captivating first kiss leads to an intensely tender moment, she knows she's in way over her head. But with a jealous rival in the mix, Nicholas must be willing to make the ultimate play, or lose a love he had never dreamed of finding...

“This book touched my heart so much that at its conclusion, all I could do was sigh, shake my head, and put my hand over my heart. Kudos to Deborah Fletcher Mello for a beautiful story that highlighted the power of loving someone beyond their physical limitations, and also finding the strength to succeed despite workplace harassment. Awesome writing.” —Edwina Putney

K I M A N I TM R O M A N C E

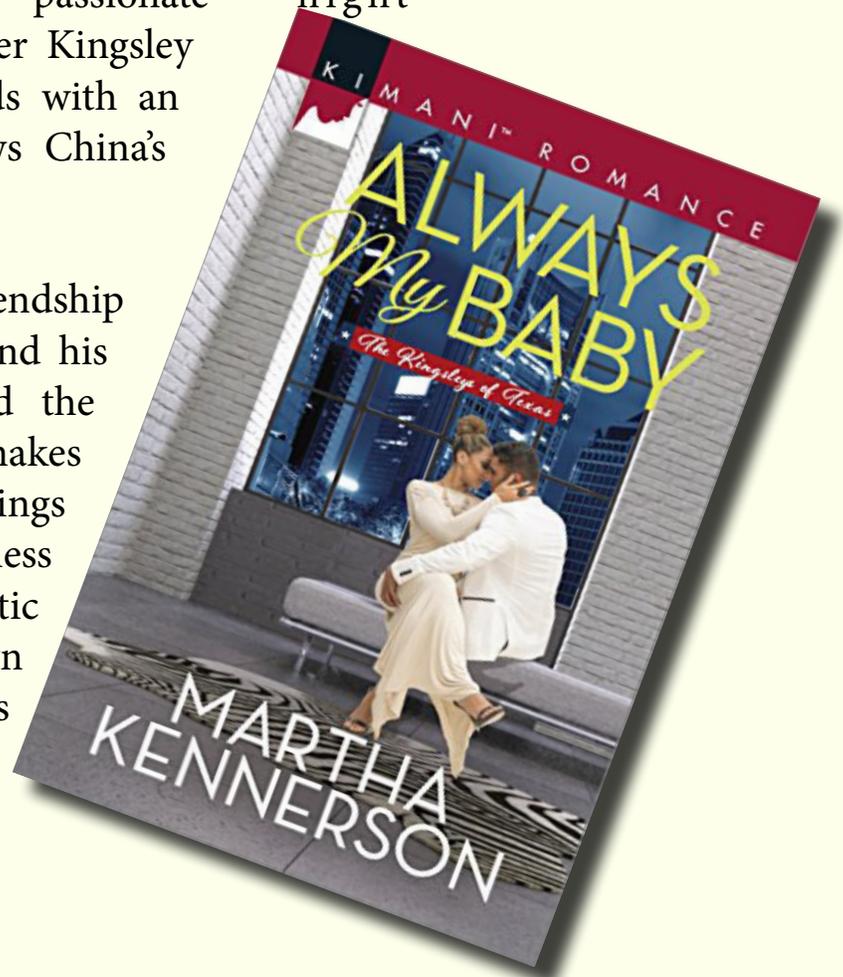
Presents the first in a new series by
national bestselling author

MARTHA KENNERSON

The sweetest surprise...

Ambitious environmental attorney China Edwards pursues every goal with drive and dedication. Having a baby is no different. No husband? No problem—she'll find the perfect donor. Then one spontaneous passionate night with bachelor executive Alexander Kingsley leaves these two longtime friends with an unanticipated benefit, and throws China's future plans into turmoil.

China's brilliant legal mind and friendship are indispensable to Alexander and his multibillion-dollar oil firm. And the possibility of her moving on makes him realize how deep his feelings actually run. Then their all-business relationship takes a wildly erotic detour...until Alexander is drawn into a company scandal that rocks his life. With trust in tatters, can an unplanned bundle of joy lead them to become the family they never expected?



WWW.MARTHAKENNERSON.COM

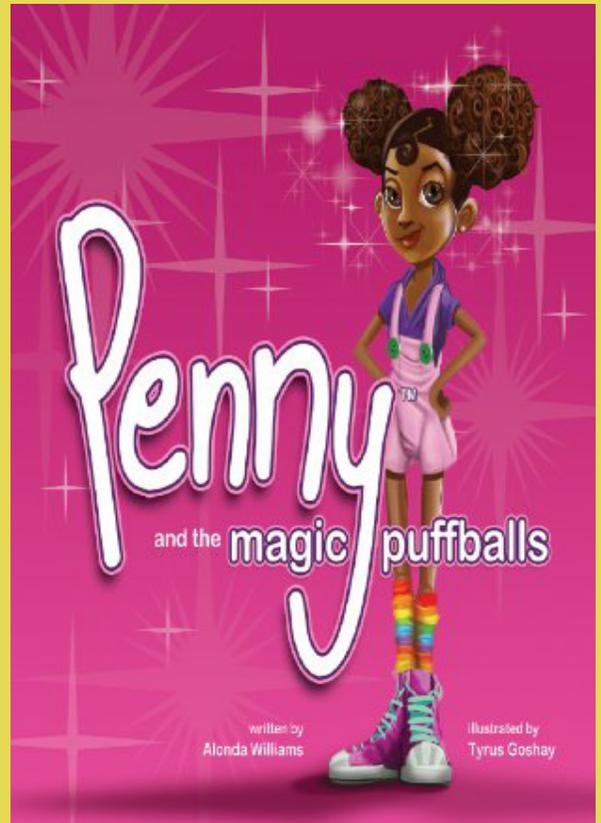


Our Future in Mind

picks by London St. Charles

Penny wanted to wear her hair down like all of the other girls in her class. She wondered why her friends had long straight hair and she did not. Feeling different made her feel sad. Penny's mom assures Penny that her hair is perfect and just because it is different it doesn't mean bad. She decides to style Penny's hair in Puffballs . Penny soon discovers that wonderful magical things happen when she wears her puffballs.

