

Beyond Silence: Biodun Abudu on His New Book and Challenging the Status Quo



It's hard to keep up with Biodun Abudu—and that's exactly how he likes it. Whether he's writing books, creating art, speaking at festivals, or exploring big questions about society, the Nigerian-born creative is constantly working on something new. Since the release of his debut novel, *Tales of My Skin*, Abudu has grown his bibliography to 12 published books, with his latest, *This Wasn't for the Public*, encouraging

readers to challenge long-held beliefs about religion, relationships, work, and identity. We caught up with the Esteem Award-winning author to talk about his newest book, what inspires his work, his growing international reach, and why he believes curiosity is one of our greatest strengths.



Biodun Abudu



Watch on

Pride Index (PI): Today, I am speaking with author, speaker, and visual artist Biodun Abudu. He is one of those young men who has so many irons in the fire that sometimes you can't even keep up with what he's doing.

Please introduce yourself and share a little about yourself with our readers.

Biodun Abudu (BA): My name is Biodun Abudu. I'm an author and a creative entrepreneur. I currently live in New York. I am of Nigerian descent and was born and brought up in Nigeria. I previously lived in Chicago and attended part of my college years there. Though I live in New York now, I still visit Chicago quite often.

PI: When last I spoke with you, you were releasing your debut book, *Tales of My Skin*. Give us a quick refresher on that book.

BA: *Tales of My Skin*, my debut novel, published in 2011, is based on a true story. The character is from Nigeria, and he's searching for love in the wrong places. Throughout his childhood and youth, people took advantage of him. No guide or handbook says this is the proper way to navigate dating or avoid elders who might take advantage of you. What doesn't kill him shapes his life. The book also touches on STDs, HIV testing, and many youth experiences, especially online dating at that time. Online dating is more common now, but back then it was quite... trifling.



PI: How many books do you currently have out there?

BA: I currently have 12 published titles. To be consistent, I

have to keep writing. What I've learned in this journey is that people may not like the third or fourth book, but they might like the seventh, eighth, or twelfth. You just never know.

I have so much to say, which brings me to my current book, *This Wasn't for the Public*. It is currently one of my favorites. It touches on topics we're taught, such as religion, relationships, and the workplace, and on how we rarely question the system.

We work nine to five just to stay alive, like Beyoncé said, paying bills, following routines. We don't question what religious leaders tell us. We don't question fear in our workplace or our friendships. One of my chapters, "Born for More Than Silence," explores why we remain silent around authority figures, bosses, partners, and even friends. The book encourages us to question things, educate ourselves, research, and learn more.

PI: Is this an etiquette book for relationships, gay relationships, or Black gay relationships?

BA: No, not really. It's more of a social commentary. There are 41 chapters. For example, "Born for More Than Silence," talks about suppression, be it identity, emotional, religious, or even from parents. Oftentimes, parents say boys shouldn't cry and punish them for it. I also talk about

"Prescription America," how the system floods us with medication instead of natural remedies. I cover religion, work-life balance, suicide, and even how companies celebrate Pride in June but take the flags down in July and stop caring.

