

*Bringing Authors & Readers Together*

*Clearbrook Center of the Arts  
Lake Ridge, VA*

*April 15, 2023*

# Welcome to the EXPO



**The Commonwealth of Virginia**

**The County of Prince William**

**The City of Woodbridge & The Town of Lake Ridge**

**Welcome You To**



**Congratulations to all of the featured authors.**

# The BookTalk Lounge

- 11:15 - 11:45**     **Storytime with Kwame Nesmith-Otoo**  
*Great for kids and families.*  
Storytime with Kwame will feature children's books read by Kwame.
- 12:00 - 12:30**     **Jamiyl & Tracy-Ann Samuels**  
*Great for kids and families.*  
April is Autism Awareness Month. This presentation will feature a live reading of the third book in the series "The Sensationally Super Sandy" and discuss the author's Autism journey and why they wrote the books.
- 12:45 - 1:15**     **Onjeinika Brooks**  
Life coach and author who uses her books to help strengthen family relationships, and support mental health will discuss her books *Unmothered: A Daughter's Guide to Acceptance, Healing, and Renewal* and *Sisters Are From Heaven*.
- 1:30 - 2:00**     **Tracee Lydia Garner**  
Best-selling author of the 3 book Parker Brothers Series and 4 book Jackson Family Series.
- 2:15 - 2:45**     **A.S. Drayton**  
An intimate discussion with A.S. Drayton about his inspirations and the relationship between his award-winning memoir, *Are You Okay?: The Carryover of Kindness*, and his upcoming novel, *Through the Eyes of The Beholder*.

# The Loft Stage

Sponsored by Josh & Candi King

- 11:15**     **Stage Host: Josh King**
- 11:30 - 12:00**     **Dwayne Lawson-Brown**  
Join Congressional Black Caucus Award winning poet Dwayne Lawson-Brown for a 20-minute reading from 3 collections – *One Color Kaleidoscope*, *Twenty:21*, and *Breaking The Blank*.
- 12:05**     **Stage Host: Josh King**
- 12:15 - 12:45**     **Damon Roberts Sr**  
With his book, "*Matter of Time: Continue to March*", author Damon Roberts Sr. will share his profound and inspirational journey to self-realization and spiritual growth as he transitioned from life in the Middle East to America and ultimately discovered the healing he so desperately needed.
- 12:50**     **Stage Host: Josh King**
- 1:00 - 1:30**     **Eugene Pair, James Pair, & Aaron Pair**  
*Let Us Make A Man: The Black Man's Guide to Creating a Life of Significance, Impact, & Power*  
The Let Us Make A Man book talk features a tribute to Black men. The team of authors will showcase positive, productive, and profitable profiles of Black men. There will be an interactive game show where authors will share and discuss excerpts from their landmark book. It's a must-see presentation that you do not want to miss!
- 1:35**     **Stage Host: Josh King**
- 1:45 - 2:30**     **Ron Daise**  
Ron Daise will speak about the importance of Gullah Geechee culture and heritage and read excerpts from his two novellas, "*We Wear the Mask, Unraveled Truths in a Pre-Gullah Community*" and "*Turtle Dove Done Drooped His Wings, A Gullah Tale of Fight or Flight*."
- 2:30**     **Stage Host: Josh King**



**2023**

**BLK AUTHOR EXPO  
FEATURED AUTHORS**

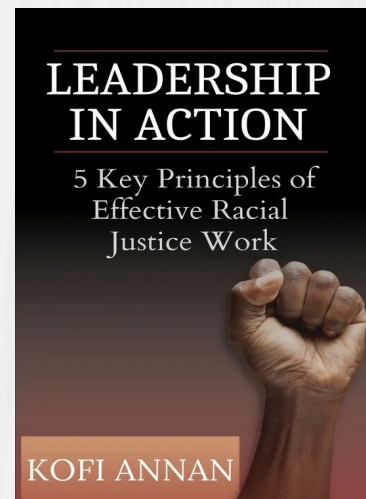
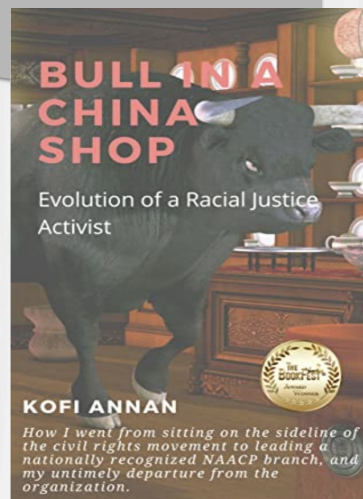
# Kofi Annan



Kofi is an award-winning racial justice activist and two-time award-winning author. He previously served two terms as the president of the Fairfax County, Virginia National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which was awarded the NAACP's Thalheimer Award for being the best branch in the country under his administration. He is now dedicated to training and consulting leaders interested in doing the challenging but meaningful racial justice work.

His memoir *Bull in a China Shop: Evolution of a Racial Justice Activist* won the 2022 Bookfest first place award in the category of Government Corruption and politics. Kofi is a decorated war veteran who served honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also had a distinguished career as an intelligence analyst in the federal government.

<https://42fightingwords.com/>



# Graemme Denyce Boone



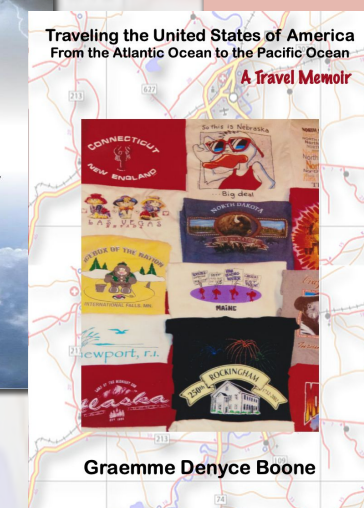
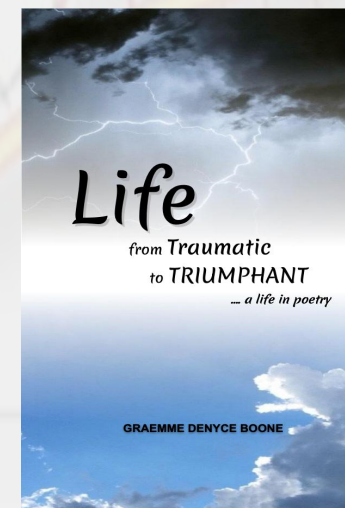
Although she now resides in Washington, DC., Graemme Denyce Boone's story began in the great state of Oklahoma. She is a product of strong foundations.

Graemme enjoys reading, traveling, trying new foods, and exploring new places. She is a devout Christian, who spends her time helping others and thrives in the company of those she loves. A true servant of mankind, she spends her time assisting church family and relatives in any capacity she can.

Besides helping her loved ones, she is the owner of a successful travel company, Godsend Travels, where she helps people explore the world.

