




Tami
Charles

New York Times
bestselling author

Tami Charles is the New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty books for children and young adults, including the acclaimed titles *All Because You Matter*, *We Are Here*, and *Muted*. Her work has earned multiple starred reviews, Junior Library Guild selections, and national recognition in *Essence Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Buzzfeed's Top 40*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. She has also appeared on *Good Morning America*, *The Morning Blend*, *GMA3*, *Good Day Philadelphia*, and *CBS Mornings*.

A graduate of Saint Elizabeth University and Fairleigh Dickinson University, Tami worked as a Title 1 educator for thirteen years before pursuing her childhood dream of becoming an author. Today, she is a sought after speaker at schools, libraries, and events across the country, sharing stories that affirm and inspire. Her latest title, *Together, United*, continues that work.

 TamiWrites

 TamiWritesStuff

Media buzz...



BuzzFeed

The New York Times
Book Review



Woman's Day

ESSENCE



Shortened Bio

Tami Charles is the New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty books for young readers, including *All Because You Matter*, *We Are Here*, and *Like Vanessa*. A former teacher and one-time R&B performer, Tami writes stories that inspire and affirm. Her work has earned multiple starred reviews, national media features, and Junior Library Guild honors. Her latest picture book, *Together, United*, continues her mission to empower children through storytelling.

Praise for the *All Because You Matter* trilogy

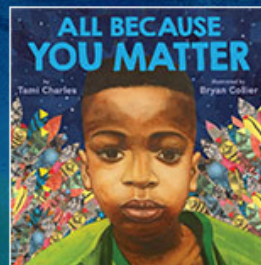
"There is nothing like *All Because You Matter* out there. It has carved out a niche for itself that only it can fill."
Betsy Bird, Fuse #8 Production


"A title sure to be frequented by not only Black children but any child looking for a kind word and confidence boost." -- *Booklist*

"A stunning ode to legacies built from the past and those yet to come." -- *Jacqueline Woodson, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (2018–2019)*

"Charles weaves spellbinding verse... her propulsive words assure readers of the power of their voices." -- *Kirkus, starred review*

An Inspiring
Picture Book Trilogy from
New York Times Bestselling Creators
Tami Charles
and Bryan Collier



 **SCHOLASTIC**

TM/ © Scholastic, Inc. All © 2015 by Bryan Collier.



Photo credit: [Veroluce Photography](#)

Praise for *Muted*

"Highly anticipated...groundbreaking."
Entertainment Weekly

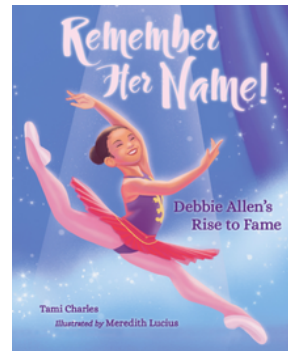
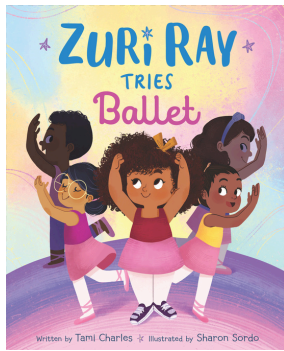
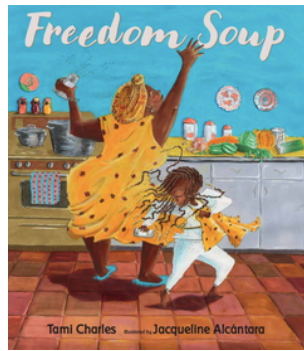
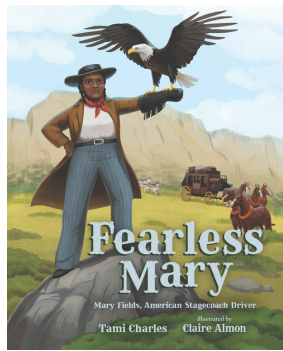
"An emerging, powerful voice in Black literature, Charles is on a mission to write stories that honor our rich Black culture and heritage."
Essence Magazine

"One of those books that when you finish, you stare at it for a little bit and need a moment before you can do other things – it is that good."
Buzzfeed

