



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY KWANZAA!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Gifting myself an early Christmas by releasing this quarter's newsletter so I can focus on the holiday and family.

MY MANTRA FOR 2026: *"Live **L.I.F.E.**, but do not Live In Fear and Envy!"*

Disregard and discard fake and flashy! With a desire to do better, this country, its citizens and non-citizens, can be respectful and respected again. Prayers lifted for compassion, love, empathy, integrity and understanding will be answered.

As we celebrate this holiday season, may you be blessed with family, not limited to blood; friends, old and new; and community, global. Our world is small and getting smaller every day. We are all connected, whether we want to be or not.

MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

How I Got Here! has morphed back to its original title consideration, ***I Laugh, I Joke, But I Don't Play!*** Filled with memories and moments, it has taken on a life of its own! Being published is not a given, but the writing process, which is

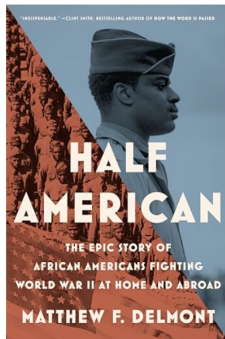
far from completion, has been and continues to be cathartic.

WHAT THIS AUTHOR READS!



I have become an audiobook convert. I love holding and flipping pages of a book. I love underlining, highlighting and writing notes in margins, but carrying a book around is not always feasible. It has taken a while, but I have finally embraced audiobooks!

Started reading *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray. A LOT was learned from this historical fiction. Jesse Redmond Faucet was familiar, but I was unaware of the depth of her contributions to our history. Ms. Murray has the gift of breathing life into her historical characters bringing forth relatable qualities, some endearing and some not. Definitely glad I decided to switch to Audible, rather than reading, because Robin Miles does an excellent job expressing the subtle nuances of Murray's conversational novel.



"Everything happens for a reason!" Of the many books I could have read after *Harlem Rhapsody*, I chose *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*. A non-fiction by Matthew F. Delmont, *Half American* sheds light on familiar and unfamiliar names of Black men and women. This was an emotional book to read. I was aware that many *Negro* soldiers were assaulted, lynched, and burned while still in uniform upon returning to AmeriKKKa after fighting for the freedom of others. *Half American* identifies and provides graphic first-hand accounts of pervasive racist attitudes of AmeriKKKans, including commanding officers and elected officials. AmeriKKKa's racist history was very much prevalent in World War II when Black American soldiers were fighting the Double Victory or Double V Campaign -- victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home. Often angered and on the verge of tears, I completed *Half American*, on Audible.

NOTE: 45/47 is pushing for the erasure and downplay of achievements and

contributions of many non-whites, including but not limited to legends Jackie Robinson, Navajo Code Talkers, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Harlem Hellfighters, Tuskegee Airmen, etc.

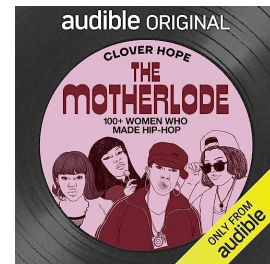
It was my choice to use AmeriKKKa and AmeriKKKans in lieu of America and Americans. *We cannot, we will not, go back!*

not my 'AMERICA'

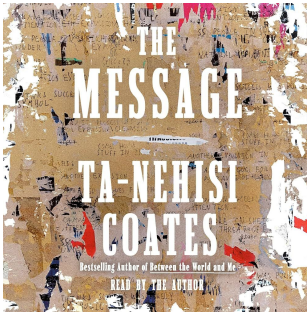
My country, could it be?
Sweet land of liberty,
But not for me!
Land where many fathers died
Land where many families cried
For every neck noose tied
Letting "strange fruit" swing

from *What I Know ... Poems of Life* ©2009

Happened upon *The Motherlode* on Audible. This was an interesting listen. I had not heard of 98.9% of the female rappers mentioned, but discovered the origins and backgrounds of many well-known names of today, including American filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer Ava Duvernay who rapped in the early 1990s as MC Eve, one-half of hip-hop duo *Figures of Speech*. Also, there was a narrator whose voice I recognized and was identified as Janelle James; it was "Ava" from "Abbott Elementary." *Though identified as the narrator; I did not recognize her government name. But, I knew that voice!* TRUTH: I struggled to finish listening to *The Motherlode*; its content contains a lot of profanity as well as hardcore and graphic lyrics. Not ashamed to admit that I did some fast-forwarding.



The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates was another listen through Audible. **CONFESSION:** I am not knowledgeable about world events. I chose *The Message* because of the author, not because of a recommendation or prior knowledge of its content.



My takeaway were the similarities shared and experienced by oppressed regardless of time and circumstances. Coates breaks down the current events of Gaza. Through his travels he witnessed and comprehended the history of Palestinians being pushed out by Israelite Jews. In listening to his observations, experiences and revelations, I acknowledge the erasure and rewriting of history by transgressors and conquerors is global as are the ruthless atrocities commonly practiced against those targeted for enslavement, extraction and/or extinction. Sadly, many times, perpetrators of atrocities were once victims themselves, but fail to see the correlation and outcome of their own actions.

PODCAST

Multi-tasking with technology is fun! While driving recently, I was thoroughly entertained by a podcast of **IMO with Michelle Obama and Craig Robinson**. The podcast was titled "**KATT WILLIAMS and The Many, Incredible, Unbelievable Lives He's Lived.**" There were moments of laughter and moments of **Are you serious?** My characterization of Katt Williams, the entertainer, is 180° from the man I heard on the podcast. Katt Williams spoke deliberately and seemed to take his time in contemplating outcomes and effects of his life's choices.



THANK YOU Katt Williams! Because of life experiences shared and opportunities grasped by you, I will no longer avoid opportunities to speak publicly! I will learn to embrace my nervousness and overcome my fears!

REMEMBERING "OUR" HISTORY!

"OUR," as in people of African descent; remember, AmeriKKKa's "one-drop rule!" "WE" share ancestry of the "dark continent" and exist everywhere! "WE" are global! "WE" have made history and continue to be history-makers, which 45/47 and his ilk wish eradicated and forgotten. "WE" are resilient and have survived far worst

Next spring, in London, a Blue Plaque honoring Bill Richmond of New York and

Tom Molyneux of Virginia will be installed at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. This is a BIG DEAL and holds significance as I experienced the inaugural Black Diaspora Tour of London conducted by Tony Warner earlier this year. We were challenged to discover Blue Plaques on our daily walks. We walked through Trafalgar Square during a protest of the monarchy and toured the National Gallery where we were challenged to find Black representation in artwork.

Like AmeriKKKa, London is rich with little known and hidden Black history. Want to assist with honoring "OUR" history in London, click [here](#), read about Richmond and Molyneux; let your heart and head be your guide.

AN ASK!

If you or anyone you know has read any of my books of poetry, please take a few minutes and write a [review](#) ... good, bad, or indifferent ... preferably good, but honesty is appreciated. Reviews increase visibility and ratings!

THANK YOU!

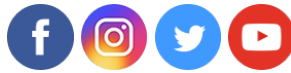
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