For more information on the author or to support her business, visit:

Make money: [www.surge365.com/godsendtravels](http://www.surge365.com/godsendtravels)  
Save money: [www.myvortex365.com/godsendtravels](http://www.myvortex365.com/godsendtravels)  
Website: [godsendtravels.com](http://godsendtravels.com)  
Facebook: [gdenyceboone](https://www.facebook.com/gdenyceboone)  
Email: [gdenyceboone@gmail.com](mailto:gdenyceboone@gmail.com)



# T.A. Broady

T.A. Broady has loved to write for as long as she can remember, and the desire to become a published author and motivational speaker has grown.

A few months after her mom passed, she discovered an opportunity to write for an E-magazine; She began producing motivational videos and journaling the thoughts and emotions she was experiencing.

Then, in 2020, as COVID-19 began to change daily living, she felt somewhat lost in her thoughts and decided to pick up her pen again; She began to write poetry that focused on the current state of society. Quarantine life forced her to set aside time for reflection and self-evaluation.

The quiet time allowed her to build her confidence, confront her fears and celebrate her God-given gifts and talents. Opportunities have been created for her to use her voice in several media productions as a creative writer and poetic and motivating voice.

Gifted with a creative mind and a vision, she is now officially a first-time author and the owner of Creatively Inspired, LLC.

Creatively Inspired, LLC is a platform that allows her to consult with small businesses and panels on various aspects of their organizational projects, while utilizing her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism/Public Relations and her MS in Human Resources Management.

As the creator of the Reaching New Heights, 60 Days of Affirmations, and writing plan, she shares the method and approach that helps her sustain an optimistic and blessed mindset filled with abundance and happiness.

Website: <https://www.creativelyinspired.org/>



# Onjeinika Brooks

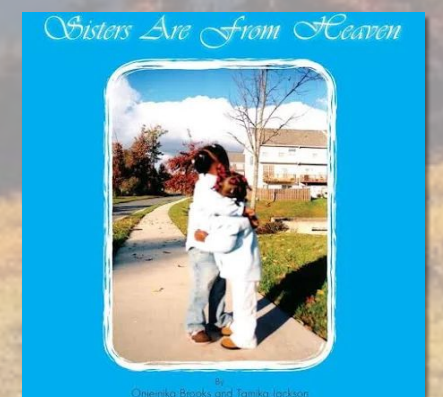
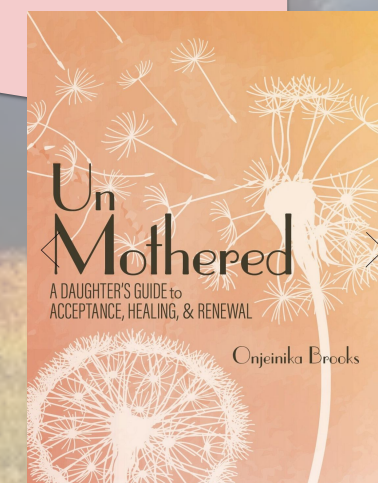
Onjeinika Brooks is the author of *Unmothered: A Daughter's Guide to Acceptance, Healing, and Renewal*, and the coauthor of *Sisters Are From Heaven*, a children's picture book written with her sister, Tamika Jackson.

She is a life coach who uses her books to help heal, strengthen family relationships, and support mental health.

*Unmothered: A Daughter's Guide to Acceptance, Healing, and Renewal* is a memoir that provides self-help to women who had a difficult relationship with their mother.

*Sisters Are From Heaven* is a children's picture that discusses the love between sisters and how it can be shared with others.

[www.onjeinikabrooks.com](http://www.onjeinikabrooks.com)



## Dwayne Lawson-Brown



Dwayne Lawson-Brown, aka the Crochet Kingpin, is co-host of Spit Dat, the longest running open mic in Washington, D.C. Born and raised in Washington, D.C., they have performed and hosted at The Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth Theater, Keegan Theater, The Strathmore, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and others. In Addition to varying poetic accomplishments, Dwayne is a Helen Hayes nominated playwright, competitive karaoke champion, and CEO of Crochet Kingpin Designs.

<https://crochetkingpin.com/>



## Commander David Reid Brown, CHC, USN (Ret.)



**David Reid Brown** is an artist, pastor, and retired Navy Chaplain. His first books, *Spirit Soundings: A Chaplain's Journal of Life at Sea and Lost Summer*, were born out of his global experiences in the chaplaincy, spanning twenty-one years of peace, war, and three overseas deployments. He is living out his God-given passion to “build people” through teaching high school government, history, and art at Grace Christian School in Mechanicsville, VA.

David has been married to his beautiful wife, Rayna, for twenty-nine years. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia State University, a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and a Master of Elementary Education degree from Hawaii Pacific University.

You can purchase any of David's books at:  
[www.GetMyNewBook.com/read/david-brown/](http://www.GetMyNewBook.com/read/david-brown/)

You can follow all social media posts at the following:

Facebook:  
Spirit Soundings - @SpiritSoundings3vols  
Lost Summer - @LossandRecovery

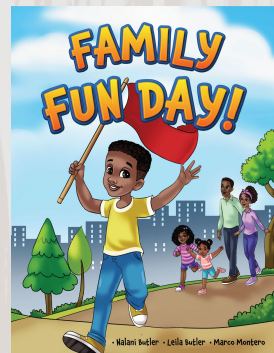
Email: [davidreidbrown1@gmail.com](mailto:davidreidbrown1@gmail.com)



# Nalani & Leila Butler

www.thebookbutler.com

Nalani and Leila Butler are now top-performing university students, but their book-writing careers began as early as elementary school. In fact, they wrote their first book, *Paige Saves the Day*, in just fifth and sixth grade! Years later, they decided to self-publish their work, with the help of their dad, and have since continued writing. Tackling important themes for children such as bullying, friendship, communication, and self-image, to name a few, these girls have stayed true to their publishing company's motto: publishing with purpose. They aspire to continue writing for kids and older audiences in the future.

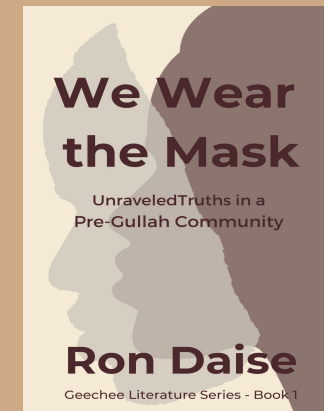
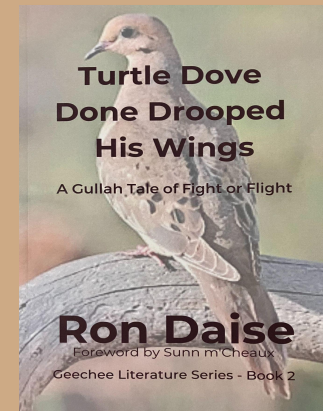


# Ron Daise



Ron Daise, author, singer, performer, and cultural interpreter, is known by many as "Mr. Ron" from Nick Jr. TV's award-winning "Gullah Gullah Island." A former chairman of the federal Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and a recipient of numerous awards, he is featured on a video exhibit about Black language and speech at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He and his wife Natalie reside in Georgetown, SC, and are parents of two adult children.

www.rondaise.com  
<https://instagram.com/gullahron>  
<https://facebook.com/rondaise>  
[www.etsy.com/shop/geecheeliterature](http://www.etsy.com/shop/geecheeliterature)





# Cecelia Dowdy

**Cecelia Dowdy** is an Amazon bestselling author who lives near Washington DC. She enjoys listening to old tunes with her husband. Baking is one of her favorite passions. She loves experimenting with bread recipes using her sourdough starter. Serving homemade desserts to friends brings her joy. Her love of baking shines in her romance novels. When she's not in the kitchen, or spending time with her family, she's cooking up delicious faith-filled plots. Fans say reading her tasty novels makes them hungry. Join her newsletter at [ceceliadowdy.com](http://ceceliadowdy.com).