"Raw and honest, Charles captures the voice of a bright young star trapped between a dream and a nightmare in this devastatingly beautiful novel-in-verse!" -Kim Johnson, best-selling author of *This Is My America*



Picture Books



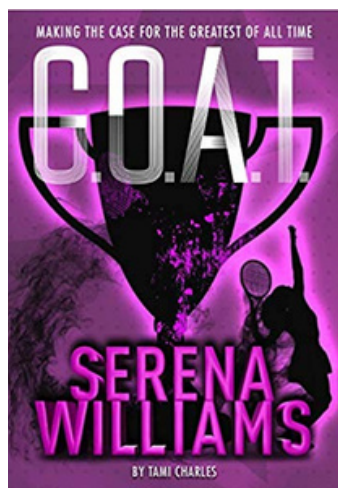
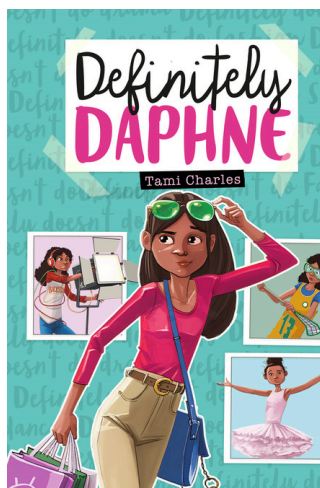
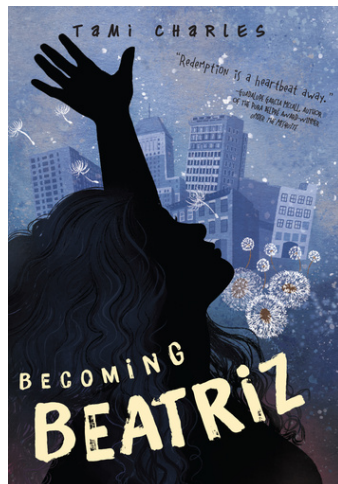
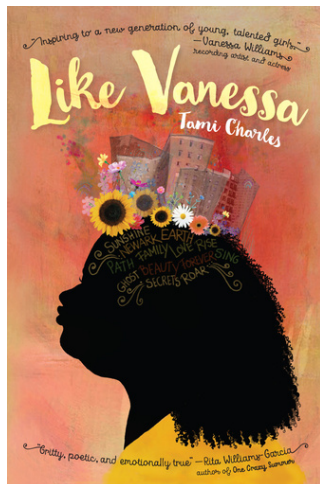
More accolades:

Like Vanessa: "It's such an honor to be the focal point of this wonderful book! Without a doubt, it will be inspiring to a new generation of young, talented girls well on their way to promising careers." – **Vanessa Williams**, Multi-Platinum Recording Artist, *New York Times* Best-Selling Author, Fashion Designer and star of Television, Film and the Broadway Stage

Becoming Beatriz: "A compelling read about the quest for fame!"—**Debbie Allen**, star of Fame, American actress, dancer, and filmmaker

We Are Here: In storytelling dotted with words in Spanish and other languages, laid against Collier's lush, gem-toned imagery, the book weaves a unifying and empowering narrative of Black people connected across bodies of water, bonded by a common identity..." --**Nikkole Hannah-Jones**, *New York Times* Book Review

Novels



Other News Details:

- Charles has partnered with **Reach Out and Read**, an organization committed to integrating early literacy into pediatric healthcare by providing books and advice to families on the importance of reading aloud.
- Many of Charles' life experiences are woven into her stories. From being the daughter of an educator to competing in pageants as a teenager, to being a member of an all-girl R&B group once upon a time. (Those were the days!)
- Tami has partnered with **Candlewick Press**, **JetBlue**, and **Soar With Reading** whose mission is to address book deserts in underserved communities. Tami was a proud volunteer for the book launch held in her birth city of Newark, New Jersey.
- Tami's New York Times bestselling picture book, *All Because You Matter*, was written in tribute to her son, Christopher, who posed thought-provoking questions about injustice after learning about Dr. King in kindergarten. Caldecott honor illustrator, Bryan Collier, decided to use Christopher's likeness as the art for the book. This experience inspired Chris to co-write a picture book with Tami entitled *That Beautiful Mind*. This title shines a light on the beauty of neurodiversity and will publish in fall 2026 with Scholastic.

