

RGP MUSE MAGAZINE

SUMMER TIME!

SHARNEL WILLIAMS

Discusses the startup of her famous and powerful anthologies, Shar-Shey Publishing, her idea of Women Empowerment and overall brand!

MELICA NICCOLE

Her children's books, the black writers industry in Ohio, writing and work process, and more!

LAQUEISHA MALONE

The scoop on starting Strawberry-Lit Magazine, being an entrepreneur, and her message as a black woman and writer!

EXCLUSIVE!

*AWARD
WINNING
AUTHOR
RENAEE
SMITH*

Featuring Vanessa Santiago-Ferman and more!

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Editor's Note

RGP Muse Magazine has expanded its wings into what is now a second publication, and now a first summer issue. Who would of thought that a sleepless Friday night at 3am would turn into a magazine!?! I am so proud to share my creativity with readers and supporters. It truly means the world to me. Thank you for your support.

Now, as you, the readers dive into this summer issue, I would like to say that these beautiful, black and talented women who are writers, authors and entrepreneurs, are simply one of a kind. These articles feature expertise in their individuals worlds and crafts and I'm so blessed to have interviewed them.

I hope each of these women give you inspiration, wisdom, and most all encouragement to do what you love, to put your talents out into the world and to be proud of what you create. You never know what opportunities are ahead for you! Keep shining my fellow readers! :)

Wynter Aiken

CREATOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



LaQueisha Malone

A Lit Brand & Business

LaQueisha Malone is a black woman, author, writer, publisher, and entrepreneur, who like many started their craft with a drive and grace that would one day get her to high places. Years later, Malone is an multi-award winning household name with an ever growing literary empire.

Her beginnings into the business had it's high and lows but she overcame and conquered. Malone's work in the literary world speaks for itself, and it's expanding everyday.

How did you become an author? Was it something you've always wanted to do or did the idea of being a writer just come to you randomly? Talk about the process in which you entered the writing industry.

I have been writing since before I could remember. I always had pen and paper in my hand. In 2008, I decided to publish my first book. I had my mom and a friend of mine tell me I should publish a book and my writing could help other people. So I began to research how to publish a book and viola "A New Pair of Shoes Step In Mine" was birthed.

What advice would you give young writers/entrepreneurs who want to take the path you now lead?

I would tell young writers to never give up, don't let anyone tell you it's impossible, and every day find something that will bring you closer to your dreams. Research and study your craft.



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A WRITTEN EMPIRE

You've written poetry so far, have you written any novels?

I haven't written a stand-alone novel of my own, but outside of my poetry I've been featured in multiple anthologies. So, if I have to consider a writing piece as a novel I would say it's the story I wrote in the anthology "Love, Marriage, & Divorce". I titled it "Unexpected Love Affair".

What was the inspiration behind the short story?

I wrote this story for women who were like me at that time, looking for love in all the wrong places. During that time, I had also experienced a miscarriage and I decided to include that into the story and all my emotions. I used it as therapy to help me deal with what I had experience.

How did you become an entrepreneur?

Being an entrepreneur was definitely not what I expected. I started in 2008 as an author and then in 2013 I started my own publishing company. In 2016, I started Strawberry-Lit Magazine. I love the publishing business and I wanted to help people.

What is some advice you would give to others who want to be entrepreneurs but aren't sure how to proceed?

I would tell to never give up, don't let anyone tell you it's impossible, and every day find something that will bring you closer to your dreams. Research and study your craft.





Stack Them Mags!

A magazine of one's own creation takes time, dedication and a drive for self made success. LaQueisha Malone's influence and presence in the literary world has been obtained by the growth and establishment of Strawberry Lit Magazine.

S.L.M has won numerous awards, has interviewed prominent figures in the literary community and has set it's own stage of black woman owned business and brand.

When and why did you start Strawberry-Lit Magazine? Did you work for another magazine and then started your own?

When I first started, I had grabbed the attention on Barnes & Nobles, but I was so new I couldn't meet the demand. There weren't many magazines covering authors and offering advice for authors at that time. I was already helping authors individually and I decided to use the magazine to help on a broader level.

What was your audiences response? Was it better than expected once you became fully established?

The response was slow for me because I had no idea what I was doing in marketing, but as the years have gone by the response has gotten much better than expected.

What's the easiest and hardest part about managing your own magazine? Is it overwhelming because everything is mainly planned by you or do you have a whole team that decides the creative process?

Running a magazine for me is rewarding at times and overwhelming. The easiest part for me is finding my authors. The hardest part is putting it all together, because sometimes I can't get the creative side out the way I see it in my head.

It is super overwhelming for me because I do everything myself. I am working on building a team to make it easier to get everything done.

For someone who wants to perhaps create their own magazine, what advice would you give?

For someone who is wanting to start their own magazine, I would say do your research be sure to stay true to your vision. Some people will tell you what they believe is best for your work but stay true to what is in your heart.



MORE FROM LAQUEISHA!

LaQueisha Malone gives more details on the anthologies she's participated in plus a new novel that is coming soon!

LaQueisha Malone has built her literary empire from the ground up. Strawberry Lit Magazine, along with the multiple anthologies and novels under her belt, has made her a black woman boss power force to be reckoned with!

From best-selling magazine owner to writer and author, Malone's business ethic emphasizes that she shines in her own light.

Malone shares with readers the insides of her well-known novels and what it means to her to be a black woman entrepreneur in all literary excellence.

You have participated in many anthologies, many that have become best sellers, care to share with readers an inside look to some of those books?

"Sex, Lies, & Church" Anthology, I wrote a story based out of New York. It is a story I titled "Love Thy Neighbor" where two church family are rivals over a secret, but as the secrets get exposed, they have decided is it worth fight. This inspired by my fantasy of truly love.

"A Mother's Day Nightmare" Anthology. This story I wrote for this anthology is about a mother who has to go against odd to find her son who has been missing for 18 years. This story was inspired by a movie I saw on TV.

"Secrets Amongst Friends". This story is soon to be released it is about two families where their teenagers, who raised with two different lives and struggles. It deals with peer pressure, acceptance and more. It was inspired by things that I saw going on around at the time I started writing it.

You're a best selling and award winning author who has many supporters, what is the message that you would share to those that look at what you've accomplished as guide and inspiration?

I can show my daughter that she can do anything she put her mind to. I stand for helping people follow their dreams. For so many people it seems impossible, and I want to make it possible.



Sex, Lies & C H U R C H

*Evette James, Erika T. Moore
and LaQueisha Malone*

Shar-Shey Publishing Presents

A MOTHER'S DAY *Nightmare*

A MYSTERY, THRILLER, SUSPENSE

AN ANTHOLOGY
BY VARIOUS WRITERS

What's Up Next For LaQueisha Malone?



WHAT'S IN THE MAKING FOR THE MALONE BUSINESS AND BRAND?

Upcoming projects for me are definitely releasing a few books, as far as Strawberry-Lit Magazine I have a few issues coming out with a few great authors, starting an Online Book club, and starting up my coaching programs.





Melica Niccole has many titles to her name from writer, author, and boss lady to her biggest and brightest title-mommy. This Ohio based writer is planting her writing seeds into the literary world of adults and children alike in order to make a special impact.

Niccole gives readers an inside look at how she started in the writing industry, how her move back to Ohio impacted her business connections and what inspired her latest children's books.

Writing isn't for everyone and yet you've established yourself pretty well, how did you know you wanted to be a writer?

Prior to attending Otterbein University many years ago, I used writing as a way to express myself. When I was in high school it was interesting that the first time I took the 9th grade proficiency test, the only portion I passed first was the writing section.

I believe it was evident here that I enjoyed writing; however it took several years for me to actually identify I loved writing.

You've now gotten the hang of writing and how you wish to be creative, did you branch out into writing while in school or was it merely on your own time?

It wasn't until I graduated from undergraduate school that my passion of writing returned. I guess I believed that writing was just a temporary thing and going to college would bring about a different passion. College did bring about another passion; however that was in addition to writing.

Since your passion for writing took it's full form, what was first thing you did with your set skill? Publish? Enter a contest to put your writing talent to the test? Explain what you did.

Before releasing my first book, I found myself working a full-time job, two part-time jobs, going to school to get my master's degree, and writing when I had time, which believe it or not, I made time to do. I also had to decide if I would release this work as a self-publishing author or should I form a publishing company.

I chose the latter and created Hampton Publishing House, LLC and released my first book in 2010. Currently, I have written/co-authored 19 books.

MOMMA WRITER CREATOR

*"Don't give up
and sometimes
you have to
create your
own lane when
one does not
exist."*

"Dead Wrong"

Inside Niccole's first published novel



An author's first novel doesn't always happen over night. Many face obstacles on their way to the publishing stage, Melica Niccole was no different.

But, she knew writing was her passion and so, her very first book was born. Niccole explains the storyline behind her first book "Dead Wrong" and the inspiration behind the thrilling best seller.

What was the first novel you ever wrote? What was the inspiration for the storyline?

The first novel I wrote is called "Dead Wrong". The book is a romantic-thriller about falling in love for all the wrong reasons, which I am sure we all have done. Lol. It's funny because the majority of this book was written in 2-3 days. However, it took me a very long time for an editor to read it and others to provide me advice on this piece of work. Initially, I was afraid let anyone read the book, but finally I had to tell myself it's ok and this book is meant to help others.

What is "Dead Wrong" mainly about and what can readers take away from it after reading?

"Dead Wrong" is a book about domestic violence, which is meant to tell a relatable story that everyone wants to pick up and no one wants to put down. I had to go to a very dark place in writing this story, especially when describing or identifying the perpetrator's actions.

It was an emotional roller coaster of lies and deceit with poetic introductions and rhythmic dreams. I even included questions and answers at the end of the book to help coordinate a discussion about domestic violence and getting help.