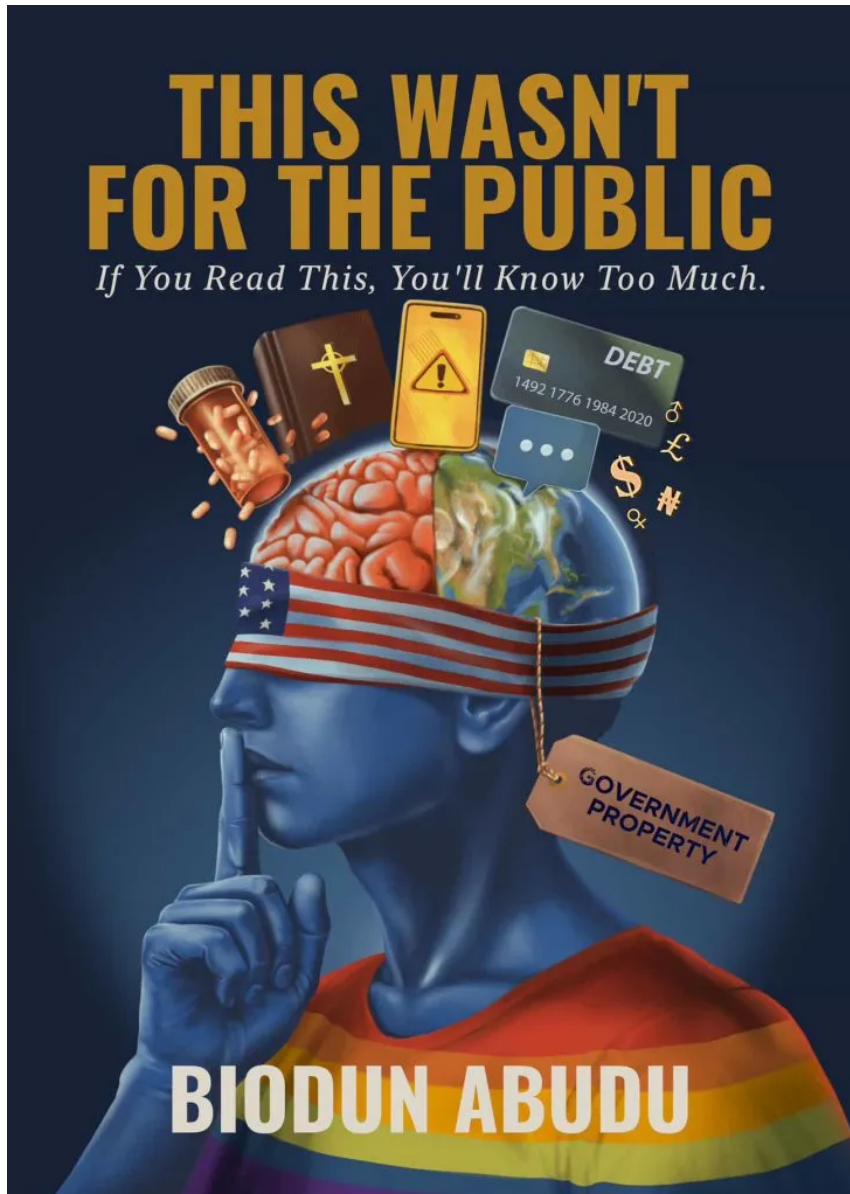
PI: You say it is 41 chapters, why so many?

BA: Honestly, even at 41 chapters, I was restricting myself. I wanted the book to feel like something hidden, as if you'd discovered it in a cave or a treasure box. Information you weren't supposed to access, or that challenges what you thought you knew. I wanted readers to finish the book and start questioning things around them, and begin focusing on their human duty on Earth, not just working, paying bills, and dying.

PI: Where did you find your muse for this book?

BA: Many places, but mainly my obsession with the History Channel. I stay home, watch documentaries, listen to podcasts, visit museums, read everything, and study symbols. Originally, the book was going to be titled *Questions from the Beginning of Time*, which is now a chapter title. I started questioning systems such as religion and childhood teachings, as well as things that didn't make sense or felt contradictory. My inspirations come from history, YouTube,

podcasts, and wanting to explore both past and present systems.



PI: Do you ever feel that you were born at the wrong

time?

BA: No, I was born at the right time. I've learned so much from Nigeria to Chicago to New York. I've absorbed cultures, stories, and experiences that all show up in my writing. So yes, I was born at the right time.

PI: *This Wasn't for the Public* was released this spring. Where have you been promoting it?

BA: It was released in March. I started writing it at the beginning of last year. I've promoted it at BookCon at the Javits Center in New York, the Black British Book Festival at the Barbican Center in London, and I'll be at the **Harlem Book Festival** next month. I've also participated in the New York Poetry Festival at Governors Island. Additionally, I've shared it through podcasts, international newspapers in Nigeria, and XBIZ Sexual Health Magazine, since one chapter discusses sexual obsession and addiction. I've been spreading it everywhere.

PI: What about the Midwest or the South? Any plans beyond the East Coast?

BA: Yes. I've started planning those visits. I have friends helping me hold me accountable: my friend TT and another, John, whom I call my unpaid manager. They're pushing me to think about places like Miami, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

So, yes, plans are in motion. I just need to finalize a few things.

PI: With so much content, are you considering a Volume Two or even Three?