Through a series of whimsical adventures, the story reinforces the message of self-acceptance and celebrates diversity. The author's goal is to help instill a sense of pride in young girls who may feel singled out because of their hair. Join Penny on her magical adventures and watch as she discovers the power of her magic puffballs.



London St. Charles is an author whose debut contemporary fiction novel, *The Husband We Share*, releases in May 2017. Driven by wanting to be more present in her children's lives, she resigned from her successful sixteen-year career as a Pharmacy Technician, and opened a business as a Licensed Childcare Provider. She has found tremendous joy in securing a safe and loving environment for families seeking affordable childcare for their little ones, while being able to be available to her own family as well. She resides in the suburbs of Chicago with her loving husband and four children.

Good Habits Start Early

Early literacy creates life-long readers. I have read to my children everyday since the day they were born. My oldest daughter is seventeen and the youngest is nine, and I started a bedtime routine of reading to them when they were infants. I would cradle my baby and read softly, altering the tone of my voice to inflect what was happening in the story. Although the girls probably didn't understand what I was saying at the time, they heard the words that I repeated on many nights. As they became older, they began to repeat the words in their special "baby talk" as I would read to them. That was the very beginning of their vocabulary.

Then there was the stage from six months to a year, where they sat in my lap and were curious about the books I read from, trying to turn the pages, pointing to the pictures as I talked about a character (and of course trying to eat the books. I mean, nothing tastes better than colorful pages with pictures and words, right?). But what my girls eventually did was retell the stories on their own. They were excited about the books and knew what was coming next because they had memorized the stories.

In the toddler stage, the girls would pick the books they wanted me to read to them. Not only would I read the stories and point to the words while my girls sat on my lap, but I also asked questions about what they thought would happen next or if a character did something different, what the outcome would be. Their explanations were hilarious and it was amazing to hear their take on the story. Then other times, they would read the story to me, pointing to the words as they read. Some would be correct and the others would be made up, but either way, they read the story in their own words. They understood the story. Comprehension is an amazing thing.

As a Licensed Childcare Provider, I practice the same reading strategies with the children in my care. First, understand that children pick up on your vibes, good or bad, so being enthusiastic about reading to and with them is important. I buy cardboard books with cardboard pages for infants and younger toddlers because they enjoy turning the pages and looking at the pictures. Books with catchy hooks, rhymes, and short sentences are great for beginner readers. Good habits start young. The most important tool is to read at least twenty minutes everyday.

Be consistent, let the children pick out the books that interest them, and make reading fun.

Move Me No Mountain

by Greatest Poet Alive (G.P.A.)

**Move me no mountain
Still as the water in Winter
Unwavering like believers of a religion, respectively
Here my heart and I stand**

**So many questions asked
Same amount of answers returned
Doubts proposed with feminine fervor
Herculean effort rose to quell
What else is there?**

**You've went North and South
I've met you on East and West
Sometimes, you've hit me with Lefts
Thank goodness heart counters with Rights
Let's settle somewhere in the middle**

**You've been everywhere else
I, too, have been places similar
It has all led me here
Somehow, despite all, you've wound up here
We're where we are supposed to be,
So where are you going?**

James Gordon, whose stage name is G.P.A., is an international award-winning author and poet of Angelica's Box and other prose, including children's books. He can be found on Twitter at [gr8estpoetalive](#) and [www.iblowyourmind.net](#)

Move Me No Mountain

by Sierra Kay

The puddle trapped in the crevices of the sidewalk
grows stale without a breeze
It awaits the burning heat of the sun
To change its composition and give it wings to fly

The beat of my heart causes a physical expansion
That even the armor of my ribs can't contain
Forcing my mouth to open, my chest to rise and fall
Giving me life

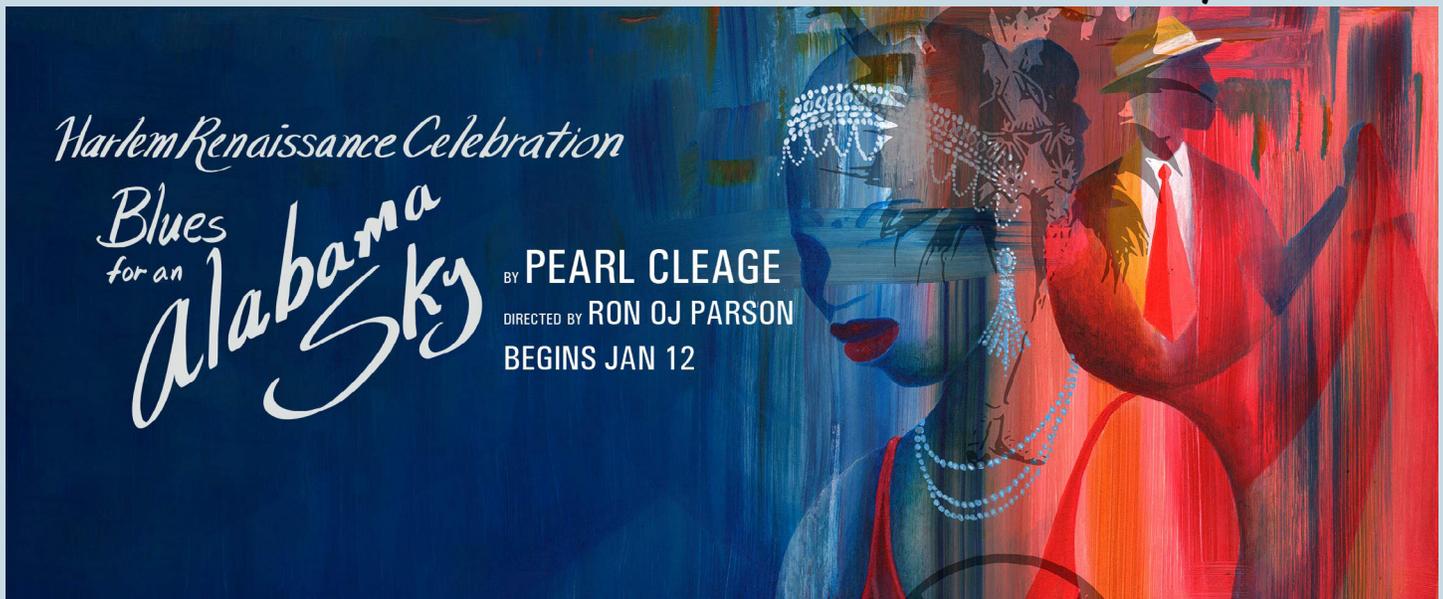
But the concept of settle, even the two syllables of the word
are like the door closing and latching on a glass cage
There is no air
I can't breathe

Beauty's DNA is imprinted on my soul
I was not born to bystand
I'm not done moving mountains
Beauty changes my composition until I'm uplifted
Floating, integrating into its snowflake tapestry

I don't stand; I fly.
Come with me.