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ANOTHER STORY, A NEW WORLD

More Insight to Melica Niccole's Books

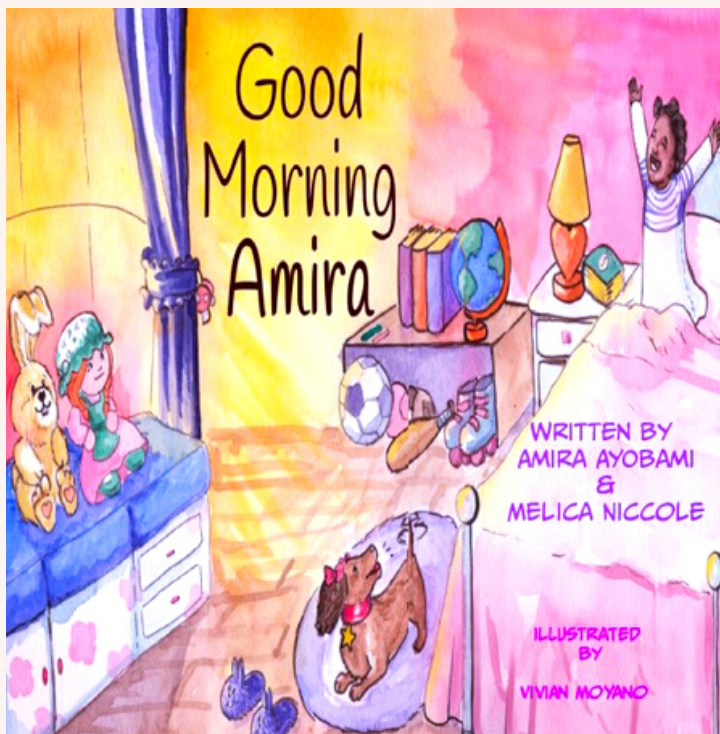


“It is inspired by my daughter Amira!”

Mothers are superhero's in their own way, having many jobs to their name. Melica Niccole-writer, entrepreneur and mother has dedicated her talent to the literary world and it shows in her beloved children's books "All in Together Girls" and the soon to be released "Good Morning Amira". Niccole details her popular children's novel and what's next for kids and parents to get their hands on. An escape into new adventures is all one hopes for when reading!

What were the inspirations specifically behind your children's books? Was it yourself or others?

My first children's book was inspired by my nieces and a childhood game my sister and I played as kids. The main characters are my nieces and the book, "All in Together Girls!" is about a jump rope game we use to play. "Good Morning Amira" is a new children's book that will be released next month. It is inspired by my daughter Amira and the steps we take to get her ready each day. She indirectly helped me co-write this book.



The Black Ohioan Writing Industry



No matter where you are, if you want your talents to shine, it will happen. Niccole, based in Ohio, knows her writing and entrepreneurship skills know no bounds.

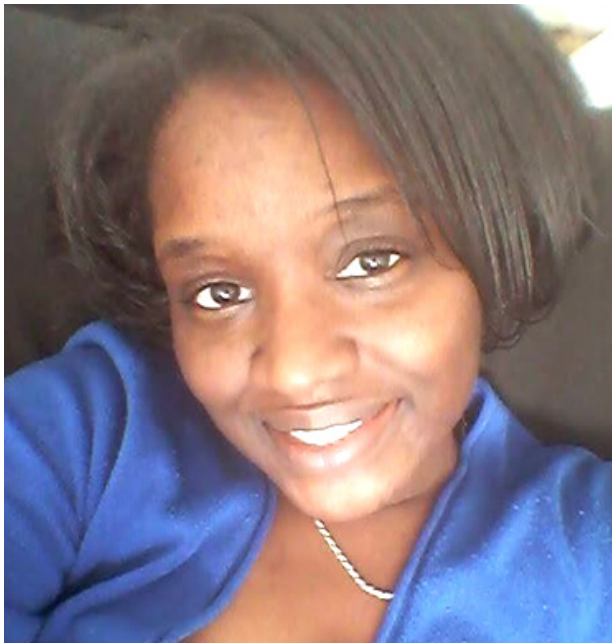
When asked if when locating back to Ohio hindered her networking skills and if it's difficult making connections within Ohio's own black writing industry, Niccole clarified that no matter where you are, North or Midwest, progress and connections can still be made.

Has working within the black writers and entrepreneurs industry remained the same and or changed since relocating back to Ohio?

When I first started publishing books in 2010, there were not many book festivals focused or developed by African-Americans in Columbus, Ohio. We did have a lot of events focused on poetry, art, writing, and culture. My search online led me to books festivals in Cleveland, Ohio; Livonia, Michigan; and Houston, Texas. All of which I attended. Since relocating to New Jersey and moving back to Ohio, the industry has definitely increased. Not to say that there were no African-American writers in Ohio because there were definitely a lot of us here. Since returning to Ohio, I have seen a lot more book festivals either developed by someone from the culture or geared toward us. Columbus is a progressive city, which I have seen a lot of changes taking place. I assume years from now there will be more festivals and writing events.

What about networking, any drastic changes to your routine as a writer and entrepreneur?

Networking is very similar to New Jersey, which is word of mouth, cold calling, social media, and flyers on college campuses and surrounding businesses. When you're connected to others in the community, we keep each other updated about different events, projects, and support each other.





Melica Niccole

Her Work. Her Determination.

What does it mean for you to not only be a black woman in this cut throat industry, but a writer and entrepreneur?

Being a black woman and entrepreneur means that I have to push harder and I may not always get recognition for things I have done, which means the motivation and the criteria for success has to come from me. I have to be my own cheerleader. Although I say that, I have been blessed to have individuals in my corner that believe in me and my success. I have individuals who have applauded my return to writing from taking a hiatus due to childbirth. It's a sweet gesture from others.

I stand for steadfastness. To be unwavering towards your pursuit to to your dreams and being purposeful. Live on purpose not because you have to, but because you choose to do so.

Do you have any upcoming projects-books and business wise? Give readers a snippet of what's next for you.

I am currently working on a few other children's books to be released next year and so forth. I also post stock information on the Stock BossUp App to assist investors with investing.

Stock BossUp is an app dedicated to assisting those who would not normally invest learn how to invest and be successful at it. Great concept and they have really done a great job with increasing membership.

RENAEE SMITH

HER JAMAICAN ROOTS
HER WRITING
EXPERTISE
HER BEGINNINGS IN THE
WRITING INDUSTRY
HER STORY

An RGP Muse Exclusive Interview with
Award Winning Author Renae Smith

Being a writer doesn't always come naturally to some people. Some make it simply a hobby but other's like Award Winning Author Renae Smith, she made it her career, a fulfilled and successful career. From a beloved children's series to a tasty cookbook filled with her roots of Jamaican culture, Smith has a permanent stamp on the writing industry.

When asked about how she got started, Smith was clear that her expertise of writing and cultivating an ever growing business as an author and writer came naturally to her and made it worth the time and effort.

Was writing always apart of you? Many don't take writing seriously once they start, how did you know writing was lifelong?

I am an avid reader and it seemed like a natural progression for me when I started writing poetry. Poetry is such a wonderful way to express your thoughts and ideas. My time spent living in New York City found me logging my thoughts while riding the subway, in my mind I called it Poetry in Motion. Funny enough I saw the slogan a few years back when I visited the city and rode the subway. It wasn't until 2011 when I was inspired/encouraged to write and publish my book.

Did you go to school for writing? How did your education help along your interest in writing? Did it strengthen or weaken your passion for your craft?

My first degree is a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science and I have a Masters degree in Actuarial Science and Insurance. So, you see, writing is a departure from my field of study. I am a numbers person, but have a deep appreciation for writing and the arts. Growing up I was involved in speech competitions, plays whether I acted in them or directed them - this I did while in college and received an award.

What were your inspirations when you wrote your first book? How did they influence you today?

I am a foodie and was looking for a recipe for pineapple tarts, a treat I would indulge in during my high school years, when school was dismissed. I scoured the internet to find the recipe, and in my research, it became apparent to me that there were no cookbooks that had all the delicious desserts I remembered from my childhood in Jamaica. It was then that I was encouraged by my husband and my friend Andrine "to pen to paper" as we say in Jamaica to write and publish my first book.

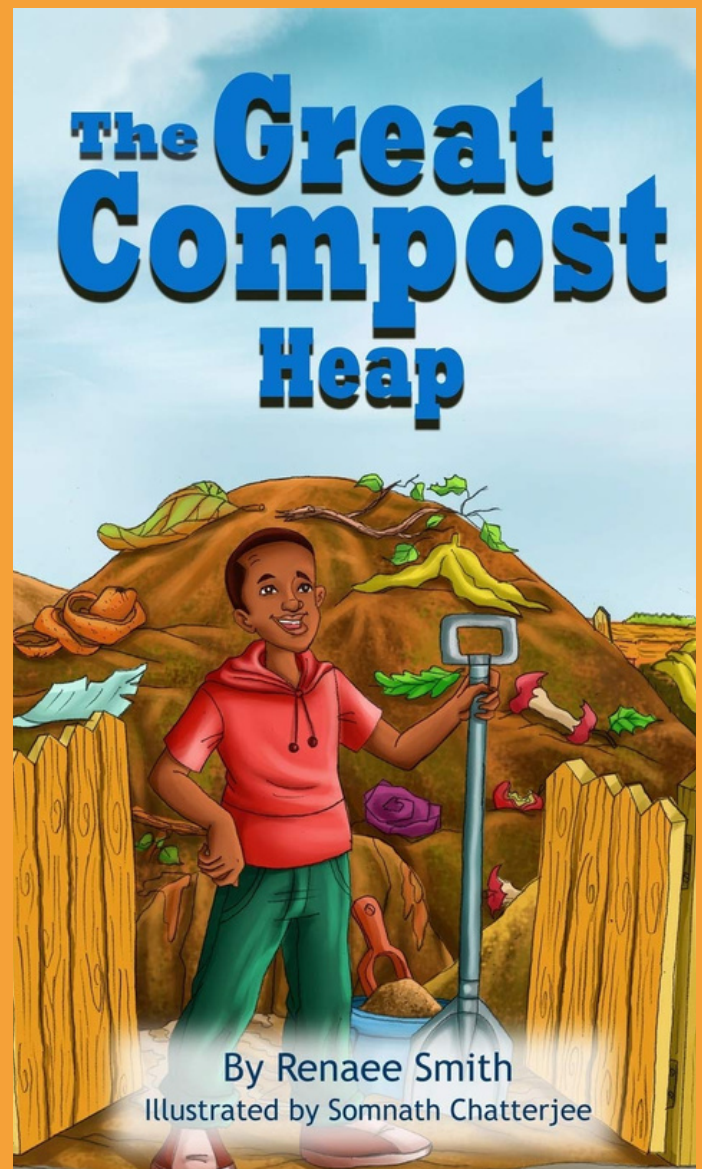
EXPERIENCE A WHOLE NEW ADVENTURE WITH FREDDIE!