You can find out more about Cecelia by visiting her website:

<http://ceceliadowdy.com/>



# A.S. Drayton

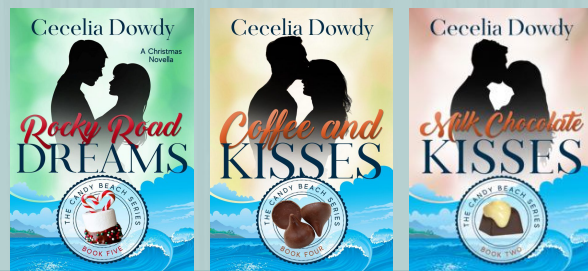


**A.S. Drayton** rediscovered his love for writing and weaving tales while working on his award-winning memoir, *Are You Okay? The Carryover of Kindness*.

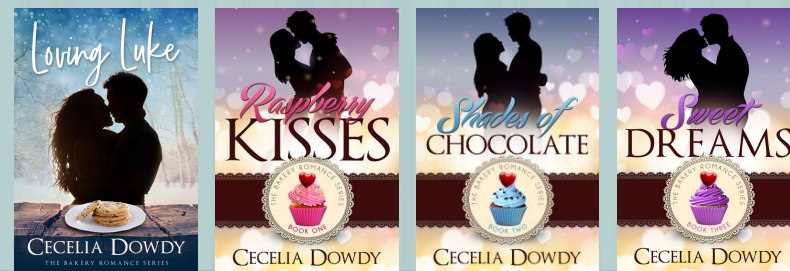
What began in 2019 as a one-off project, dedicated to his future children, grew into something more. Through the process, Anthony found his passion, and with the collaboration of his talented friends, A.S. Drayton Books was born.

The goal is simple: promote personal growth through books that foster a mindset of both introspection and the expansion of one's horizons.

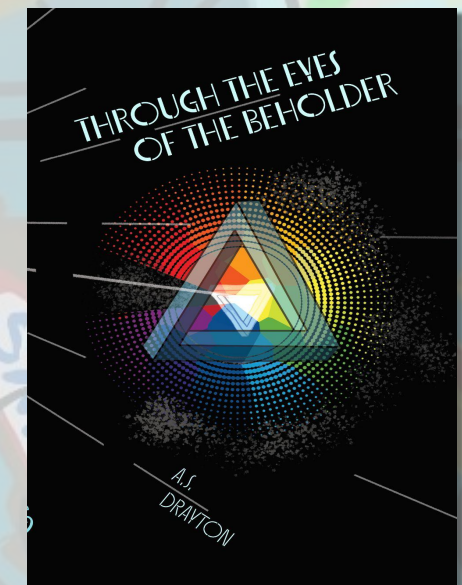
[www.asdraytonbooks.com](http://www.asdraytonbooks.com)



The Candy Beach Series



The Bakery Romance Series



# Tracee Lydia Garner

**Tracee Lydia Garner** is a best-selling author, speaker, writing coach, and course-creator. She was born and raised in the DC Area. She holds a degree in Communications from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Before Tracee ever entertained the idea of writing full-length novels, she was a poet contributor to alma mater's literary magazine. She tremendously enjoys the written and spoken word.



Tracee's first book came out when she was twenty-three. Published by the, then named, Black Entertainment Books (BET), this book helped launch her career as one of the youngest African-American writers. In its prime, BET Books was the largest publisher of romantic titles featuring people of color as the main characters.

Tracee submitted her novella, Family Affairs, to the BET Books' contest where it made it to the finals and eventually won the grand prize. She has continued her writing and publishing journey for 20 years now and is set to release her 9th and 10th titles later this year.

Tracee has served as an adjunct professor at the Northern Virginia Community College's both Loudoun and Annandale campuses teaching How to Write the Novel, Self Publishing Boot Camp, Small Business Marketing, and PR classes. In addition to writing and teaching, Tracee enjoys marketing, graphic design, making videos for her books with popular apps, event and conference planning, and reading, of course. She confesses she is a recovering shopaholic.

These and many more titles available at: [www.traceegarner.com](http://www.traceegarner.com)



# Valerie Johnson

Valerie D. Johnson is an educator, speaker, entrepreneur, and author of 1 2 3 Count with Me On Granddad's Farm. Her superpower is making learning math easy to understand, engaging, meaningful, and fun. She started her own publishing imprint, West Oak Lane Kids, LLC, to leave a legacy and something tangible for generations of young readers to cherish - math-themed books. Valerie's mission is to ignite a love of math in all children, one book at a time!

Since her book's August 2022 release, it has been ranked #1 in two of Amazon Kindle children's categories: Baby & Toddler Counting Books and Children's Nonfiction Animal Books. 1 2 3 Count with Me On Granddad's Farm has won The Literary Titan Gold Book Award, The BookFest Award, and the Firebird Book Award. Additionally, she has been highlighted in Black Enterprise, CEO Blog Nation, Zebra Magazine, and Publishers Weekly Booklife. Her counting book is teacher-tested and parent-approved!

Important links:

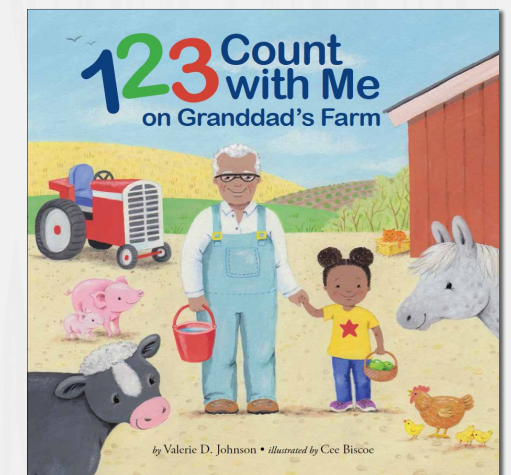
Book: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B53KWVZD/>

Website: <https://www.westoaklanekids.com/>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/wolkidslc>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WolKidslc>

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/rRAwh8IJ9Yw>



# Joshua King



Joshua King is an Iraq Army Veteran, a Law Enforcement Officer, an advocate for people with special needs and a union leader. In 2015, he continued his service when he ran for the Virginia House of Delegates (HD2) which resulted in a narrow loss of 125 votes. He ran on education, transportation, Medicaid expansion, women's rights and economic development. He ran again in 2017 and lost by 12 votes. Currently he is running for Prince William County Sheriff with an Election Day of November 7, 2023.