Arts & Entertainment

Sierra Kay



Ever since I read, *I Wish I Had a Red Dress*, I wanted to be like Pearl Cleage. Now, I don't want to write like her in the way Melania Trump wanted to "write" like Michelle Obama. However, I wanted to be able to portray the same level of depth, realness, and humanity in my characters that she portrayed in hers.

So when *Blues for an Alabama Sky* came to the Court Theater during the Harlem Renaissance Celebration in Hyde Park, I was there. *Blues for an Alabama Sky* told the complex tale of survival during the Harlem Renaissance, where jobs were scarce and the toll for survival was sometimes your very soul.

Blues for An Alabama Sky details the lives of five friends living through the Harlem Renaissance. The bursts of freedom and creativity were tempered by darker topics like racism, sexism, and heterosexism. The complexity of the character development and direction were clearly matched by the talent of the actors themselves.



Arts & Entertainment continued

The genuine character portrayals transported me into the scene, time and space. I realized that I wasn't the only one mesmerized by the story when the main character asked her beau, "Are you going to be my lucky charm?"

He replied, "I'm going to be your man."

The whole audience reacted, "Hmmp." All of us. In concert. That's when I conceded—Pearl Cleage and Ron OJ Parsons had done it. They evoked a connection so strong that the audience audibly reacted.

During intermission, I struck up a conversation with a character next to me who we'll call Gil. He said, "I used to drink every night. Now I go to shows."

This man was a true patron of the arts. Or a theater addict. So I asked him what he thought about the play so far. His response, "It's imbalanced."

Slowly, scene after scene flashed through my mind. But, but this was Pearl Cleage.

Suddenly, I heard a slight noise. The noise turned into a crack and before I knew it, broken shards of my rose-colored, Pearl Cleage glasses sparkled on the floor. He was right. The characters' storylines in the first half were imbalanced. The first half of the show focused on three main characters – Angel (a down and out singer), Guy (her best friend and amazing clothing designer) and Leland (Angel's new beau and a carpenter). However, the story lines for the other two characters Sam (a doctor that loved to let the good times roll) and Delia (a woman on a mission to open a family planning clinic in



Harlem) were not nearly as strong or flushed out. As we moved through the second act, the story continued to unfold and level out to earn the sense of visual and audio symmetry that should have been present in the first half. Gil co-signed this fact after the show was over.

Sometimes, hopefully, more often than not, you'll find yourself on an emotionally authentic journey with a craftsman like Pearl Cleage. Sometimes, you are so invested you don't even care about flaws of any kind because you have bought into the characters and story so fully that you are commenting like your best girlfriend is talking instead of a full-on ensemble of talented actors and actresses.

I have watched plays where the time passed so slowly I wanted to jump up and say, "Man and Wife. Say, Man and Wife." (Blatant Princess Bride reference). That's not the kind of dribble that Pearl Cleage writes. She spins a tale so true that you accept that good and the bad because you have to acknowledge that what's perceived to some as "bad" was actually just right. She created it that way on purpose. She gave us rich characters so impressively experienced that I might actually follow the actors on social media.

Yes. It was that good. Thank you, Pearl Cleage and Director Ron OJ Parson for this gift of theater.



Sierra Kay has an M.A. in Writing from DePaul University, won a Nuyorican Poets Cafe Short Story Slam, participated in comedy fests as a member of the writing teams for Spankx and N20 Comedy. She also writes poetry and suspense novels. Obviously, she'll try anything at least once. Her two novels *From Behind the Curtain* and *In the Midst of Fire* are available online.

“This is one of the better books that I’ve read in a while. The book is full of character depth, development, and liveliness. The plot was thick and enticing, and the dialogue was great. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a good solid book to read.” --Brandon Wright IABook Reviews



Dee dropped out of high school the moment her mother’s battle with cancer took a downward spiral. She became the unlikely breadwinner in a house that had too much pain and not enough money. That also meant dealing with a transient father who struggled with addiction.

When Auntie M brought Dee to live in Atlanta, things were supposed to be better than life in the Chicago projects. In Atlanta, Dee had new clothes, a full fridge, and her own bedroom. She could finally have a future dictated by opportunity and not circumstance.

However, she soon realized that even this opportunity came with its own price. Something was off about the overdose of Pastor Clifton, her aunt’s best friend and secret love. And no one is questioning how the community’s leader end up slumped over his desk—dead?

Dee and her new friends begin to realize the problem didn’t begin and certainly doesn’t end with Pastor Clifton’s death. But in a church full of gossips, no one is saying a word.

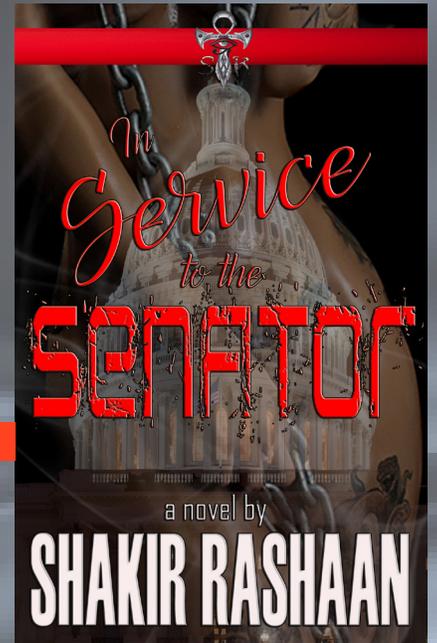
In Dee’s world, that level of power wasn’t unheard of. But here, in a world of saints it was difficult to distinguish the sinners and, more importantly, the mastermind who was manipulating everyone from behind the curtain.