"The Title Actually Came To Me In A Dream"

"The Great Compost Help" is the first novel that Smith has written, a beloved children's novel that is not only informational-giving children the knowledge of how to care for the environment, but a memory keepsake for not only Smith and her family but others as well.

How was the storyline behind "The Great Compost Help" created? Share with readers the inspiration behind the best seller!

The book deals with recycling kitchen and garden waste using composting to save the environment. My son had to create a science experiment and memories of being in Jamaica and creating and maintaining my own compost heap was my inspiration for writing this book. The title of the book actually came to me in a dream.



ROOTED IN LOVE

Renee Smith Discusses How Her Books Emphasize Her Jamaican Heritage

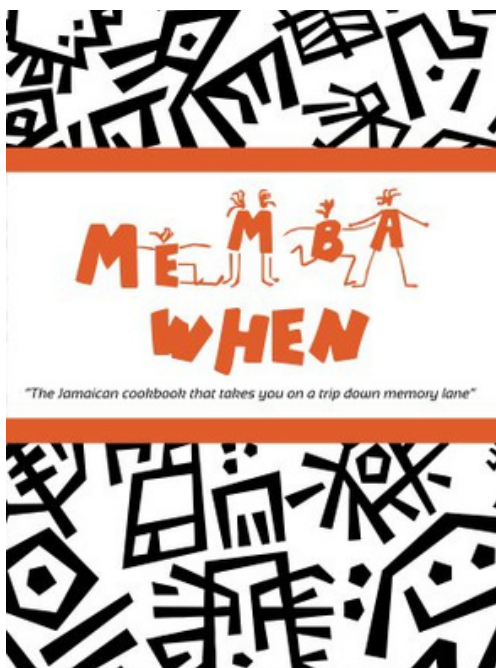
You showcase your Jamaican background in everything you do, including your writing-describe how your Jamaican background stems into your novels such as your cookbook "Memba When", "Jamaica's Forgotten Treats" and other children's books.

It wasn't until 2011 when I was inspired/encouraged to write and publish my book. My first published book was a cookbook - "Jamaica's Forgotten Treats". This book paid homage to the many desserts that I enjoyed as a child growing up in Jamaica.

Being a Jamaican born and raised automatically flows into my writing.

Readers are able to connect with you personally through your storytelling, how does your Jamaican culture fit that narrative of connection?

Bits and pieces of my life are mentioned from my childhood in Jamaica. If you know me, you will see references to my track days in primary and high school. Jamaica is one of the most well-known Caribbean islands and I am proud to be a Jamaican.

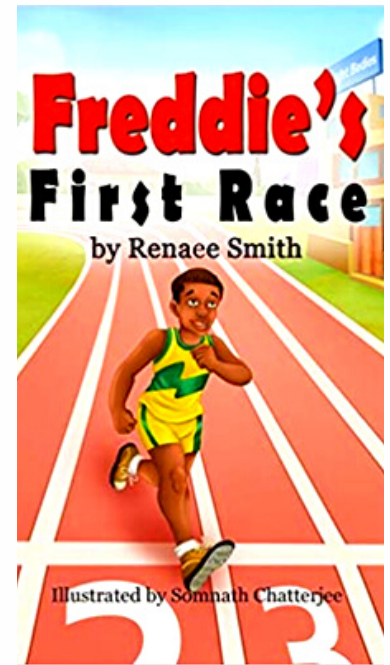
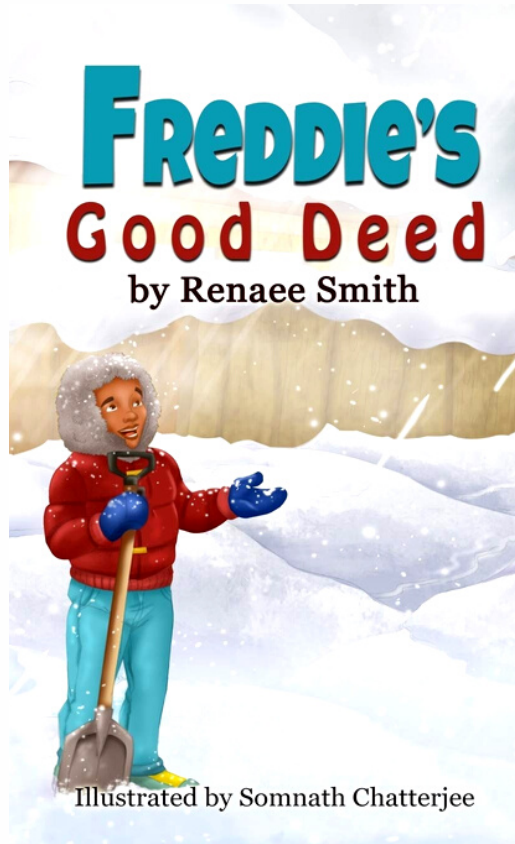
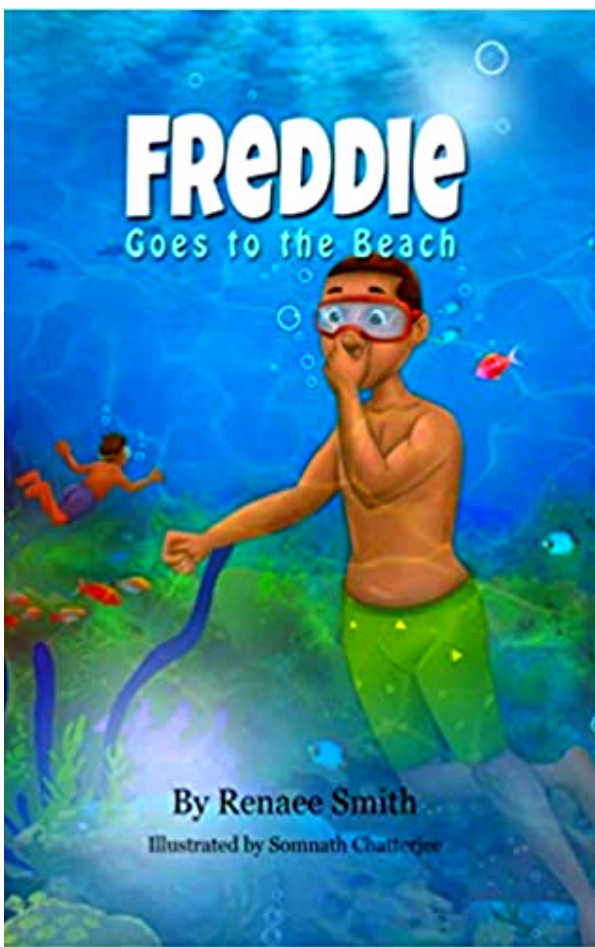


"I AM PROUD TO BE A JAMAICAN."

What message do you send to readers when they read in-between the lines-your books story and your personal one?

Jamaica's is a very diverse island where many people and cultures converge to create a melting pot, which is expressly stated in our motto "Out of Many One People".

There is so much to be learned about Jamaica and in my role as an unofficial ambassador, my message is an open invitation for people to connect with our culture through the spoken and written word.



Become Apart of Freddie's World!

How the beloved children's character "Freddie" came to be! Renae Smith discusses the main characters impact!

What were the inspirations/messages behind your most famed children's books surrounding the character "Freddie"?

When I write my children's books, there is always a message or theme. The purpose of my books is do three things - Entertain, Inform and Inspire. When a child or adult reads any of my books I want them to enjoy the story. The story should educate them on a particular issue or topic and it should inspire them to make a change personally, in the community or in the environment.

What lessons can a child learn when reading the series?

In the Freddie Series; the child learns about composting and saving the environment in "The Great Compost Heap", they learn perseverance in "Freddie's First Race", they learn compassion and empathy in "Freddie's Good Deed" and they learn about the importance of family in "Freddie Goes to the Beach".

***"The purpose of
my books is do 3
things-
Entertain, Inform
and Inspire."***



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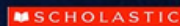


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**THE DETAILS BEHIND SMITH'S ANNUAL INDEPENDANT
AUTHOR'S BOOK EXPERIENCE EXPOS!**

To get women and men from all writing expertise into one location where all can discuss, encourage and learn from each other is something that Renae Smith is proud of when hosting her events throughout the year.

Smith brings all together to share in reading and writing along with tasty treats and while it's not an easy venture, she makes her effort shine every time.

What made you start the Independent Author's Book Expo? What is it's significance to your life as am writer and entrepreneur?

Independent Authors Book Expo started out of a need to give independent authors a bigger platform to share their books than they would normally have on their own. In 2011 when I published my first book, there were few events where an independent author could share their books.

How has it helped with networking for new writers?

If you did find an event it was so expensive that it was cost prohibitive for a newly published author to afford. As an independent author, I could identify with their plight, and so, in 2014, the Independent Authors Book Expo was birthed.