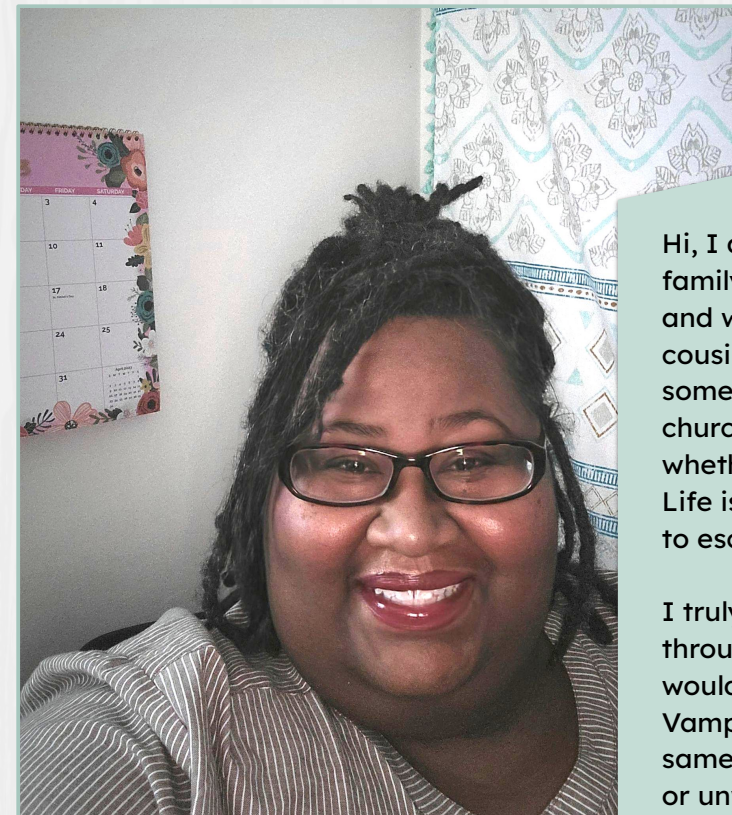
Book synopsis- Politics is not a spectator sport. If you want change, this book will help you get from the back of the bus to the driver's seat. If you are tired of complaining about your locally elected public officials and you want to make a difference, this book is for you. You will learn what it takes to get on the ballot, what your local party can do for you and some valuable information on fundraising and speech development. Now is the time to come from behind the curtains and become the change you want to see. Politicians waste too much time bickering and not enough time working together to solve our issues.

Amazon Link - <https://tinyurl.com/Run2019Amazon>

Campaign Website - [www.kingforpwc.com/](http://www.kingforpwc.com/)



# Bethany Lockamy



Hi, I am **Bethany Lockamy** I grew up in a large family in Virginia, with five brothers and two sisters, and was happy being the middle girl with a ton of cousins. We all went to church together and sometimes got in trouble together. My family and church have always been a big part of my life, whether I loved it or saw the challenges it provided. Life is messy sometimes and although we use books to escape it, I wanted it to help me with my writing.

I truly fell in love with books as a young teen. I went through main characters and dreamt about who they would be to me, from Cowboys, Lords, Dukes to Vampires and Lycan. It always came down to the same thing, which was the love story, the forbidden or unwanted. If you weave a tale well, you can fall in love with any type of lead character. I knew I wanted to write fiction, but I wanted them to be relatable and look like the women and men that I knew in my life. Love stories that depict people going through real life situations.

I like to write about love, hurt, forgiveness and God's grace. I am a new writer and am hoping for this new chapter in my life will feel as wonderful as raising my son, traveling, and laughing with friends and family. Enjoy!

Instagram-@missbee910

Tiktok.com/@bklockamy910

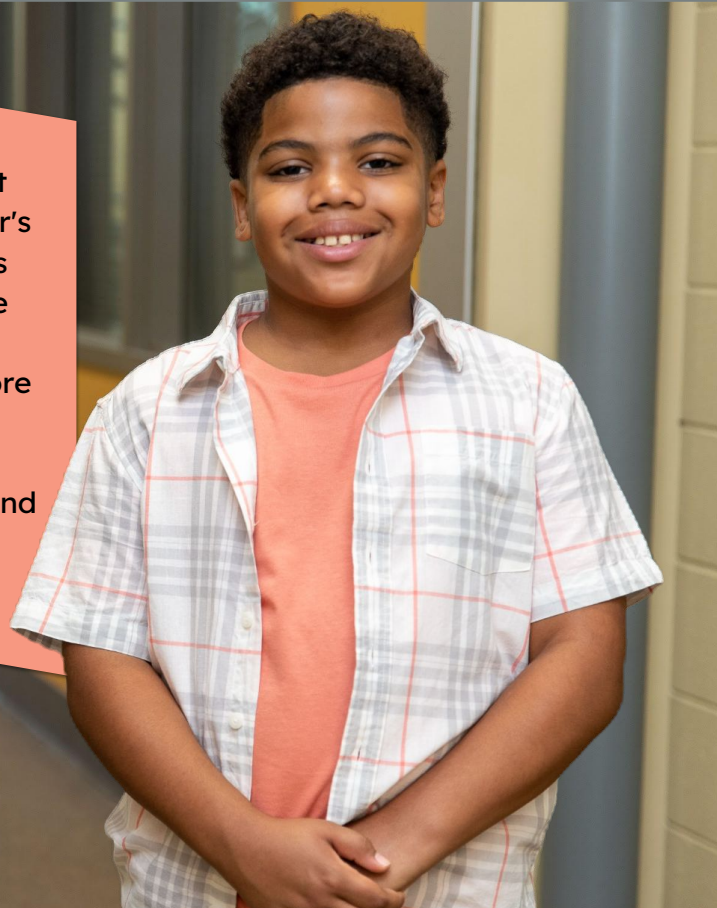


# Marco Montero

www.thebookbutler.com

**Marco Montero** is an elementary-aged student in Virginia. After contributing to his older sister's second book, Paige's Super Friends, Marco was excited to co-author a book with them when he was in 3rd grade. His second book has been completed, and he looks forward to writing more in the future.

Marco is also an athlete. He enjoys wrestling and football.



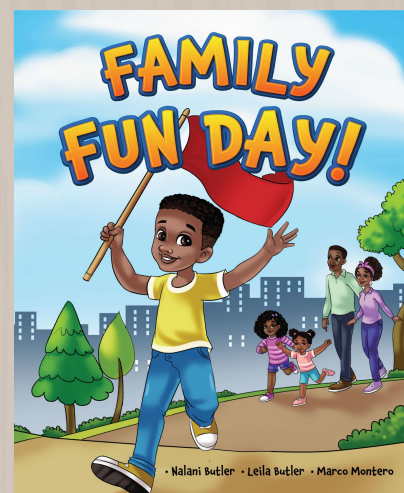
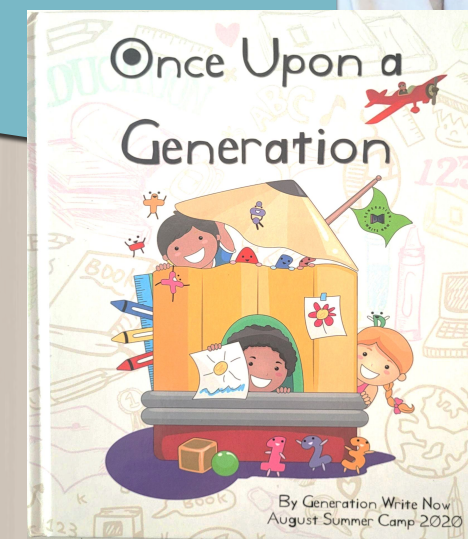
# Kwame Nesmith-Otoo

Staying committed to his summer reading obligation, Kwame joined a writing and publishing book camp in 2020 called Generation Write Now. At the completion of that camp, he co-authored a book titled: Once Upon a Generation. For six weeks, Kwame attended camp via zoom once a week for 2 hours. He enjoyed learning about the process of writing a book and meeting other children's authors in camp.