www.sierrakay.com

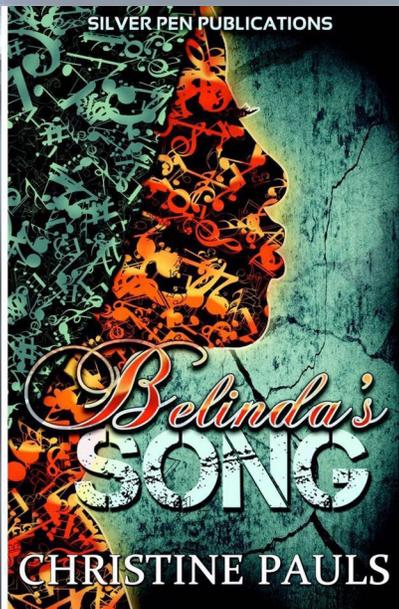
These wonderful authors graciously donated 3



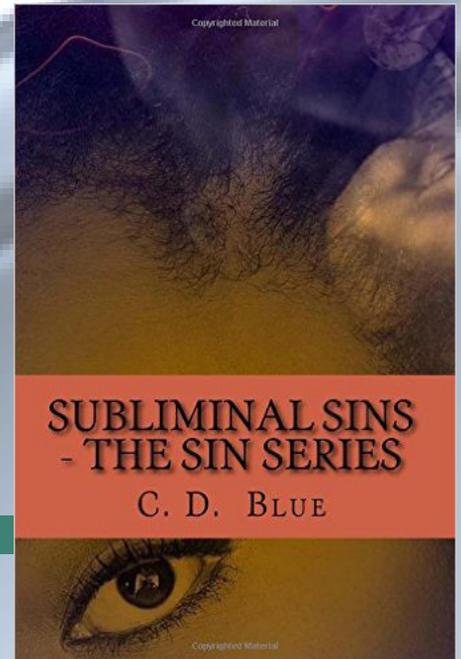
The unexpected kidnapping of a vice presidential nominee's wife takes him off the campaign trail, as the people taking credit for her abduction make an extraordinary demand in exchange for her life.



Angelia Vernon Menchan has penned a book with real girls and women involved in real issues and dilemmas, real Girl and Woman ... ish.

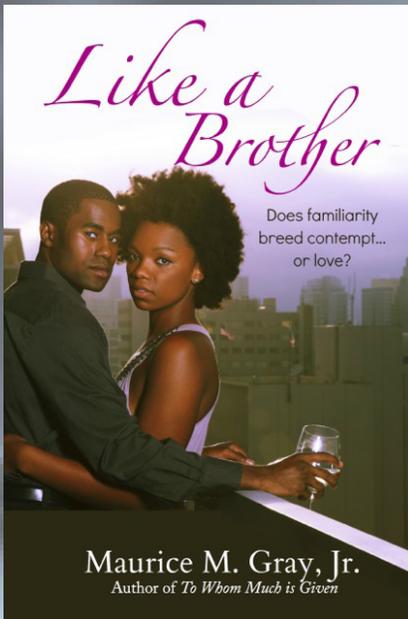


Years of trauma will live with Belinda Morris long after her childhood is over. Her journey in search of normalcy and peace is a winding road. Will she find it?



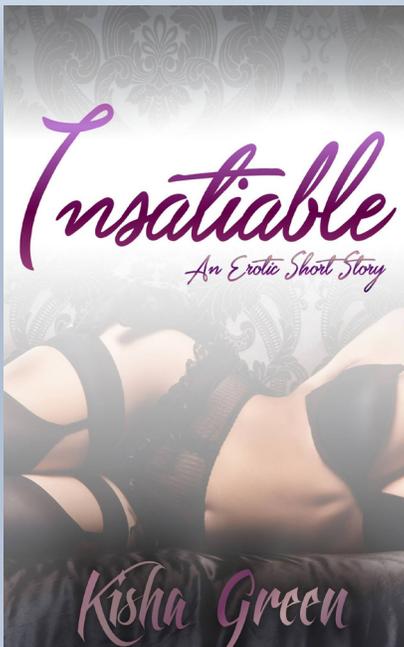
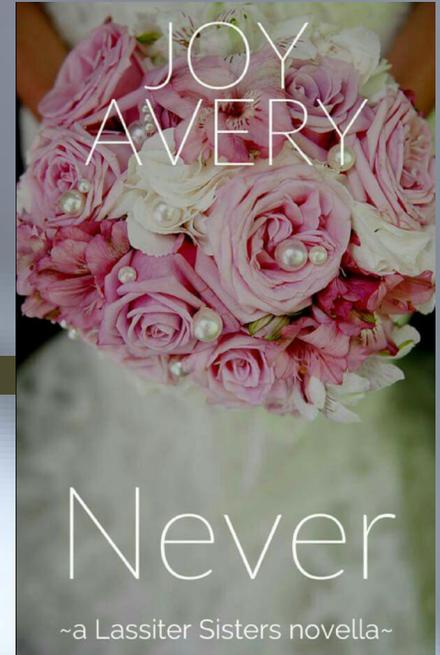
Sinful lust below the threshold of perception...

books to the opening contest for the magazine



Jeremiah McAllister has to break the bondage of his past in order to embrace a brighter future. He'd like that future to include Jenisse Anderson, but is she part of the solution or part of the problem?

Never say what love can't—or won't—do.



He wasn't looking for love. She was running from the pain. One encounter changed everything.

Many lust for an opportunity to enter the realms of Tarra's enticing world ... but how many will survive?



Turning Pages

Book Club



Turning Pages Book Club, located in the Northern California San Francisco Bay Area, was founded by Deborah Burton-Johnson and Taynay Matsumoto on August 9, 1998. TP is a group of people devoted to the love of reading, but we're no ordinary book club by book club standards. On the norm a book club is a group of people who have gather and discuss what they've read. We do that, plus so much more since we come together to talk, listen, agree, disagree, reflect, renew and ... eat! We love and respect one another and consider ourselves "A Working Bookclub".

Our club provides a fun and stimulating environment. In addition to socializing and discussing all types of literature, we support the writers of those works. We are productive in social events and contributors to charities local and nationwide. We host literary events, author visits, and attend many local events given by other book clubs. Each year we take a trip to support other literary events outside of the California area. Thus far, we've supported NBCC, The Chocolate Social, BEA, UCAAB and Cavalcade of Authors Tour. With so many wonderful events available, we plan to make our rounds to support them all.