Since then, this event has introduced over 350 independent authors to local, national and international audiences.

POEMS THAT TOUCH THE SOUL!

"MY THOUGHTS"

A poem written to introduce myself to a writing group I joined a few years ago. Through the poem my fellow writers got a glimpse into my life and learned about my joys and my trials, my failures, but also my successes.

"MY LOVE FOR YOU"

A poem written several years ago when I first met my husband and we were dating. It was a simple poem, but it clearly expressed the love I had for him. By the grace of God, 21 years later we are still going strong.

"NEW LOVE"

A poem that speaks to starting a new relationship and the emotions you go through. The time spent getting to know each other, always wanting to be with that person. I call it the "Honeymoon Phase" where you are googly eyed and looking through rose-colored glasses.

SWEET POETRY & TASTY TREATS

**SMITH'S STARTUP OF "POETRY, PASTRY & PUNCH"
PLUS A LOOK AT A FEW POEMS!**

With ever growing success for "Poetry, Pastry and Punch" events, what about it gives you motivation to continue after all these years?

Poetry, Pastry and Punch is an event that brings me great pleasure. Each year during Poetry month novice and seasoned poets, spoken word artists in and around the tristate share their gifts of the spoken word with a likeminded community.

In addition to this, we are treated to delectable pastries and punch which yours truly prepares from recipes from my dessert cookbook "Jamaica's Forgotten Treats". It is my belief that poetry soothes the soul and this is my gift to the community.



Renae Smith

"WE CAN ACHIEVE GREATNESS!"

Renae Smith takes pride in not only being able to share her knowledge of the written word with men, women and children around the world, but actively bring individuals together to rejoice in each others talent of the written arts. When it comes to black women in particular, Smith see's the importance of sisterhood! A sisterhood that means not only working together but learning from each other as well.

As a black woman, entrepreneur and author, what does Women Empowerment mean to you?

Women Empowerment means working collaboratively with women from diverse backgrounds to bring about systematic changes in our local and global communities. Women empowerment to me means sharing each other's burdens when that load gets a little too heavy.

It means celebrating each other's successes as we navigate this thing called life. When we realize that we are stronger together, when we pool our resources, we CAN achieve greatness.



Your name and brand has gone international with the success following not only your business but books as well. What advice would you give to young black woman authors and entrepreneurs who see you as a model for success, who see you as an inspiration?

I would say that I am honored to be seen as a role model. As a black female author and business woman it can be tough at times, but I have never let those attributes be a stumbling block for me. To me, they are my super powers. Whenever I write or do business, I work with a spirit of excellence always trying to do better than my last book or event or venture. I'm my own competition. Being from the Caribbean and journeying to the United States to pursue my Master's degree, I learned some hard lessons, but they have propelled me to the position of running three businesses :- a nonprofit, a publishing company, my own brand while working full time.

What about the journey as a whole, any regrets and advice to share?

The journey has not always been easy, but I put God first in my life and studied harder, worked harder to get where I am and I make no apologies for it. My advice to young black authors and entrepreneurs is simple "Work Hard, Stay Focused and Never Give Up" and you can achieve your dreams - words from my second children's book "Freddie's First Race". As you traverse the ladder of success remember to be confident in your abilities, but be respectful and show humility, no regrets.





DON'T QUIT! FINISH UP STRONG.

RENAEE SMITH'S MESSAGE TO READERS

My message and the message of my nonprofit is to empower authors and promote literacy for all ages. In this digital age when everything we receive is in sound bites and snippets, it becomes even more important to focus on the reading and reading with understanding.

Encouraging children and adults to expand their minds and to show them the power of the written and spoken word. How impactful they can be whether they are readers or writers.

Often times we are hypercritical of ourselves and that leads us to a point of stagnation where we get nothing done. Whatever it is that you have a desire to do, go for it. Have faith in your ability to complete the task, if you need help ask for it.

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“

Just remember, "the road is not for the swift, but for those that can endure!"

BOOKED AND BUSY!!

What upcoming projects can readers expect from you?

Since 2011 I have been publishing a book almost every year so, yes, I am working on a new book; in fact, I have two in the works, one of which I am partnering with my mother. There is more to come for 2021 and beyond.

What about your non-profit organization, any new news?

As my nonprofit Independent Authors Book Experience continues to focus on literacy, we are happy to report that our 8th Annual Independent Authors Book Expo will be in person this year on August 7, 2021 from 11AM to 5PM in Roselle, New Jersey.

Due to the pandemic last year we had to host the event virtually. Although that appeared to be a challenge, we were able to do the pivot.

We hosted 20 authors, one of the authors was live from India due to the fact that the event was virtual. We were also able to reach more people nationally and internationally because of that and had a viewership of over 2200 people. We are expecting this year to be the biggest and the best event yet.

Does Independent Author's Book Expo have any other projects lined up for the rest of the year into next year?

My nonprofit Independent Authors Book Experience has various projects in the pipeline that we are rolling out for our students. This project will help with the Learning Loss they experienced during to the pandemic.

Vanessa Santiago-Jerman

"ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS IN MY BLOOD. IT'S WHO I AM AND IT'S WHAT I DO BEST. IT'S TRULY MY JOY."



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"I just really believe that everything is on GODS timing so when the time was right HE made it happen."

Vanessa S. Jerman has soared in all art forms for her continuously growing business from written poetry, children's books, arts and crafts, to even health and fitness. She is a woman's woman who wants to see her fellow black woman not only be strong, independent and witty in their craft, but she takes on the entrepreneurship badge with high remarks, support reviews and most of all love for what she does.

She shares with readers what made her enter entrepreneurship, the writing industry and how she keeps her business going.

You've written poetry before, what was the initial thoughts behind wanting to be a writer?

I have loved writing ever since I was 8 years old. I may not have been the best grammatically but writing was my first love. I used to make up stories and write poetry. As an adult, actually already in my 30's, I decided I wanted to publish a poetry book. So, I went and googled how to publish and there you have it, my very first published book was birthed.

Becoming a writer isn't easy process, how did you prepare yourself on what to know and do before releasing your first book?

I googled, watched videos from others who did it, took notes, read books on self publishing and just to a stab at it and my very first book was birthed. I was blessed because almost all my family and friends supported me an purchased copies.

What was the first novel that you ever wrote?

My first book was in fact a poetry book: "Love Thoughts and Poems" followed by "Love, Storms and Solace" which was also a poetry book. Lol, can you tell I love poetry? My first non poetry book didn't come along until later. It was an anthology with Author Sharnel Williams "Living in the PJ's".

You've participated in many anthologies with various other authors, what was the inspiration behind the first one you were apart of-"Living In the PJ's"?

The inspiration behind living in the PJ's was that she and I both were raised in the PJ's (Projects, Public Housing).

She was raised in Newark NJ, I was raised in Harlem NYC, (it's Harlem For me) otherwise known as Manhattan.

We wrote stories that expressed our appreciation of growing up in the projects, from the fun we had, and the relationships we encountered. My journey was different from hers although we experienced many similarities.

Why did you begin doing arts and crafts?

I have ALWAYS since age 18 been a network marketer from working in Mary Kay, Passion Parties and Other companies. I have always been quite crafty so I have ventured out to create things with my hands and sell them and from there, it kind of took off. I have been an entrepreneur since I was 18.

In terms of selling, has your audience/customer response been more than expected?

I was always blessed because I received lots of support. I went from part time to full time as an entrepreneur very quickly. Consistency is Key. The customer response was definitely above my expectations. I have realized after crafting for so long that everything isn't for everyone.

It is challenging for you to have to constantly create? Does it become tiring?

I have tried my hand at many areas of crafting and although I may have been good at it, it was enjoyable and seemed more like work and not something I enjoyed doing so I stopped. I stick to shirts, personalized items such as mugs, wine glasses, pillows, gift sets, baby gifts and bling apparel and sneakers.



“ I have been an entrepreneur since I was 18.”

What is some advice you would give to others who are looking to go into entrepreneurship?

First I would say learn your craft before selling anything. Some people make one thing and then jump into putting a price on it and. Selling it. You should first master your craft and become as close to an expert at it as possible. Know the in's and outs, all the back office stuff involved.

Do you think it's hard to finish once you get started? Many business fail, what other advice would you give?

I have seen people jump in because they think it's easy. Then they reach out to others already doing it asking what should I charge, where do I buy supplies, how do I package, what should I charge for a bill order etc. You don't jump in with both feet, take orders and expect others to give you all the answers. Research and setting up key components in the back office of a business is key. This is not an over night, easy money, option. This takes work, knowledge, investing in yourself and so much more.

Can you give more insight to the books you have written thus far?

I have written many books children, poetry, anthologies. I have books for children that touch on sharing: "Kennedy Loves Cupcakes", Autism Awareness: "My Friend Jarred", Racism: "In a world with No Color", Bullying: "Standing up to Lori Green and Allen the 4th grade bully", Self esteem: "Yancy the dancing Giraffe and Kinky Curly Me", and more.

Why these particular themes? What do you want children to learn and gain inspiration from your books?

Children and having diverse books were the inspiration for me to go into writing children's books. Many characters are children of color but all my characters feature a diversity of children because the problem isn't just seeing children that look like us but it's about seeing children of all races interacting. We need to teach acceptance of all races.

Do you have any upcoming projects-books and business wise?

I am working on helping a few people with their publishing projects at the moment. Coronavirus has slowed down some of my projects because of death, sickness and some other challenges that arose, but I am praying that at least two of the projects get completed this year. One of them being the anthology "Cancer".

Give readers a snippet of what's next for you.

In all honesty, after my next 3-4 projects that need to be completed I will be taking a long break from publishing others to focus on my personal books. I have a bunch of books I have written, and currently writing, that I want published and that is children's books ages 3-5, chapter books 7-12, and some books that have been on the back burner for a while.

What should readers know about owning their business?