In an interview, Tami Charles can discuss:

- Why reading diverse literature is beneficial to all people
- Her passion for writing in multiple genres and categories
- How book bans and pushback in schools and libraries harm both students and educators
- Why she continues to write diverse literature in spite of the rise in book banning
- The transition from teacher to author and how her students inspired her to follow her childhood dream
- The impact of representation across multiple careers, but especially in children's literature

Booking Biz Interview: Tami Charles on Cooking, Reading and Mommy Mode

How does she get inspired to write all these wonderful stories? We asked...

Booking Biz: What does your average day look like?

Tami: I typically wake up around five a.m. to write. It's the best time because everyone is sleeping and no one is begging me for snacks! I write for about two hours and then shift to mommy mode: breakfast, packing up, and off to school! Life as a writer can be quite sedentary (and lonely!), so I make sure I get to the gym a few days a week. My mid-morning/afternoons are filled with more writing (with a side of reading!). Once school is dismissed, it's back to mommy mode. (homework, sports, more homework) Repeat. Repeat.

Booking Biz: When you're not writing, what do you like to do best?

Tami: I love to cook! I think in my past life I was a chef. My specialties are empanadas, cheesecake, and any type of seafood. Seriously, I throw down in the kitchen!

Booking Biz: Where do you get the inspiration for your books?

Tami: I'm the child of a retired teacher-turned-principal. Reading was as routine as breathing in my household. I read so many books growing up, but I often didn't see myself in them, which is probably why I didn't think I could be an author. As a teacher, my students helped change my mind. Together, we read so many diverse books—the kinds I would've loved reading as a child. My students inspired me to revisit my childhood dream. And aren't I lucky they did!

Booking Biz: Did you always want to write books for children, or was there another career you wished for as a child?

Tami: I also wanted to be a singer. I was even in an R&B singing group a really long time ago. And I've already said too much, so I'm just going to stop right here.

Booking Biz: If you ruled the world, what would it look like?

Tami: Hear ye! Hear ye! If I ruled the world, these would be my demands:

- Mandatory, uninterrupted naps for moms between the hours of 1-3 pm daily
- Extend summer by two weeks
- International vacations for all, a minimum of twice a year (because the world is our classroom!)
- No kids in cages

Booking Biz: Yes! A great world that would be.



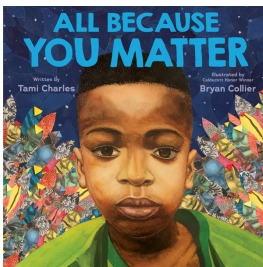
Promotional Photos



Download [here](#), with credit to Krisann Binetti

Download [here](#), with credit to Veroluce Photography

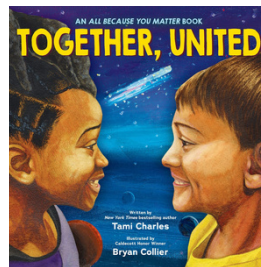
Book covers for promo + orders



[Download](#)



[Download](#)



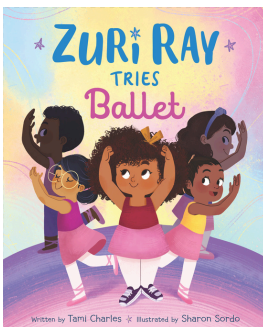
[Download](#)



[Download](#)



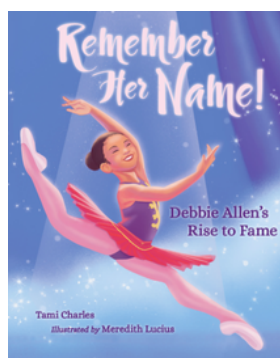
[Download](#)



[Download](#)