Throughout our near nineteen years, members have come and gone. At present the membership is comprised of eight: Deborah Burton-Johnson, Sheryl Loftin-Booth, Charlie Kahn-Lomax, Raenette Sanders, Amelia Gordon-Wade, Viola Dyas, Alicia Wilkins and Charisse McWilliams. Members reside in Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Concord and Pittsburg.

We are more than just a book club we are family.

13TH ANNUAL CAVALCADE OF AUTHORS TOUR OF CHICAGO



The 13th Annual Cavalcade of Authors Chicago Tour Friday, October 13 to Sunday, October 15, 2017, is the ultimate literary event where readers and book clubs actually tour several areas, restaurants, and special attractions of Chicago with their favorite authors.

The event gives up close and personal time with favorite authors and the opportunity to meet new ones, partner up with them in a game of Spades or Bid Whist, learn some Chicago Style Stepping and line dances, watch performances that are sure to make you laugh, and enjoy late night intimate chats where the authors slip into their pajamas, let their hair down and discuss personal experiences they might not share anywhere else.

New York Times bestselling authors Brenda Jackson and Mary Monroe are joined by national bestselling authors Naleighna Kai, J. L. Woodson, Pat Simmons, along with Cerece Rennie Murphy, Bridgett Renay, Jo McEntee, Meredith Greenwood, Jessica Cage, MarZe' Scott, Evangeline Lacey, Sierra Kay, Pamela Arthur, Brenda White, GPA, Carrie Johnson, Phyllis Bridges and many others.

See the full line-up and itinerary at:

WWW.THECAVALCADEOFAUTHORS.COM

What's Your Color Story?

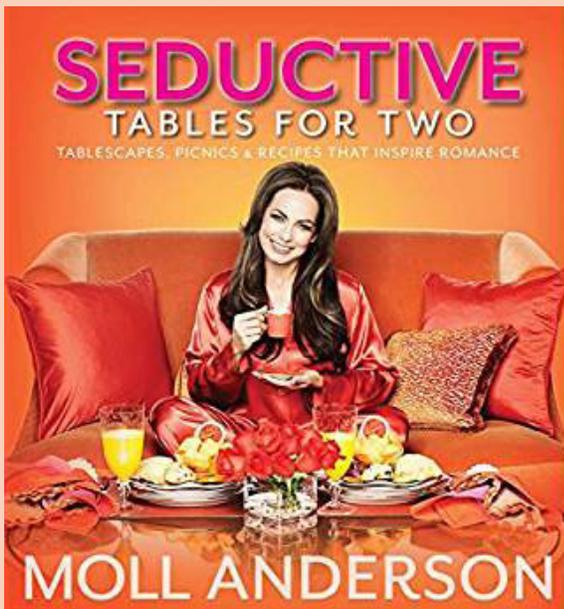
Moll Anderson

There is a reason we dream in color. Color speaks louder than words— it can not only brighten your home; it can brighten your life. Color can transform a room—your mood, your family, and even your well-being. Are you living life in color—or living in neutral?

In *Change Your Home, Change Your Life with Color*, life stylist and inspirational interior designer Moll Anderson adds the dimension of color to her commonsense design and lifestyle advice, helping you discover the amazing transformation that color can make in your home and life.

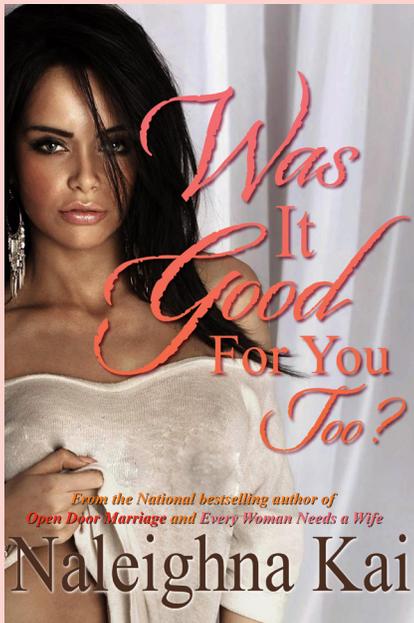
Our feelings about color are deeply rooted and emotionally based on our personal lives, and the powerful effect of color is most evident in our homes, where it impacts our moods, behaviors, and emotions. Understanding why you love and dislike certain colors is key to exploring your own personal color story, opening you up to embracing the colors that will renew, revamp, and revitalize your home and life. Just as *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* changed the way we think about the link between organization and joy, Moll introduces a whole new way of thinking about the link between color and mood.

Using vibrant, beautiful photographs, Moll highlights a fresh, modern approach to creating colorful spaces. Thirteen colors are featured in individual chapters, and each includes simple color solutions, fabulous “Pop of Color” additions, and Moll’s personal color lessons and stories from her designs and life. Guided journal pages will lead you on a journey to explore your own personal connections to color.



www.mollanderson.com

Excerpt from



“My husband has given me permission to sleep with you.”

Delvin’s left eyebrow shot up. A second later he was closing the front door behind Tailan as he said, “How generous of him to finally be fair about things. Especially since he’s the only one who’s taken advantage of this strange marriage of yours.”

“It’s not about being fair,” she said, her soft brown eyes filled with concern. “He only wants to make sure you’re out of my system. For good.”

Delvin pushed himself off the door and stood mere inches from her. “I’ll *never* be out of your system,” he said, his tone defiant. His finger stroked across her chin, pressed a gentle kiss to her lips eliciting an all too common response—a shiver of pleasure and anticipation. “I was your first love. I was supposed to be your husband. No matter what came between us, you still belong to me.”

Tailan gasped as she stepped back. “I belong with him.”

Delvin’s lips lifted at the corners. He pressed closer, letting her feel the massive erection growing in his jeans.

Tailan tried to break free but only succeeded in creating the most shivering friction down below. “Delvin, don’t make this so difficult for me,” she said in a breathy whisper. “I understand your reasons for marrying our surrogate. She threatened to terminate our child, and that was way past cruel.” Tailan’s eyes glazed with unshed tears. “But the fact is ... we could have had other children. And only now--seven years later--are you realizing what you truly wanted ... was me.”