I stand for womanhood, woman helping women, for diversity and bring up children to love all. I am always here to help another woman (for a fee), business help/ advice isn't and shouldn't be expected for free because this is a business. I am a business woman and anyone wanting to venture into any type of business should be willing to invest in themselves enough to pay for help/ advice.

“*My time is valuable but it isn't free. I have learned this along the way.*”

What does it mean to be a black woman author/writer and business owner for you?

I would say that as a woman of culture I want to work with and help as many women of culture as possible, black, and brown. Women should always help other women. Being an entrepreneur for me is everything, GOD led me to this. It wasn't that I saw someone else do something and followed, of course I may have been inspired by some but my Aunt Dorothy Bonneau who passed away was always one of the most amazing and supportive factors in my life.

The business mindset seems to run in your family, who else owns a business? Is it a family affair?

When my aunt was younger she and her husband my Uncle Bonneau owned a candy store (entrepreneur's), my late cousin Ulysses owned a popcorn shop (entrepreneur), my aunt on my fathers side of the family, Titi Sandra owns her own Greeting Card Company (Entrepreneur). Entrepreneurship is in my blood. It's who I am and it's what I do best. It's truly my JOY.



**VANESSA S. JERMAN
GIVES READERS AN
INSIGHT AS TO WHY SHE
HAS VENTURED MORE IN
DEPTH INTO THE
HEALTH AND FITNESS
LIFESTYLE!**

What has the health and fitness lifestyle meant to you thus far?

Health and fitness to me, well I am by far NO health guru haha, I just try to maintain a healthy weight and exercise at least 4-5 times a week whether it's taking a walk or lifting weights at home. I am now 50, and I am diabetic so I have to take care of me so I can be here for a long time to enjoy my husband, grandchildren and children.

Does this include meal changes?

I watch what I eat, cut out meat (a personal choice). I only eat sea food, veggies and I limit my carb intake and drink only water, tea and coffee. These are not the practices of my household but mines alone.

What made you begin this personal health journey?

When I was diagnosed with diabetes I made major changes, at first I was doing Keto and it was great, I was losing lots of weight and it was beautiful BUT then I felt sluggish eating so much meat. So I research other diets and lifestyles and chose more of a pescatarian (flexitarian) lifestyle. I eat mainly veggies and maybe 2-3 times a week seafood/ fish.

I make plant based meals for the most part. When I stopped keto I gained back 10lbs of the 25lbs I lost, then I switched to the plant based lifestyle and I have lost most of it back. I am really not in it for weight loss but to better my sugar levels, and maintain my health.

Sonya Felice Jenkins

Dedicated and Inspiring.

Sonya Jenkins has been in the creative scene for a long time, ranging from the cut throat industry of modeling and singing to now the world written word. With a big imagination and seasoned knowledge of the to how she conducts her internet radio show "Raven's Closet Talk Show" and many books, Jenkins is in a lane of her own and is dedicated to sharing her craft with audiences/readers.

Was the idea of becoming a writer and businesswoman natural to you? How did you begin your journey into the industry?

I guess it's half naturally and half learned in school. As a child, I would create various story scenarios with my dolls to entertain myself. When I was in high school, I was a member of the creative writing club, my teacher, who taught my English class, read my poems and enjoyed them very much. Each creative paper I turned in, she would write a note on them about how much she enjoyed them and that I should make English my major when I go to college.

What did college teach you about becoming a writer?

My English professor, suggested that I look into becoming a writer after he read all of my research papers I turned in for his course. My professor would talk to me about my writing and thought I have the gift to be writer. However, I didn't take him seriously, until someone special came into my life who was a writer. As we spent time together, we would exchange short stories as personal gifts to one another.





All photo rights belong to Sonya F. Jenkins.

SOARING THOUGHTS!

Did your professor give you advice on how to start this new path? What were your initial thoughts on what to do in regards to writing?

Somewhere along the way, another suggestion was made, and I started to seriously think about becoming a writer and see what would become of it as a profession.

What did you do following the suggestion?

I began doing some research on being a self-published author, what the publishing business was all about; then I attended a few seminars on the subject, met with other traditional/self-published authors to get their perspective on the industry.

Now that you walked this new path into the writing industry, what was the first thing you did? You were established then as a radio host, what was next?

It wasn't until, I interviewed several authors for my radio show, that I really felt I could give it a try and see what would happens. Once I started the process, it turned out to be not as bad as I thought.

What do you think of the progress you've made? Surely you can congratulate yourself?

Looking back over it, I'm sure there were a few missteps I've done, for which I've learned from for the next time and/or share with others but I'm proud of what I've achieved thus far.

"I'm not exactly sure when I wanted to be a businesswoman but I just knew someday I wanted to own a business."

All In or Nothing!

JENKINS MESSAGE THROUGH BOOKS

Sonya Jenkins has participated in many anthologies of various topics from love and loss to new life beginnings. With the short stories that she has produced, readers are able to connect with her on a deeper and personal level through the characters that come alive.

Through your short story "Silly Teenage Dreams" in the anthology "We Rise Above" created and published by Vanessa S. Jerman, what was your inspiration behind it? Was it a personal experience?

I contributed a short story titled, "Silly Teenage Dilemma." The inspiration/message behind my short story, was based off my teenage life experience with an older man, how my teenage world turned upside down by the choices I made, the journey to overcome and start life anew.

What was the inspiration/story behind your novels "Once In A Lifetime" Books 1 and 2? What about these short stories related to you?

Real life romantic rendezvous, romantic break-ups, first-time sexual experiences, etc. of myself and of those within my inner circle were the inspiration for the short stories and a few of the poems.

What can readers learn from these books?

The books are for those readers who lived similar experiences; remember/relive memories of what it was like to be so deeply involved with someone that you did things/experience things that you never thought you would do or thought you weren't capable of doing. . . in a good way, all in the name of love.



IN THE CLOSET WITH SONYA

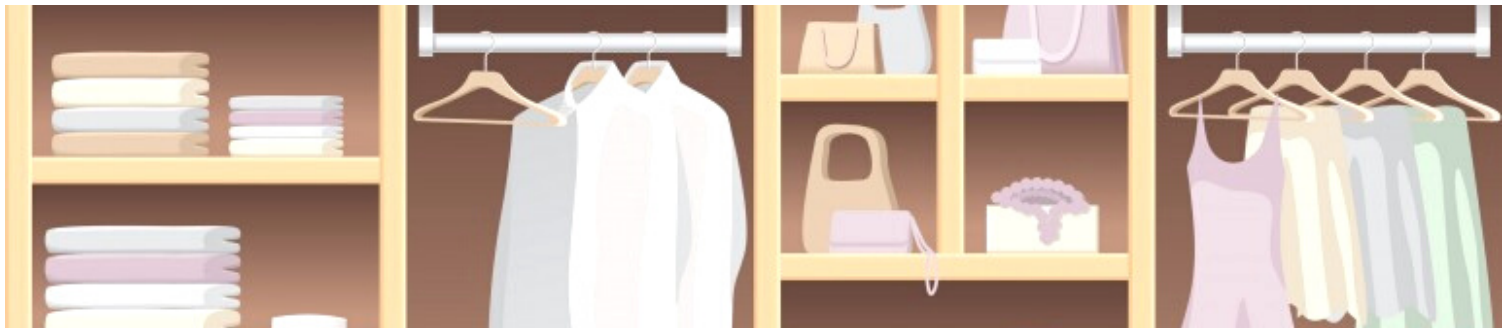
Inside Sonya F. Jenkins Internet Radio Talk Show "Raven's Closet"

Jenkins has been in the media scene for a long time now, having established her own radio show called "Raven's Closet", she has been able to reach audiences world-wide. The show has come to a pause but Jenkins is still creative, and still thriving in her multi purpose craft.

Give readers an inside look at your internet radio talk show, "Raven's Closet,". What is it about, what topics do you tend to discuss? (next column)

As of to date, my internet radio talk show, "Raven's Closet" is on hiatus until further notice but will return one day.

The "Raven's Closet" talk show was a weekly ninety-minute show, formatted for the mature audience to come together and share their experiences they have hidden in the "closet" - learn from one another, and network.



What was the main mission of the radio show?

The show wasn't geared to get into anyone's personal business, however, transparency was key; allowing their victories over their traumatic experiences be a source of support/inspiration to someone who is going through the same or similar.

When audiences toon in, they are taken to a place like their "closet"? They connect with your topics by thinking about a set of clothing?

The "closet" have items that everyone have in theirs; each week the topic(s) of discussion were based on those items. A few examples, everyone have a "shirt" hanging in their closet; the symbolism of the shirt means, newness/renewal. "Suit" represents amor of faith.

"Accessories" for acceptance of self & others. "Shoes" for walking a mile. "Hat" for wisdom. "Mirror" for the manifestation of dreams & future possibilities.

What was the range of guests that you would air each week?

The guest(s) each week ranged from authors, entrepreneurs, musicians/entertainment performers, medical/healthcare professionals, survivors (cancer, child/domestic abuse, addictions, etc.), life/relationship coaches, financial advisors, and so many others.

What advice would you give to young writers and authors who look to you as an inspiration/role model especially if they find entering the writing industry to be difficult or hard?

I wouldn't consider myself a role model/inspiration, nonetheless, my advice, would be the same advice I received; it would be for them to do the research on the industry, research the genre(s) they want to write for. Read books in the genre(s).

Attend various writing and publishing seminar/training events. If they want to self-publish, speak with authors who are (traditional and/or self) published. Network with other authors/publishers.

Overall, just learn all they can about the industry; and don't let anyone talk them out of pursuing their goal/dream of being a writer/author.

By you being an owner of Life's Puzzle Pieces, LLC. and Reaching Prosperity Management, what challenges have you faced behind owning the business?

The challenges behind owning a few businesses is working with clients who come to you for your services but don't see the value in the services you are providing. I'm not as aggressive as most entrepreneurs.