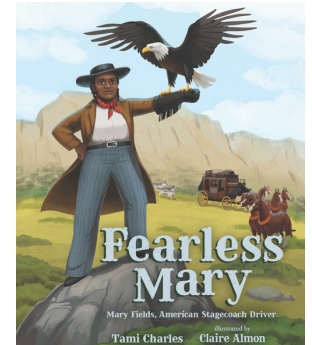
[Download](#)



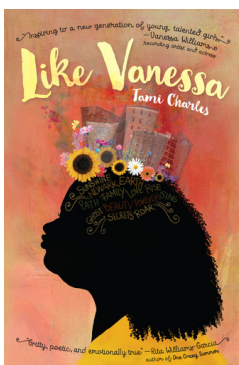
[Download](#)



[Download](#)



[Download](#)



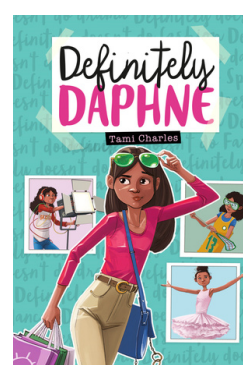
[Download](#)



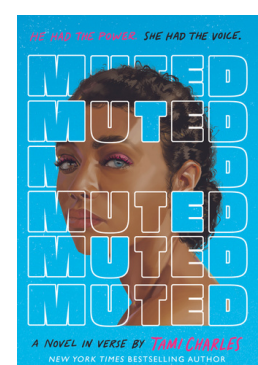
[Download](#)



[Download](#)



[Download](#)



[Download](#)

Speaking Engagements

When she isn't writing, Tami Charles is connecting with students—stateside and abroad. A former educator, she brings heart, humor, and honesty to her visits, engaging audiences from elementary schools to college campuses, including incarcerated youth. Her 45-minute presentations include storytelling, writing tips and inspiration, with time for Q&A. Book signings can be arranged upon request, and Tami always encourages schools to partner with their local independent bookstores to bring the experience full circle. Interested in having Tami speak at your school or event? Let's connect!

Here's a **sample of schools, conferences, and organizations** where Tami has presented:

Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Columbia University, New York, New York

The College of New Jersey, Ewing, New Jersey

Mandel Public Library, West Palm Beach, Florida

West Palm Beach Youth Detention Centers

Rak Scholars Indian School, Ras Al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania

Paseo Del Rey Elementary, Los Angeles, California

Harris County Early Childhood Conference, Houston, Texas

Testimonials

"The students had a fantastic time, they were completely engaged, asked thoughtful questions, and left the session **feeling inspired** and excited. It was truly a **memorable experience** for them."--A. Marks, PS51, New York

"**WOW!** Tami is the best author we've ever had here! **She really "gets" kids.** The students are so inspired and couldn't be more excited about receiving their own copy of **We Are Here** to take home."
-- A. Talley, Director of Education, Country Bookshop, North Carolina

"The **kids had so much fun** and Tami engaged them all!"-- J. Larrain, Hopewell Elementary School

"Tami was wonderful and engaging, and we've heard such good feedback from everyone who has stopped by our office! The thing that she did so incredibly well, that not everyone does, is that **she met each audience at their level.** So many people speak well over the heads of the littlest ones, or way below the older, more mature ones. Tami was **spot on with each age group.** And she truly was "on" all day...not an easy task." B. Taylor, Germantown Academy

Media Buzz

marie
claire

35 Must Read 2021 Book Releases by Black Authors

BuzzFeed Top 40 Novels that came out in 2021

Woman'sDay The 30 Best Beach Reads for 2022

BuzzFeed 17 YA Books That'll Make You Shed a Tear

ESSENCE

Tami Charles On How Black Women Can Find Their Voice Through Poetry



Download with credit to Veroluce Photography



How to teach your kids to cook — without setting the kitchen on fire!



Tami Charles tackles hard-hitting topics using verse as her medium.



“It’s absolutely lovely! This book is incredible!”—CBS host, Vlad Duthiers, on “We Are Here.”

Get in Touch!

Literary Agent: Lara Perkins

Booking Agent: Carmen Oliver

Publicity Manager: Tessa Meisheid
tmeisheid@scholastic.com

Media requests: Ellen Whitfield, Books Forward,
ellen@booksforward.com

Website: www.tamiwrites.com