



Going forward, it will be my intent to keep newsletters brief. If there is a question or desire for more detail / informaion about anything, please feel free to [contact me](#).

INAUGURAL BLACK LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Last month, I was one of several Black authors representing multiple genres of literature -- self help, thriller, inspirational, poetry, children's, etc. In spite of the competition with college football games and other fall activities, the inaugural festival was well attended. Below are the other authors who participated in this inaugural offering.



JAMES HARRIS is a licensed therapist in Virginia and the organizer of the Black Literature Festival. He authored "Man, Just Express Yourself," a good tool for boys and men. James created a board game, "Cheesy Dates," a good tool for couples and / or group game nights. You can find both on his [website](#).

James has started planning for next year's Black Literature Festival. Interested Black



authors should contact him.



Maurice Brown aka Moeflowz, Poet & Digital Creator



"The HBCU Handbook" by Ronald Carlito Dingle



"The Truth About The Lies" by Sharon Matthews Fortune



Multiple Children's books by Dr. Hollee Freeman, expert on beekeeping



"The Six-Figure Quitter" by Danielle C. Graves



"Black Women Need Love Too" by S.N.M. Jones



"Antsy Agatha" by Jennifer Langston



"Of Captivity & Kings" by E.Y. Laster



"Can I Really Do All Things" by Tynesha O'Quinn



"May We Never Meet Again" by Wa'Shana Ricks



"The Power of the Black Vote ..." by "JoJo" Varlack-Hicks



"Crooked Crowns Shine Too" by Jamica Ashley Whitaker



"Notes and Nuance"
by Nicole O. Williams



MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

Still hard at work on *How I Got "Here!"* Every time I think I have no other memories, another is triggered. I must confess, this has been an interesting endeavor. I recognize in using my own poems to accompany the various vignettes, many were written "in the heat of the moment," and many of those *dark moments* still exist!

And yes, I am still writing poetry ...

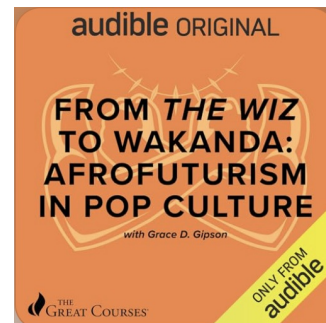
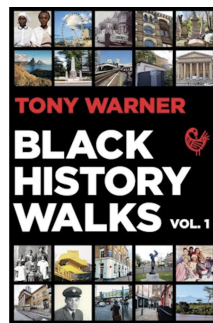
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Poetry captures moments in time
 Moments, easily lost, unattended
 Poetry captures emotions felt
 When something is read, written or heard
 Poetry captures reactions
 Good, bad, indifferent
 Poetry allows expression
 Relief of getting shit off your chest
 Poetry allows saying what needs to be said
 And then moving on
 Poetry stews words, thoughts and emotions
 Folding them together
 Stirring hopes for tenderness
 Poetry ... when sealed and locked
 Can build under pressure
 And, like TNT – unmonitored
 If – not carefully defused
 Will explode
 Decimating all in close proximity
 Unprepared for its content



WHAT THE AUTHOR IS READING!

Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's memoir, ***Lovely One*** recounts how she has lived and exemplified FORTITUDE her entire life. Her writing style coupled with her life experiences definitely engaged me. I felt a kindred spirit as a Black woman who has been "one of a few or the only one" on numerous occasions. I found myself tearing up as I read her Epilogue.



Black History Walks, Vol. 1 by Tony Warner. The amount of research which went into creating the tours and then transforming the information into written format is phenomenal. Guest lecturers provided an abundance of information both in classroom-settings as well as in the streets of London. I know many have gone to the UK thinking what a wonderful place it is, but the UK's history is as dark, perhaps even darker than AmeriKKKa's. Each tour participant received a copy of this book. Volume 2 is in the works!

*My coffee table photo album of the Black Diaspora Tour of London has been received. If you wish to get a taste of our diasporic tour experience, click [here](#). **WARNING:** Picaboo will solicit you to purchase a copy. I carry no responsibility for the ask nor do I gain anything!*



The next read in my queue was ***Harlem Rhapsody*** by Victoria Christopher Murray. I was ready for a historic fiction. Then, ***From The Wiz to Wakanda: Afrofuturism in Pop Culture*** with Grace D. Gipson, Ph.D., was released on Audible. Gipson is a professor of Africana Studies who specializes in media and culture, pop culture representation, comics and digital humanities at VCU. It was an excellent listen and provided insight to many shows, movies, books --

even comic books -- I had not viewed, read or simply was unaware. I am listening to it again. My first listen was purely to get a sense of the content; my second listen is for immersion and comprehension.

You may have been added as a subscriber because I thought you might have interest in a particular item. Feel free to **UNSUBSCRIBE** at anytime.

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Y.B. Taylor, Writer



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