I try my best to provide clients/potential clients with the information of my services and allow them to make their own decision(s) if my services fit their need(s).

What is the easiest and hardest part about being a "one woman" team or do you have a whole team of collaborators that you run your books and other content by?

I'm a "one woman" team, however, I do run project ideas by my mom/manager, who will give me feedback and/or other options on how to start and/or accomplish a specific project.

I like doing things a particular way; to be honest I am a bit controlling when it comes my business(es)/projects, which is a challenge for me, because, I don't trust too many people to do things the way I like it or rely on someone to finish their designated task(s).

What does Black Women Empowerment mean to you as a whole?

As a whole, Black Women Empowerment means encouraging Black Women of all ages to follow their dreams. Take a chance on themselves regardless of what others may think/say. Always being open to constant learning, networking and sharing with other women.





WHAT'S NEXT FOR SONYA F. JENKINS?

Any new projects related to novels, your radio show and or business coming out? Give a snippet to readers on what's next for you.

My creative mindset is currently scattered and with the current state of the world with Covid-19, being inspired & focused has been a little off for me, however, I do have a draft of the last book in the "Once In A Lifetime Love" series, pending title, "Once In A Lifetime Love 3: The Good, The Bad And The Ugly Side Of Love." Before the world was turned upside down, I attended an online class on mystery writing so there could be an erotic/noir mystery novella in the future. As previously mentioned, the Raven's Closet Talk Show is on indefinite hiatus with plans to return. And there are other potential projects brewing in my head but nothing is worth mentioning at the moment but I will make announcement(s) when they are ready for the public.

SHARNEL WILLIAMS

"I want all black women to WIN!"



“

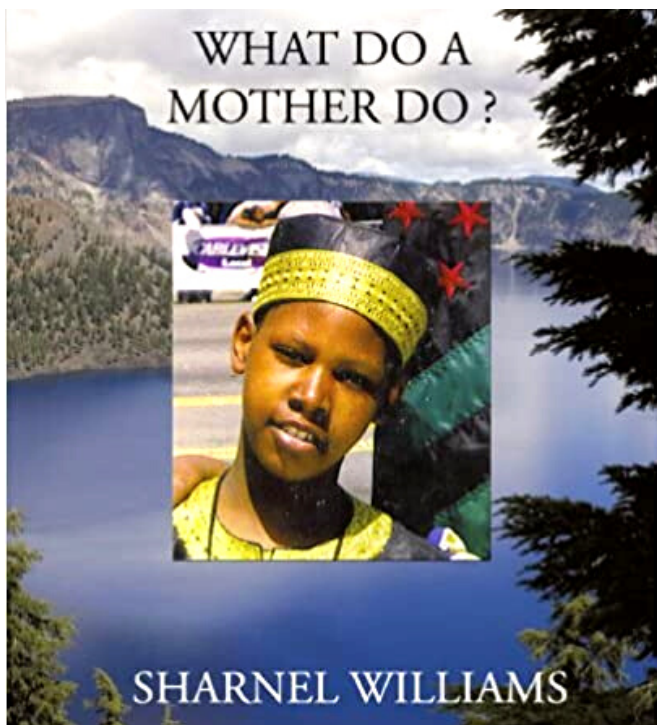
*Your vision is
your vision!”*

Shar-Shey Publishing is a powerhouse all on its own since being founded and created by author, writer and business owner Sharnel Williams. Having been in the writing industry for years, Williams has established her name and brand to the highest degree, staying booked, highly requested requested, and busy. If you're a new writer on the block, Shar-Shey Publishing will set you straight for growth and success.

How did you become an author and writer? Many have had personal instances bring them to this point, what brought you to become the writer you are today?

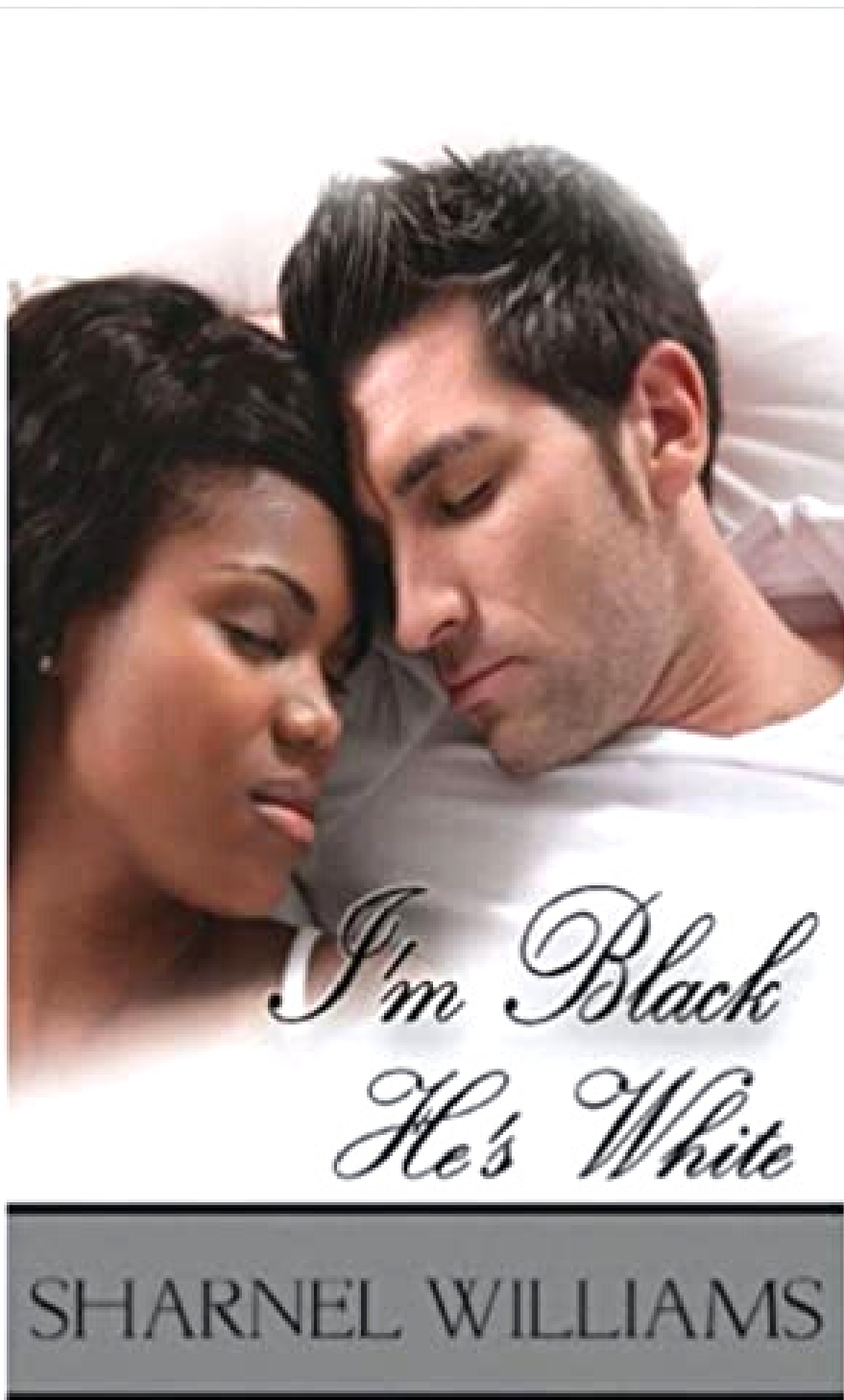
My son passed away from Leukemia in 2005. The same day after his funeral, his nurse came up to me and spoke these words. “You should turn your son’s story into a book, to help every mother that is going or went through the same as you”.

I had to think and do some research on how to get started. Then it came to me through my novel- my title, “What Do A Mother Do? The Shakil Williams Story.”



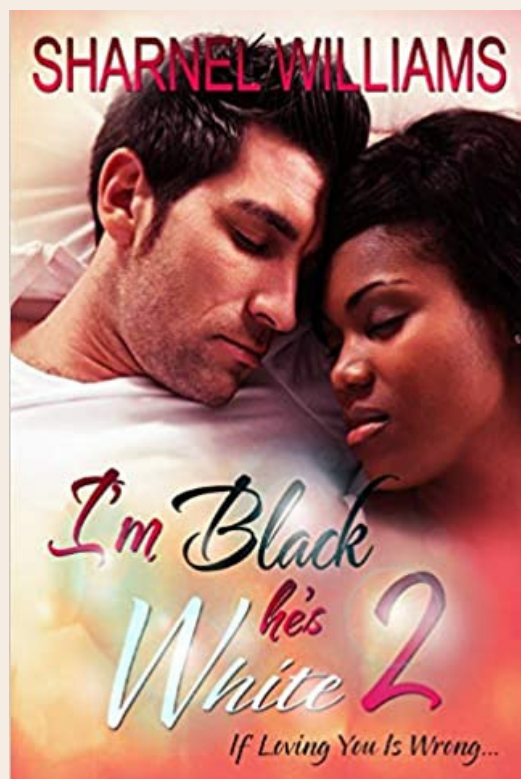
"I'm Black, He's White"

Sharnel Williams First Ever Novel Series



**WHAT WAS THE
INSPIRATION BEHIND
YOUR FIRST NOVEL "I'M
BLACK, HE'S WHITE"?**

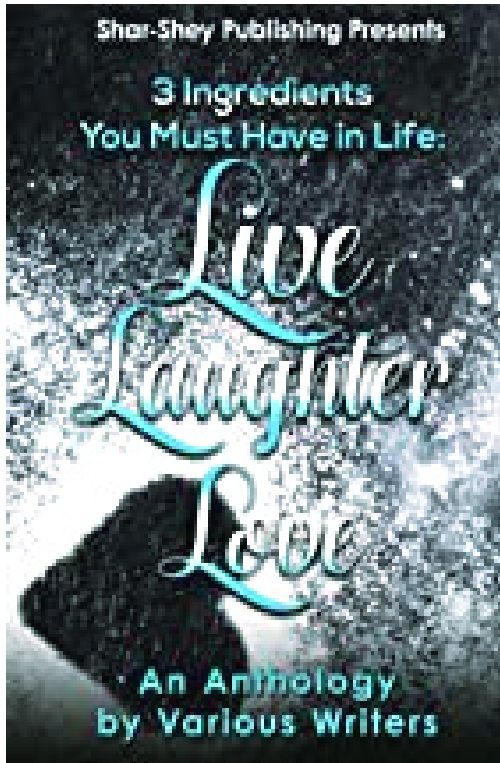
My first novel was “I’m Black, He’s White”, by the way, it’s a 2-part series. I am being honest, moving to P.A, I had seen so many interracial couples and that was new to me coming from Newark, N.J. So, I decided to write a book about it.