The tip of his tongue swiped across her lips. Tailan nearly pulled it into her mouth.

“I will forever be haunted by that mistake,” he whispered. “I paid for it with an unhappy life, but I want you to realize that your husband will always come second.”

“See, that’s where you’re wrong,” she replied and finally freed herself from his grasp. She lowered onto the leather sofa and said, “I never have to wonder who loved me more;

the man who was hurting over the recent death of his wife, but still found a small corner of his heart for me. Or the man who threw me away.”

A vein throbbed at Delvin’s temple. His mind fired up with several scenarios. The need for her was overwhelming. His skin was ready to scream, his erection was on the verge of busting the zipper of his jeans. Delvin witnessed the flash of desire in her eyes and saw a way to get what his body was dying for. He dropped to his knees, slowly inched up the flimsy skirt and pressed his lips to her thigh, while cupping her buttocks within his massive hands. Tailan let out a low, breathy moan, all while trying to put some distance between them. He kept her locked in place as he parted her thighs ...

She took a deep breath and pushed him away.

“What kind of game are you playing, Tai?” he said through his teeth.

“There’s a condition,” she said.

“Condition?” Delvin repeated. “A condition for what?”

“For being with you.”

He released her, standing so their gazes met.

Tailan grimaced before she spit out, “Amir wants to watch.”

Delvin’s erection did a complete nose dive. He peered at her, taking in the solemn expression. “What. Did. You. Say?”

“Amir’s one stipulation to my having you as a lover, is that he gets to watch us making love.”

“Oh, so I did hear it right,” he snapped, glaring at her. “What kind of sick, twisted—”

“Not sick. He’s seeking to prove a point.”

Delvin knew that she still loved him, wanted him. And this relationship of hers--a polyamorous marriage--gave him the perfect avenue to make her totally his again. And then, the moment he had her back, he wasn’t going to share his woman with anyone.

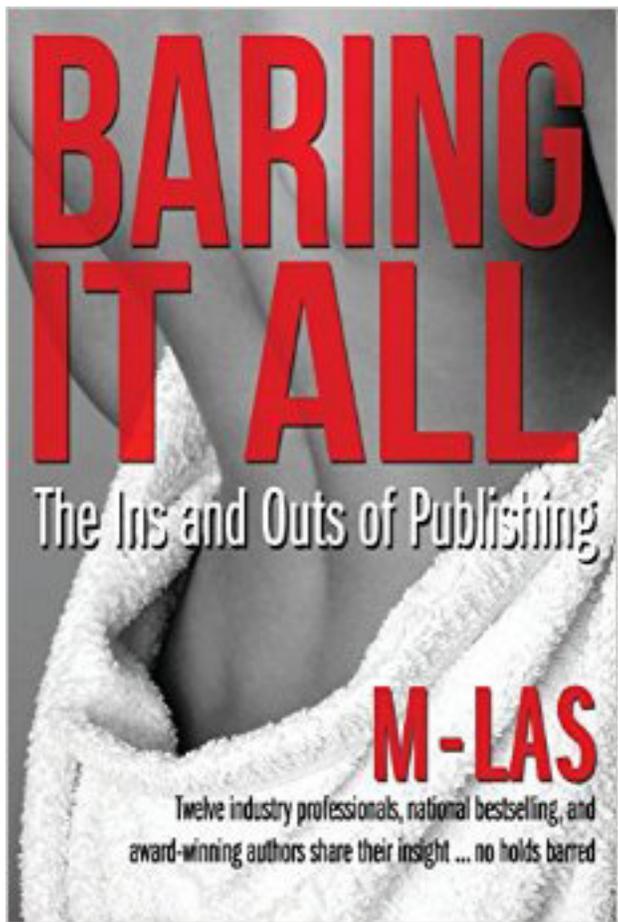
“Suppose I don’t want to play his foolish game?”

“Your loss,” she said in a matter-of-fact tone that caused him to bristle. “Because unlike you, I have a marriage that provides everything I need. Including the option to take a lover. You,” she said in a voice that was husky with promise. “You would be my first ... and you’ll be my only.”

“Your only?” he shot back, giving her a sly smile. “Count on it. And when your husband hears you screaming my name, he’ll know it, too.”



Photo Credit:
Pete Stenberg Photography
Cover designed by
J. L. Woodson for
Woodson Creative Studio



Outstanding!!!

First chapter, I totally related to Janice Patrick Pernell. I laughed because I realized there isn't anything wrong with me, regarding how some authors can work in silence or noise, and quickly pump out 30,000 words, while she may only have a couple of paragraphs after a few hours. I'm just like that.

The book is entertaining and definitely educational. There is so much we don't know as far as writing and publishing. This literary field is not easy. But, these

awesome professionals and authors are sharing some valuable information and encouraging us to realize we can do this if we are passionate and put in the work I admit, this book has energized me in a way that I can't explain, and I'm not giving up. I'm dusting off my manuscript and going back to the drawing board!

This book is a must-read people. If you are new to this, old to this, or aspiring to this, you need this book. Bravo to all that have played a part in this important piece of literary history.

Review by Christine Pauls, author of *To Begin Again*

***In Baring it All: The Ins and Outs of Publishing*, twelve industry professionals, national bestselling and award-winning authors share their insight . . . no holds barred.**