BA: They're already in the works. I'm expanding one or two of the chapters into full books. One has already been completed. I write late into the night, sometimes until 2 a.m. It often helps me finish books within six months. Yes, Volume Two is coming, going deeper into topics like silence in relationships, workplaces, and religious spaces.

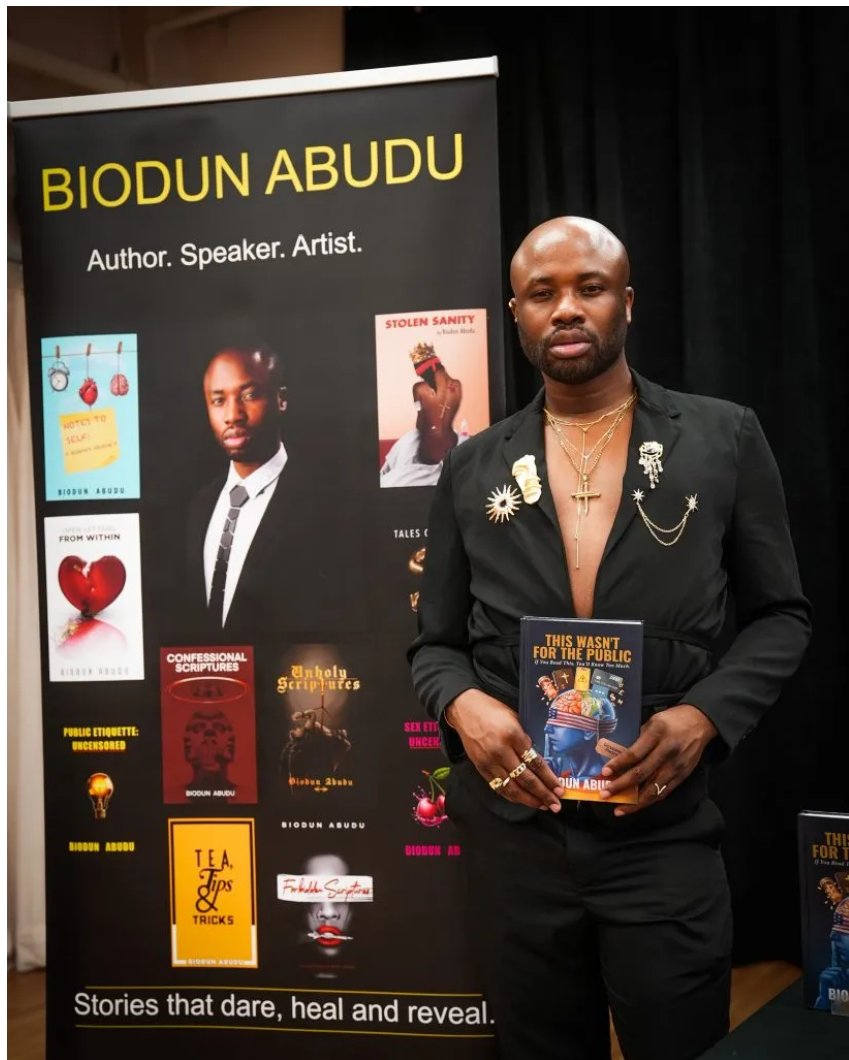
PI: Have you considered adapting any of your work into films or series?

BA: Yes, definitely. I've reached out to filmmakers and creatives, both here and in Nigeria. I'm also exploring documentaries. If not full adaptations, I want to explore the themes visually. I have emails scheduled and connections in progress. Now it's about following up and meeting people in person.

PI: Given the climate in parts of Africa toward the LGBTQ community, are you concerned about backlash?

BA: Yes, but I take precautions. When I travel, I notify the American Embassy, share my location, and stay vigilant. I

don't post in real time. I usually upload content weeks later for safety. There are also LGBTQ-friendly establishments back home that guide visitors and tell them where to go and where to avoid. They help ensure safety during visits.



PI: Where should interested readers go to purchase your book?

BA: *This Wasn't for the Public* is currently available on Amazon and on my website biodunabudu.com.

PI: If someone wanted to reach out to you regarding a speaking engagement or event appearance, how might they contact you?

BA: They can reach me by email at info@biodunabudu.com or message me on Instagram at [biodunabudu_](https://www.instagram.com/biodunabudu_). I check both regularly and respond often.

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