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ANTHOLOGY UPON ANTHOLOGY

The Success Behind Sharnel Williams Multiply ANTHOLOGY Novels



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When you hear about Author Sharnel Williams, you automatically think about the success of her powerful and unique tribe of Anthologies, a storm of writers and authors from many walks of life. All her anthologies tell a special story, each filled with words that hold different meanings to many who read them. Anthologies are Sharnel Williams gold and she happily shares it with her continuously growing audience.

Why and how did you start your anthologies? What's the inspiration behind the various topics that you have chosen thus far?

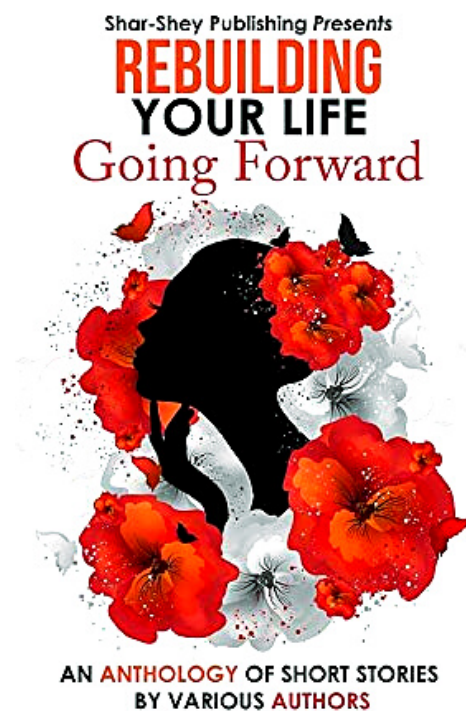
I wanted to give first time writers a taste of being an author with a short story, instead of writing a whole novel.

Is there a personal connection to your life when choosing the topics to do the anthologies on, such as the "Rebuilding Your Life Going Forward" anthology?

Two books were personal 'Rebuilding Your Life', was based on losing my son to cancer and it was time to move on from the pain. "3 Ingredients You Must Have in Life Live, Laughter, and Love" this book was based on us as women nurturing and saying No. That it is okay to say No, sometimes.

What is some advice you would give to other writers who look to you as a role model for writing anthologies?

You need a team; you can trust, you cannot do this alone. A contract is the key, make sure you read everything even the smallest sentences, if you don't understand ask questions. As an Author you are taking the same steps as being an entrepreneur. Just make sure you get an editor and go over your work after the editor edit it.



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HEY, HEY SHAR-SHEY!

Sharnel Williams shares with readers how and why she started her Shar-Shey Publishing Company, Her "Let's Talk Too" Podcast, The Women's Empowerment Luncheon' and more!



How did you start Shar-Shey Publishing? What's the story behind the name? Explain how the company came to be and how it has grown over the years.

I have a show called "Let's Talk Too." I had several of different authors on. A couple of them suggested that I should start my own company. Again, I did my research, I keep bringing up the word research because that is so important. Then I had to come up with a logo and a name of the company which is now Shar-Shey Publishing Company.

I wanted a name that means something special and my vision that would last a long time. A lot of people do not know this unless they read my book or went on my website. I named my company after the kids I lost. I had a still born in 1992. I named her Varshey and my son's named Shakil, I put both names together and came up with Shar-Shey.

Explain the growth and success behind your powerful Women's Empowerment Luncheons. How and why did you start these Luncheons?

This is my baby..... this is funny, I posted on my timeline if there was anyone looking for speakers at their conference, and then I knew it was my time to tell my story. I received messages, telling me to start my own and invite women to speak at my event. I did my research. I started "You Are Not Alone Women Empowerment Luncheon" several years ago.

Your luncheons showcase woman empowerment and togetherness as a community, what's your personal view on Women Empowerment?

I just wanted to bring women together to inspire one another. No matter what color you are and what you are going through. In reality we do Run the World.

What is the message that you stand for as other black women look to you for guidance and inspiration?

I will never take this for granted. I never dreamed of being an author or entrepreneur. I love helping people, I was helped. I want everyone black women to WIN.



Up Next With Sharnel Williams!

Do you have any upcoming projects-books and business wise? Give readers a snippet of what's next for you.

I have several anthologies coming out this year. I am working on another children's book, hopefully with my grandson.

Plus, our big annual event coming up this August is in Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ, we are working on now. I left out the children playground is now called The Shakil Williams Playground.

What is a message you would share with your supporters and readers who have been with you every step of your writing journey?

I would like to thank every writer who has signed to Shar-Shey Publishing, that has trusted me with their manuscript. To everyone who supports me and everything I do, I really appreciate you. Stay focused and put 200% in what you do.

What about those who may feel discouraged from writing or merely starting a business? What would you say to them?

Believe and Pray, God will lead you. Have your own vision. What I mean by that, do not go with someone else's vision, your vision is your vision.



15th Annual
In Loving Memory
of Shakil Williams
Community Health Event
August 28th - 11:00 AM - 7:30 PM

FREE!
FOOD-MUSIC-FUN
GIVE-AWAYS

FREE COVID-19 Vaccinations

SHAKIL WILLIAMS PLAYGROUND

BRANCH BROOK PARK
NEWARK, NJ

(Located corner of Clifton Ave. & Route 280 West Entrance)
for more information, contact Kevin or Sharnel @ kbrown181@gmail.com



Shar-Shey Publishing Presents

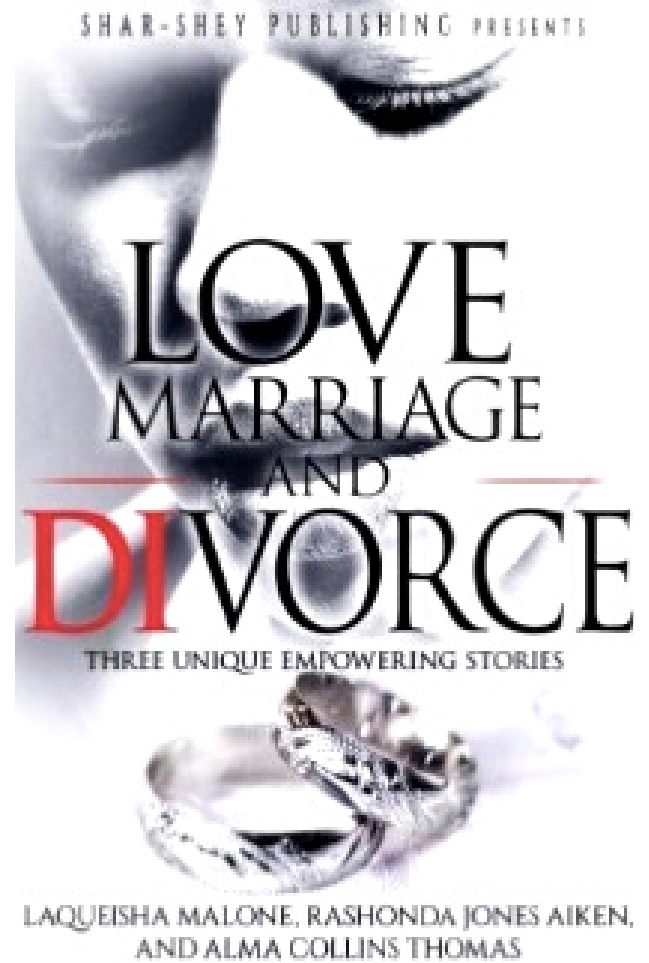
A MOTHER'S DAY Nightmare

A MYSTERY, THRILLER, SUSPENSE



BOOK
COMING
SOON!

Are y'all ready!
Author's Names
Coming Soon.



Rashonda Jones-Aiken has cemented a name for herself in the writing industry- from participating in many Anthologies with known black authors, to starting her own publishing company along with her twin daughters. She could be considered new on the scene, but with a new start in life, she is brighter and better at her craft as a writer, author, and now entrepreneur.

How did you know you wanted to be a writer? Was writing ever a hobby for you at the time or did you dive right in?

I didn't know anything about being a writer at first. I've always been behind the scenes writing and helping my daughter Se'Quince with her writing and books. For me, I didn't take it seriously in the beginning. I never imagined myself being a write/author because I didn't think it would be good enough for anyone to read and like.

Your daughter was your inspiration to start writing. How has writing been like thus far, what did you do next?