Kwame is in the 4th grade and his sport of choice is basketball. He is currently playing basketball on a traveling Amateur Athletic Union team.

Contact Inita Nesmith for book orders!!

initanesmith@gmail.com



**Storytime with Kwame in The BookTalk Lounge**

## James Pair ✧ Aaron Pair ✧ Eugene Pair



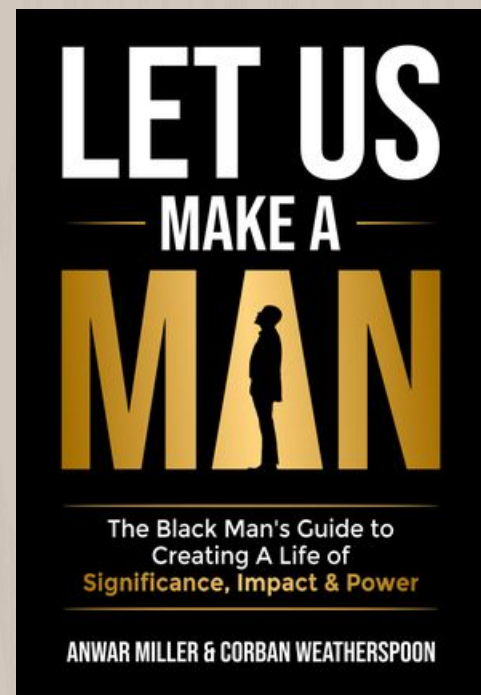
### A Family Tradition

Founded by family, Man Made Media, LLC has collaborated with a team of men and produced a landmark anthology entitled Let Us Make a Man: The Black Man's Guide to Creating a Life of Significance, Impact & Power

**Vision:** We see a world where the lives and lifestyles of Black Men are valued across all life spectra.

**Mission:** To promote the positive, productive, and profitable lifestyles of Black Men across print, social, analog, and digital media formats.

<https://www.manmademedia.org>



## Natasha Renee

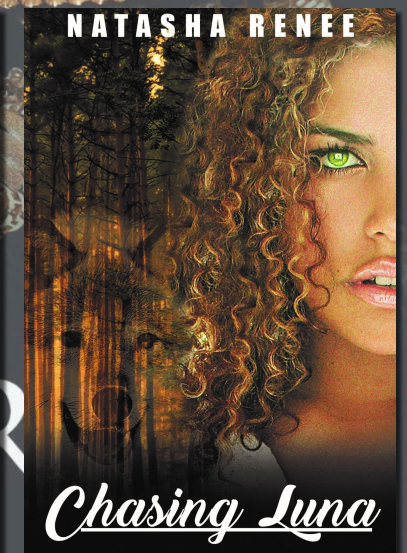


**Natasha Renee** lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and two young kids. She has always been a lover of books since the moment she learned how to read. Her writing career started out with poems and short stories and soon she decided to try to write a full novel. So putting pen to paper she got to work and wrote her first story, Chasing Luna. It took a lot of encouragement from friends and family to share those stories and her imagination with the world.

When she's not writing, she spends her time reading, and traveling the world with her family. Happy and excited about becoming a new author Natasha looks forward to sharing her vivid imagination and the lives of the characters in the stories that she has created with everyone that reads her books.

Author Website:  
<https://www.natasharenee.org/>

Author Email:  
[natasharenee2022@gmail.com](mailto:natasharenee2022@gmail.com)

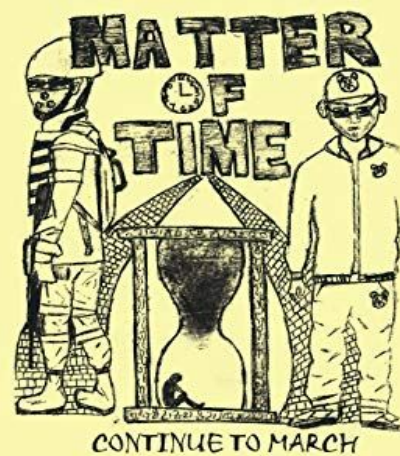
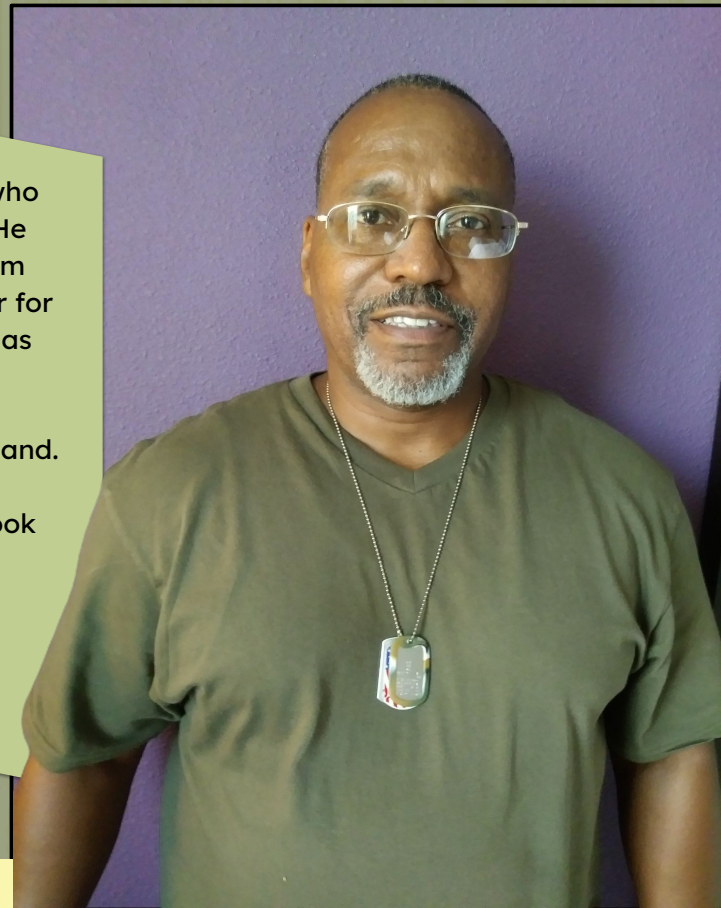


## Damon Roberts Sr.

**Damon Roberts Sr.** is a Washington, DC native who served twenty-four years in the Army Reserves. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Howard University and worked as a social worker for over twenty years. His community service work has included leading a male mentoring group, high school basketball coach, and serving as a youth coach. Today he resides in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

"Matter of Time: Continue to March" is his first book and is available on Kindle and Amazon.