30 Minutes with . . .

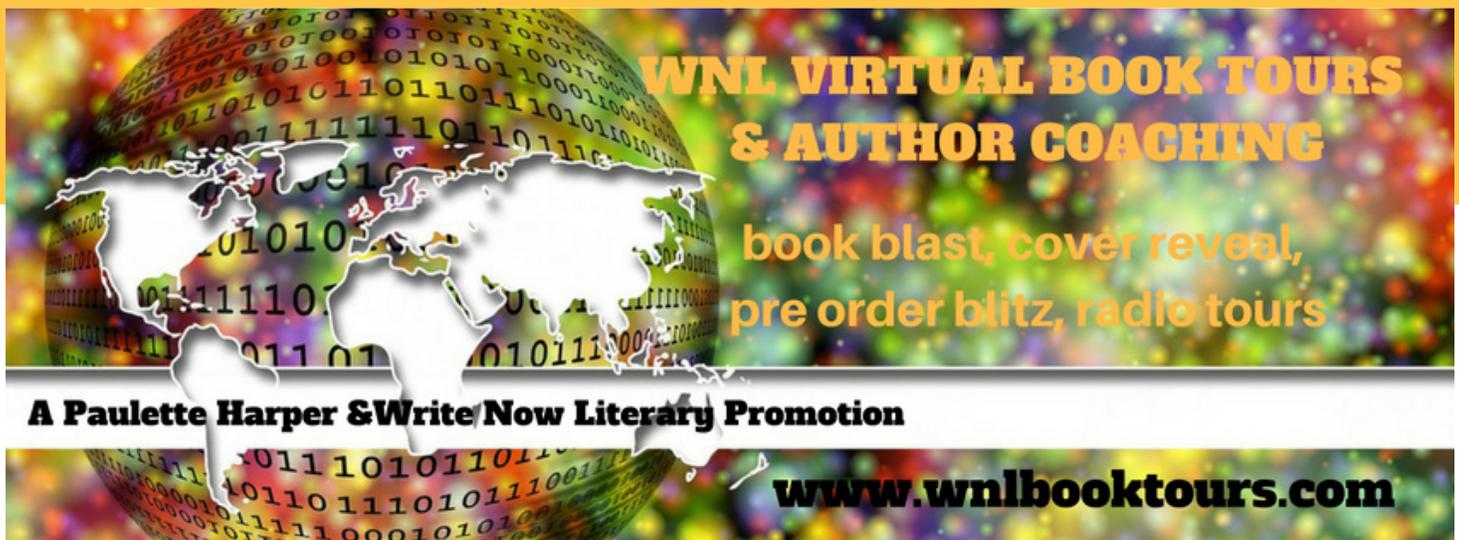
Sunday Telephone Conferences
with your favorite authors
to help inspire, inform and
provide insight into writing
and the publishing industry

Cerece Rennie Murphy
Kimberla Lawson Roby
Naleighna Kai
J. D. Mason
Parry EbonySatin Brown
Farrah Rochon
Deborah Mello
Shakir Rashaan



complete schedule is posted in
Naleighna Kai's Literary Cafe
(an online FaceBook Group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mmpg2/>



What is a Virtual Book / Blog Tour?

Virtual book tours feature authors promoting books by making guest appearances during a set time frame on blogs, podcasts, radio shows, social networks, or other venues. The author goes from blog to blog sharing information about their books. A virtual book tour is a popular book marketing tactic because authors reach their book's target audience through online conversations, reviews, guest post and book excerpts that can lead to sales—all without leaving your home.

Tours are often done as part of the launch of a new book, but they can be successful any time after the book is published. They are just as effective for fiction and nonfiction books — only the venues and the type of content will vary.

1. You select the duration of your tour. That depends on your budget and the amount of time you want to be on tour. We have packages from three-day to two months and everything in between.
2. During the time of your tour, you will be interviewed, write guest posts featuring an aspect of your book, have your book spotlighted or reviewed, at one of the many blogs we set up for you that are geared toward your book or author platform.
3. Your tour becomes perpetual because as long as the blog host keeps your interview, guest post, book spotlight or review live in their archives, you will continue to benefit long after your tour is over. Your online exposure will be tremendous. Our goal is to reach the online buyers and increase your reader base.

Benefits of a VBT

Why Authors Should Do a Virtual Book Tour?

The benefits of a virtual book tour is to enhance the author's platform and reputation through increased online exposure, drive traffic to the author's website, build relationships with key influencers, and potentially sell books immediately and in the future.

- A virtual tour offers a number of advantages over traditional book tours where authors make appearances at bookstores or other venues in several cities.
- Bloggers love great content- Developing great content derives from your book. Choose themes central to your book to write about.
- Types of content included with tour-- guest post, reviews from bloggers, book excerpts, podcasts, video interviews, blogger hosted contest where you offer your book as a prize, topical written post, interviews, get to know the author, playlist, character interviews.

That content could include: your writing journey, writing tips, marketing, you can write something that ties your book into the content (for instance my first book (non-fiction) I took one on the chapters and built content around it, submitted it to different online magazines. Take concepts from your book and write guest post.

- Authors can reach far more people and a more targeted audience with a virtual tour.
- The virtual tour provides quality, lasting links to the author's website. These links have search engine optimization value and may continue to provide new visitors to the author's website for months or years to come.
- Authors can conduct a virtual tour from comfort of home.
- Author can get reviews.
- Author can show off their expertise.
- Bloggers have high visibility of traffic on their blogs and they help promote the author.

The author will have the opportunity to expose their book, their writing style and voice to the audience of the blogger.

Keep in mind technology is a tool. What I do for my clients is utilize the tool for them, to bring readers to them. We have to use all the available avenues to reach our audience. Blogging is big business, content is wanted and exposure is there. I have taken the work out of your hands and done it for you.

Resources for Aspiring Writers and Published Authors

Cover Design:

J. L. Woodson
Woodson Creative Studio
jlwoodson1@gmail.com



Editors

Lissa Woodson/Naleighna Kai
Developmental Editor
lissawoodson@aol.com

Marketing & Promotion

Ella D. Curry
www.edc-creations.com

Urban Reviews
www.urbanreviewsonline.com

King Brooks
Black PageTurners

Pam Williams
www.pageturner.net

Troy Williams
www.aalbc.com

Strawberry-Lit Magazine
www.strawberrylitmagazine.com

LaShaunda Hoffman
www.sormag.com

Interior Design

Naleighna Kai
www.naleighnakai.com

Children's Book Illustrator

Gregory Garay
www.visualverbosity.net

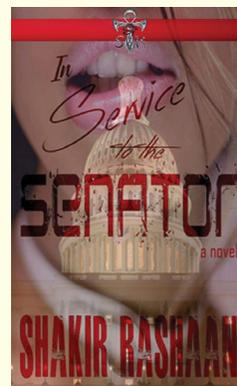
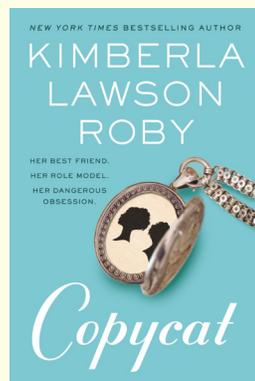
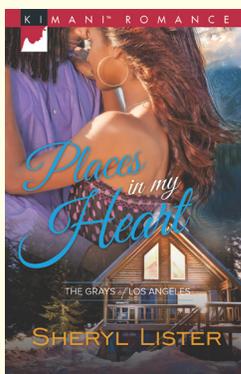
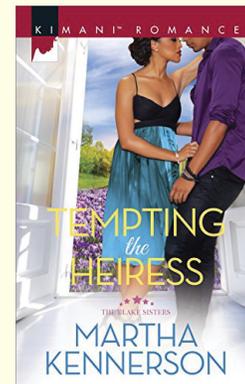
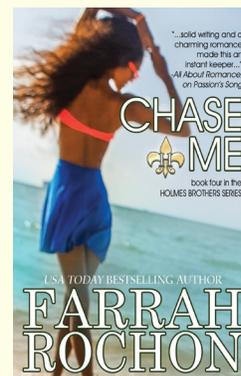
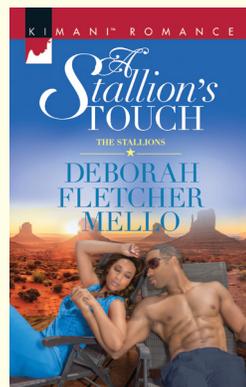
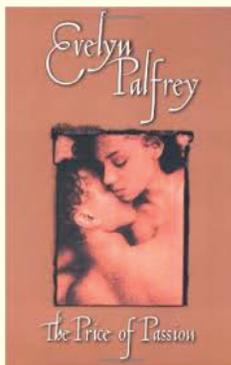
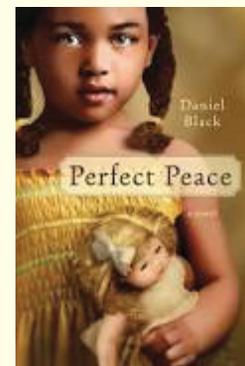
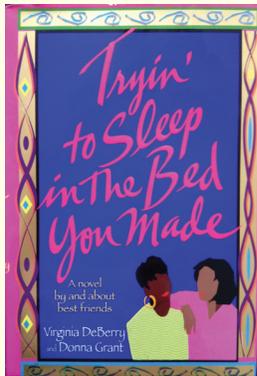
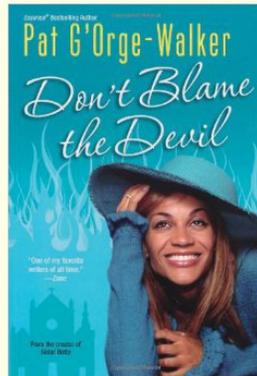
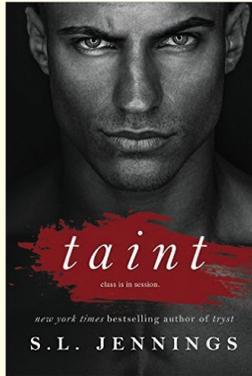
Artist

Anna Dittman
annadittmann.com

Publishing Consultant/Editor

Joylynn M. Ross
Path To Publishing
www.squareup.com/market/writings-by-joy

Naleighna Kai's *Chocolate Chats*



all Chocolate Chats
take place
online in Naleighna Kai's
Literary Cafe (Face Book)
Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. CST
Sundays 5-6 p.m. CST



2017 Literary Events

March 22-25, 2017

Romance Slam Jam Convention
Los Angeles, California

April 22-23, 2017

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
University of Southern California
Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

May 2 - 7, 2017

RT Booklovers Convention
800 Authors in all genres
Atlanta, Georgia
www.rtconvention.com

RT Event Date: Wednesday,
May 3, 2017 * 4pm – 5pm

Butterscotch and Chocolate – Reader
event hosted by

Naleighna Kai, Kayce Lassiter,
Cheyenne McCray, and many others

RT Event Date: Thursday, May 4, 2017

1:30pm – 2:30pm

I Got Nothing: Ignite the Muse (Panel)
Speaker(s): Naleighna Kai, Kayce Lassiter,
Lora Leigh, Cheyenne McCray, and
Tee O'Fallon

RT Event Date: Friday, May 5, 2017

10am – 11am

Baring It All: Authors Unleashed
Host(s): Naleighna Kai

RT Convention Giant Book Fair - May 6

11:00am to 2:00pm

Social Event Giant Book Fair
(Free to anyone showing a
library card at the door)

June 17

Great Midwest Book Fest
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 2-4, 2017

Go On Girl! Book Club Annual Awards Loews
Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

RT BOOKLOVERS CONVENTION 2017



May 31 to June 2, 2017

Book Expo America
Javitz Center, New York, New York

June 3-4, 2017

BookCon
Javitz Center, New York, New York

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Black Pack Party
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
New York, New York

July 15, 2017

Harlem Book Fair
West 135th Street, Harlem, New York
Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

July 27, 2017

EDC Creations - Chocolate Social
Atlanta, Georgia

July 28-30, 2017

National Book Club Conference
Atlanta, Georgia
Loews Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

October 5-7, 2017

A Reading Warriors Retreat
Building Relationships Around Books
Arlington, DC 22202

October 13-14, 2017

Black Authors & Readers Rock Weekend
The Comfort Inn of Bowie, Bowie,
Maryland

October 13-15, 2017

The Cavalcade of Authors
featuring
New York Times Bestselling Authors:
Brenda Jackson
Mary Monroe
Chicago, Illinois
www.thecavalcadeofauthors.com

October 26-29, 2017

Christian Book Lover's Retreat
Charlotte, North Carolina

Naleighna Kai's
Chocolate Chats

featuring

S. L. Jennings

Sunday, March 5

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. CST



Naleighna Kai's
Chocolate Chats

featuring

Pat G'orge Walker

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. CST

online in FB Naleighna Kai's Literary Cafe



Naleighna Kai's
Chocolate Chats

featuring

Brenda L. Thomas

Sunday, March 12

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. CST

online in Naleighna Kai's Literary Cafe



Naleighna Kai's
Chocolate Chats

featuring

MARISSA MONTEILH

Tuesday, March 14

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. CST

online in Naleighna Kai's Literary Cafe