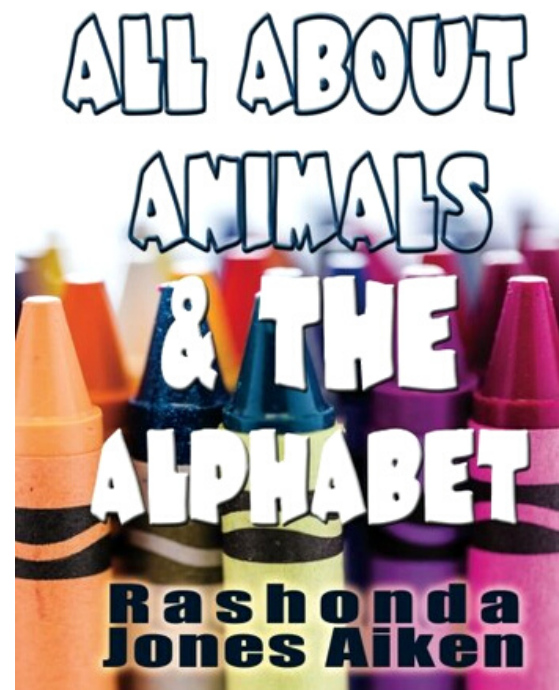
I surprised myself with doing my first anthology called "Love, Marriage, and Divorce" under Shar-Shey Publishing. I wrote a short story about marriage. How I originally became a first time author was creating my own coloring book-"All About Animals and The Alphabet". My daughter basically put on the path to something new and challenging.

Did your daughters influence help make the decision to become an writer/author more permanent?

I initially used the coloring book as a tool for therapy to help my daughter Se'Quince with her hand motion. It helped her more with holding a crayon and coloring inside each letter of the alphabet. It also helped grip the crayon to stay in motion while coloring because that is always a difficult task for someone with a disability. The coloring book will help young children learn their colors and learn some fun facts about the animals. I had the anthology short story to put energy into as well. making my decision to become a writer more permanent.

Once you put a book out there, how did you feel about now proclaiming yourself as a writer?

I was hesitant at first because I wasn't sure if I was good enough or my story and book would be good enough for print. It was! I was very happy of the outcome. I took a chance, put my fears behind and did it, now it's practically a permanent second job. Both of my daughters encouragement pushed me towards this path! I have a lot of author friends that I look up to for guidance and that inspires me to keep going.



COMING SOON AND SPICY!

"The novel is going to be called "Betrayal", a gripping drama I'm positive readers are going to enjoy!"

Rashonda Jones-Aiken has had a busy few years, many changes have occurred, from her love life to her daughters declining health, but what hasn't changed is her love for writing. While her first novel hasn't been released yet, she is still gathering ideas for future stories, even with continuous obstacles in her way.

You have a coloring books and a few Anthology short stories under your belt, but when are your readers going to get a full length novel?

That is still a work in progress and I am focused to complete it. Though I've been hit with dramatic obstacles, I'm pushing to finish it. I am hoping that 2022 will be the year to release it. The novel is going to called "Betrayal", a gripping and spicy drama I'm positive readers are going to enjoy!



All photo rights belong to Rashonda Jones-Aiken.

What can readers expect to read in your new release? Please share a snippet of "Betrayal" with readers.

Without giving too much away, it is about a high schooler named Morgan who despises her mother for her secret infidelity. Her mother doesn't know that her daughter knows she's been doing things outside her marriage.

Morgan finds a way to get revenge that hurts the entire family. The inspiration is about me trying new things and writing my first novel, this is my true way of seeing if I have what it takes to be writer. Stay tuned!





The Startup of Rahway Girlz Publishing: A Brand and Growing Business

Rahway Girlz Publishing was birthed from Rashonda's thought of wanting her daughter Se'Quince's books to not only be self-published but also more firmly acknowledged, not lost in the background. She built Rahway Girlz Publishing from the ground up and now nine years later, she and her two daughters are apart of the writing scene, in their own lane. Rahway Girlz with a passion for writing, creating, and most all-staying true to their craft.

How did you start your business/publishing company Rahway Girlz Publishing? Talk about the process and audience response to building the company and brand.

I started Rahway Girlz Publishing so my daughter Se'Quince could have a publishing name behind her books. You hear and read about well known authors having been rejected by literary agents signing on to well known publishing companies. Se'Quince wasn't there yet, so I came up with the name Rahway Girlz Publishing because we are from Rahway, New Jersey. The process is never easy when starting and creating something of your own. Luckily by having some author friends, I have gotten a lot of good advise on how to start.

What advice did they give you to help with the process?

I searched, watched other people and asked questions. Sometimes people will help and some won't. I felt that when you ask questions people don't want to give out too much information like you going to steal something from them.

Are you happy about the progress Rahway Girlz Publishing has done thus far?

Creating Rahway Girlz Publishing, to me was very hard because I am a full time mother, caretaker and I work full time. To be a publisher isn't easy when you have other tasks to do on a daily basis. My focus mainly was just creating the name to put our books behind it. I took my time working on one thing at a time. I figured one day it will progress overtime and it has. I wasn't concerned about what people thought.

Where do you see Rahway Girlz Publishing in a few years?

Everyone has their own way of doing things. That was me and I'm proud of the progress me and both my daughter's have made under the brand and I hope it continues to grow and be recognized. I see Rahway Girlz collaborating with more people because we work hard to get our name and creativity out there. People have noticed us thankfully and we will continue to grow and achieve.

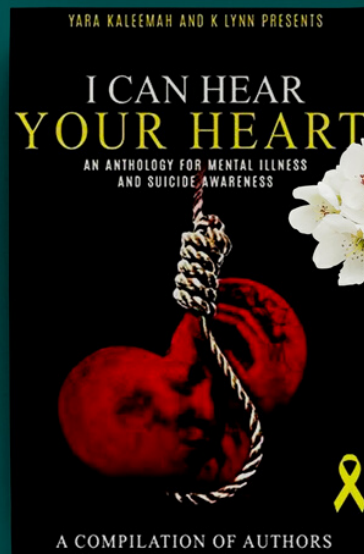
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You've participated in many anthologies with other black women and authors, how was the experience? How did you feel about connecting with other black women writers, not just through the stories you all shared but just the experience of creating a book together?

Participating in different anthologies was a great experience to read other people's work who didn't have a chance of writing like me. I came across women who had a lot to tell through their stories. Anthologies are short stories but have a point to the story.

What have you learned from not only writing these short stories but also from the authors that you've been able to write with?

I felt great being part of something with women whom I had a connection with before the anthology. I follow and have read their books before I became a writer myself. You learn from others to make yourself better. It is a learning process that helps make create better. I am still learning and continuing to try to make my writing evolve.

What do you think it takes to make an Anthology come alive?

Once all the stories are completed and combined into one book with a cover and title, that makes you feel important because you know your story is in there with other women. The whole world will see it, read it and review it. Once you have that printed copy in your hand, you know it's yours.

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What are all the Anthologies and short stories that you have participated in?

All the anthologies that I have been part of are: "Love, Marriage & Divorce", ("Marriage" is my story), "Rebuilding Your Life Going Forward" ("Rebuild, Reshape, Restore" is my story), "I Can Hear Your Heart" ("Mental Health, Suicide" is my story).

There is also "She Power (Best Seller/International- "Am I A Hero, Wonder Woman or Just A Mom?"), "As We Lay Without A Care", and finally "The Untethered Woman". (Best Seller/International). Any reader can enjoy my short stories!



RASHONDA'S COOL JEMS!



Rashonda Jones-Aiken has not only come out from behind the scenes in regards to writing and building her brand for Rahway Girlz Publishing but she has stepped into a new role of being her boss, becoming an entrepreneur by selling Paparazzi Jewelry.

Readers and consumers alike can buy pieces under "Rashonda's Cool Jems" on Facebook! She is doing what she knows best-branding and thriving!

On your entrepreneurship journey with Paparazzi, what lessons have you learned?

My journey with being an Independent Consultant for Paparazzi is very challenging. Your love for jewelry has to be the same as the love of your clients. You have to find your base of women who loves jewelry just as much as you do. My lesson is to keep learning and follow other consultants who can guide me to the next level. It is so much to learn with tips and training to help you get better. it is a work in progress but you can look beautiful at the same time.

How has the customer response been like for you?

You can gain a lot of customers, but the hardest part is who is willing to purchase fabulous jewelry for \$5. Being an entrepreneur can be easy for people who has been doing this for a long time, but for new people like me is a challenge. You have to work extra hard to earn and gain confidence to do what you claim to love.

Is being an entrepreneur and easy or difficult experience thus far? How do you expect your new business to grow?

It hasn't been an easy experience so far, I'm still learning as I go but if you want to start a business, you have to sell what you want in order for people to buy. You have to give it your all and I have and will continue to do. I expect my independence to grow as I learn to make it better and the best I can make it to be. Take a leap of faith by having no fear and just do it.





"NEVER STOP BELIEVING IN YOURSELF"

One last message to share with readers?

With God by my side I am hoping to publish four to six books, sell more jewelry and a lot more by the end of 2022. so anyone thinking of starting something new or need an extra push to finish-do it! Don't wait and never stop believing in yourself. Stay tuned for updates by following Rahway Girlz Publishing!

What's Next For Rashonda?

"RAHWAY GIRLZ PUBLISHING WILL BE OUT MORE!"

The last two years have been a roller coaster for everyone especially with what's taking place in the world and for Rashonda, it's no different. In the new year, she hopes to make improvements to not only her writing but her business mindset as well. She hopes to have Rahway Girlz Publishing push out more books, more creativity, and more networking with others. Readers will also see the release of her first novel "Betrayal" and much more!

You plan to release more content for not just your publishing company but also yourself as a writer and entrepreneur. What else can readers expect from you come the new year?

Readers can expect to see a few projects including blogs posts from myself and my daughters. I hope to release "Betrayal" for 2022 along with other projects that have been pushed back. I also plan to sell more Paparrazzi Jewelry and move up in the ranks. I'm going to work hard to push my name out there in all aspects..




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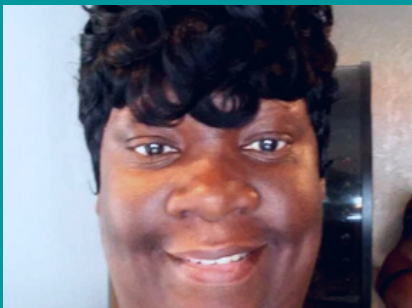
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