Instagram: @authordamonroberts  
Facebook: authordamonroberts



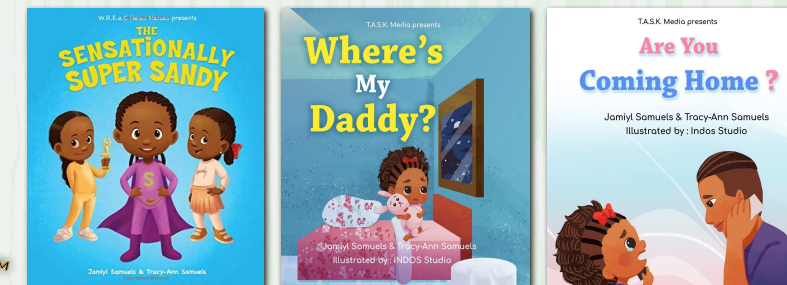
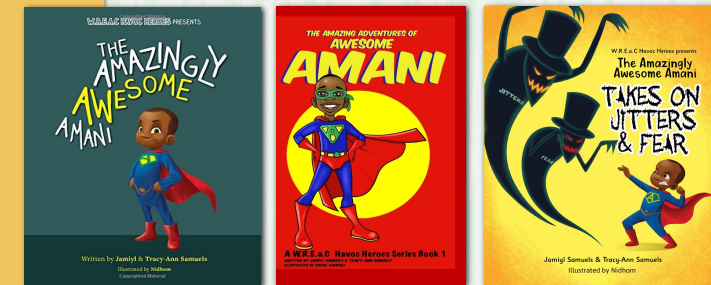
Damon Roberts Sr.

## Jamiyl & Tracy-Ann Samuels

Since 2018, authors **Jamiyl and Tracy-Ann Samuels** have spread awareness for supporting children with autism through their children's books. As the parents of a child on the autism spectrum, they have advocated on behalf of this community with respect to access to education and services, anti-bullying, interfamily communications and social dynamics.

The Amazingly Sensational Kids (T.A.S.K.) book series, The Amazingly Awesome Amani and Sensationally Super Sandy, are inspired by their son Trey's courageous journey as an autistic child navigating the (sometimes harsh) realities of life through his vivid imagination. T.A.S.K. seeks to educate and entertain through the creation of informed written content, film, music, public speaking, and other media platforms. Our T.A.S.K. is to use Transparency, Advocacy, Sensitivity, and Knowledge in all of our endeavors to bring forth Truth, Accountability, Service, and Kindness.

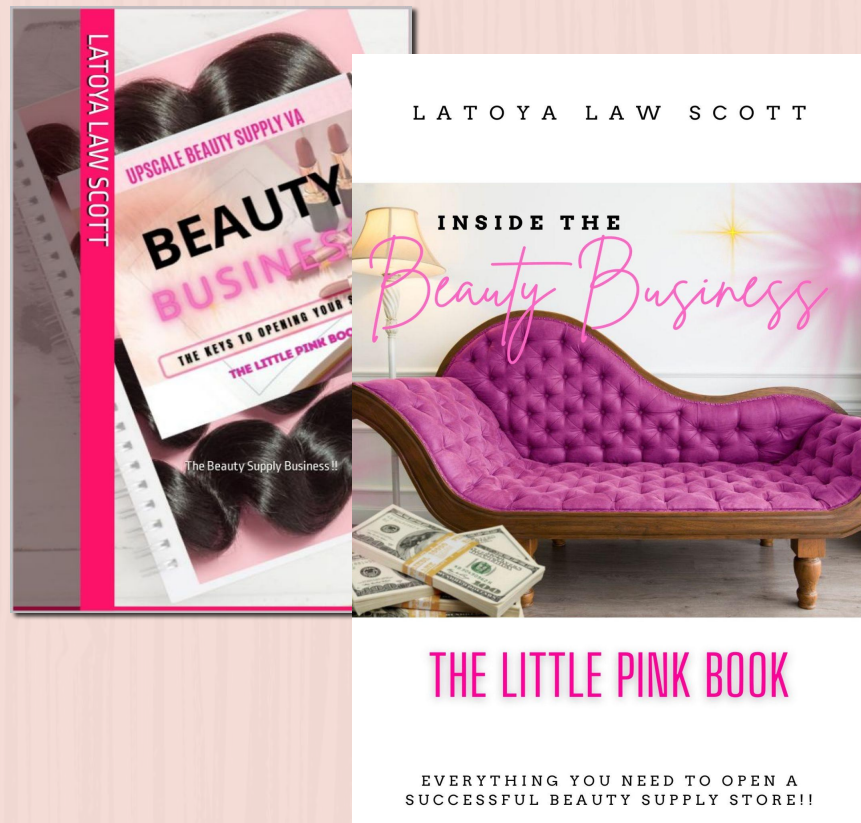
Our website link is :  
<https://www.TheAmazinglySensationalKids.com>  
Instagram: @theamazinglysensationalkids  
Facebook: The Amazingly Sensational Kids



# LaToya Law Scott

As an entrepreneur who aims to change the beauty industry one day at a time, **LaToya Law Scott** has created an environment of prosperity and knowledge within the beauty community. Without a rule book or reasonable resources, she established the 1st black-owned nail salon in her community. "**Ms. Law**" overcame obstacles and persevered through trials to build a six-figure beauty business. Her passion for helping others has led her to develop platforms that place others in the best position to succeed.

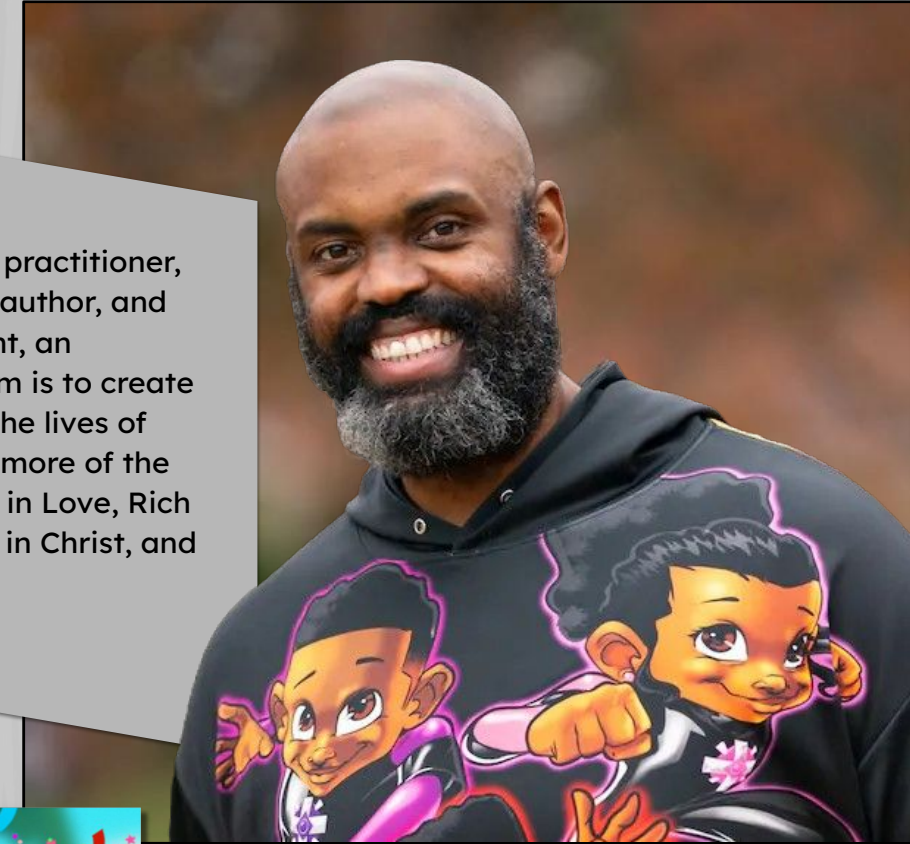
Website: <https://linktr.ee/beautybusiness101>



# James Tate

[www.beyondw8loss.com](http://www.beyondw8loss.com)

**James Tate** is a certified wellness practitioner, an award-winning children's book author, and the owner of Wellthy Entertainment, an "edutainment" company whose aim is to create content that makes deposits into the lives of children and their family in one or more of the "wellthy" areas which include Rich in Love, Rich in Health, Rich in Knowledge, Rich in Christ, and others.



# Kim Walton

**Kim Walton** is the owner of K LW Publishing LLC and the Founder of Southside Book and Writers Club, located in Richmond, VA. She fights for education, is a cancer survivor, and holds a Master's Degree in HR. My Motivation was her debut into the writing, and publishing world.

Website: [www.klwpublishing.com](http://www.klwpublishing.com)

### Social Media Links

- [https://twitter.com/Kim\\_L\\_Walton](https://twitter.com/Kim_L_Walton)
- <https://www.facebook.com/kimlwaltonauthor>
- <http://www.pinterest.com/kimwalton280>
- <https://squareup.com/i/KIMLWALTON>



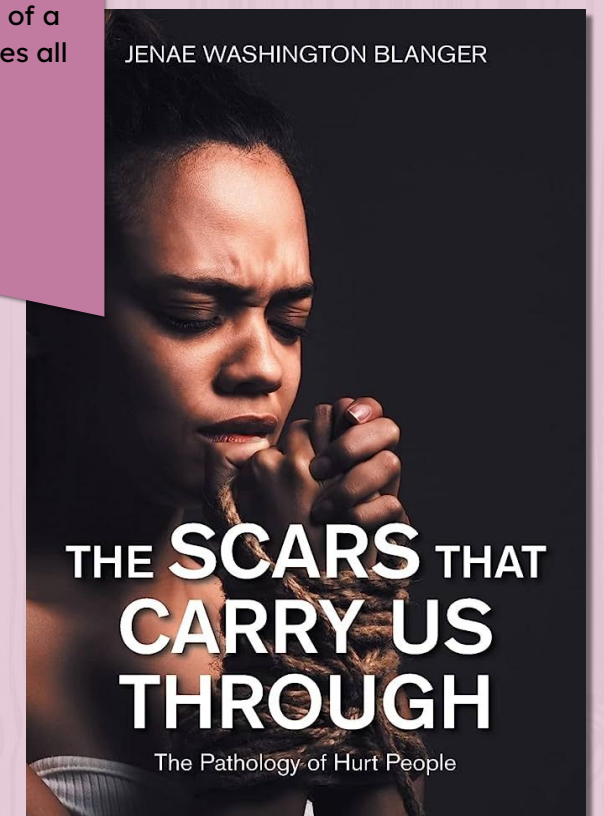
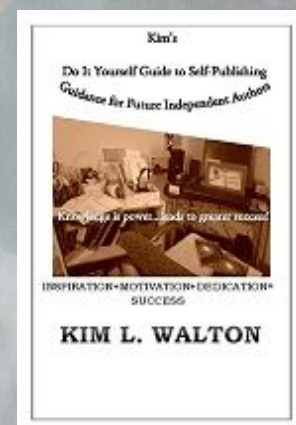
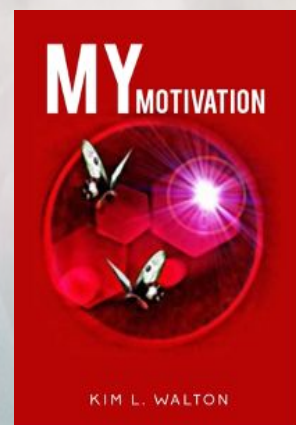
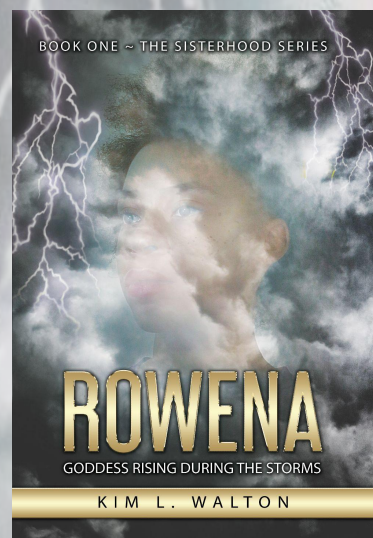
# Jenae Washington Blanger

I first began reflecting on my life when my mother passed away in 2009. I was left with so many questions about who she was as a woman. I wanted to understand why she found it so difficult to express love to me. Shortly before she passed away she shared with me that my grandfather was an abusive alcoholic during most of her childhood, and I wanted to know more. I interviewed my grandfather before he died, and then I started the journey of researching my genealogy, and that's when I realized that it all trauma started with slavery. I was enlightened when I discovered that the pathology of pain from slavery was playing a role in the person I am today.

So the story began!

The Scars That Carry Us Through is the first book of a three book series that explores generational curses all the way through to my generation.

Website: [www.pinklionpro.com](http://www.pinklionpro.com)





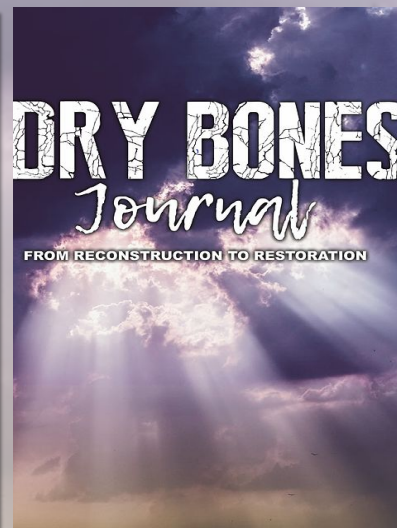
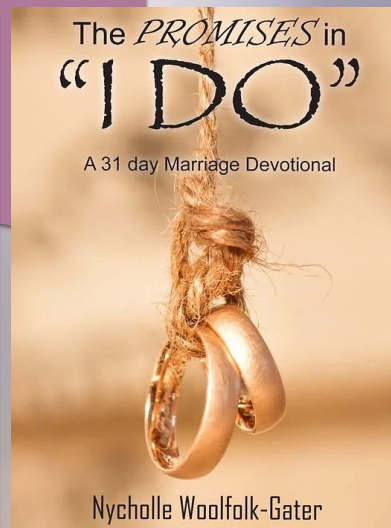
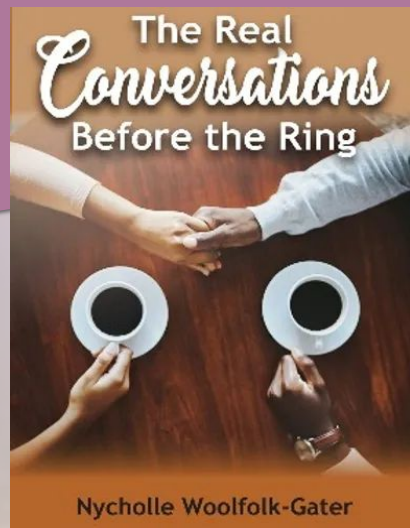
# Nycholle Woolfolk-Gater



**Nycholle Woolfolk-Gater** is a passionate, God-fearing woman who spends her time seeking ways to lead the masses to Christ. As a Soldier Family Readiness Specialist, she works to strengthen the military family, and veterans, by providing resources and services. She is a Certified Life Coach and provides Marriage and Relationship Coaching to couples and individuals, alike.

Nycholle is married to Darrick E. Gater, and they share four children together: Brittany, Amber, Colby, and Devin and two son-in-loves: Eugene and Benjamin, and four grandchildren: Kingston, Tristan, Tessa, and Teagan.

Nycholle is available for individual or couple's coaching. If you would like to have Nycholle speak to your women's ministry, marriage group, or facilitate a workshop, she can be reached online at [www.nwglc.net](http://www.nwglc.net).



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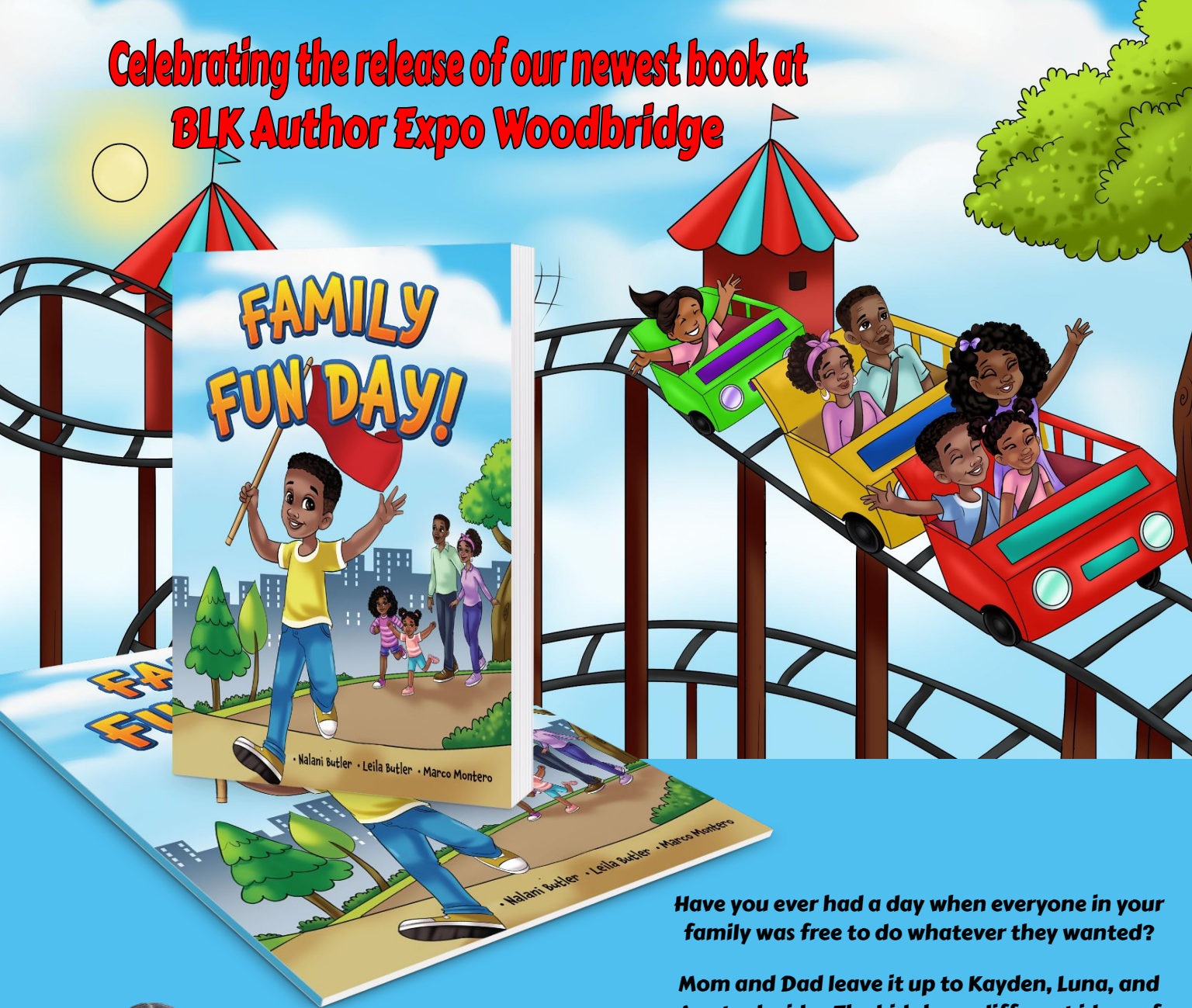
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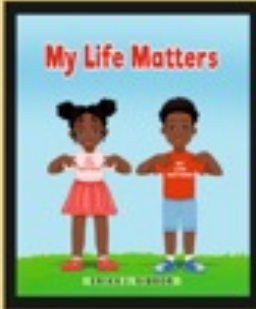
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## Erika J. Gibson

AUTHOR

Erika J. Gibson is a children's book author, based in the DMV, who is on a mission to normalize culturally diverse books that boost self-esteem and build strong, resilient children.





*Erika J. Gibson, M.Ed.*  
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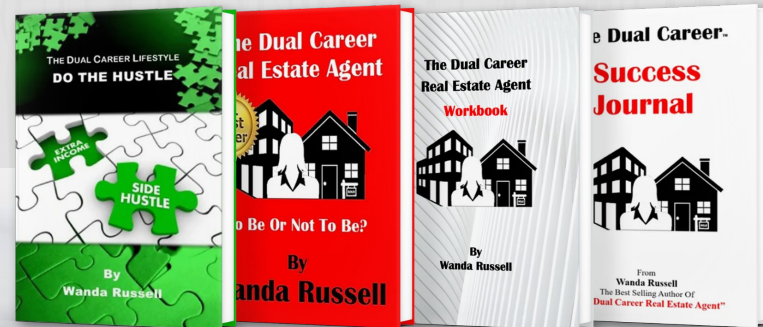


# Wanda Russell

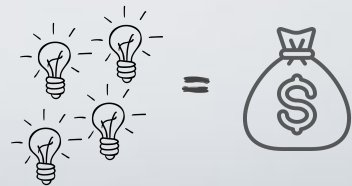
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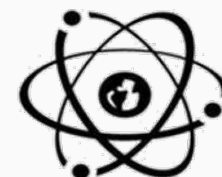
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