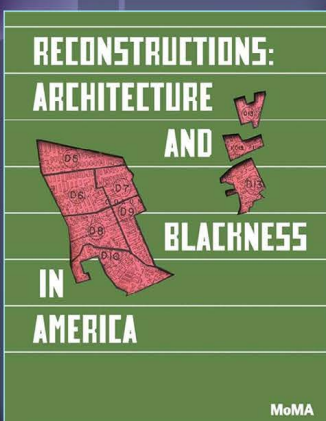
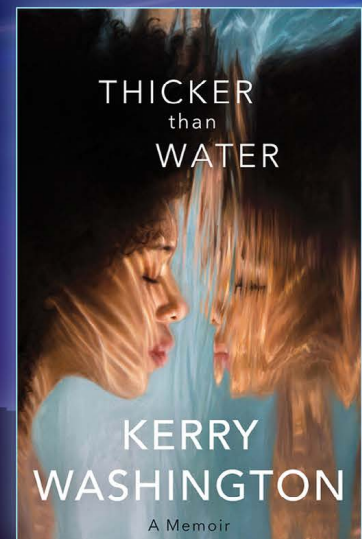
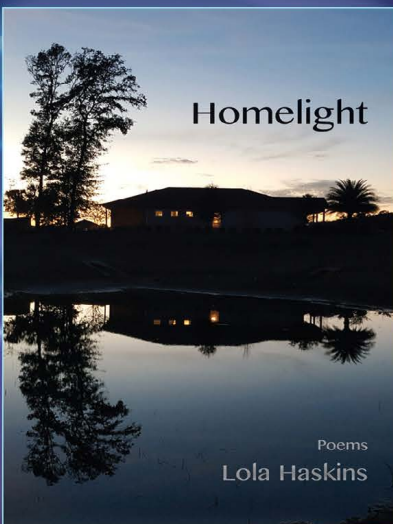
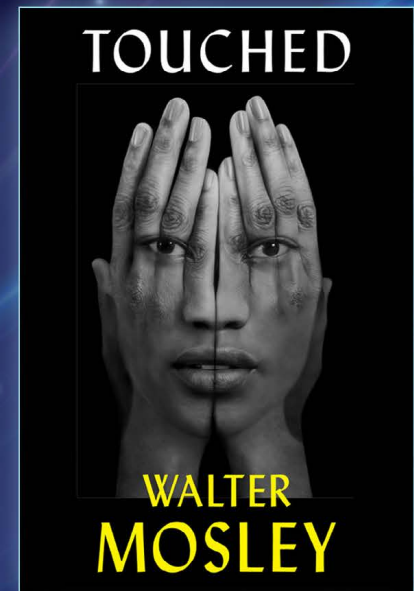
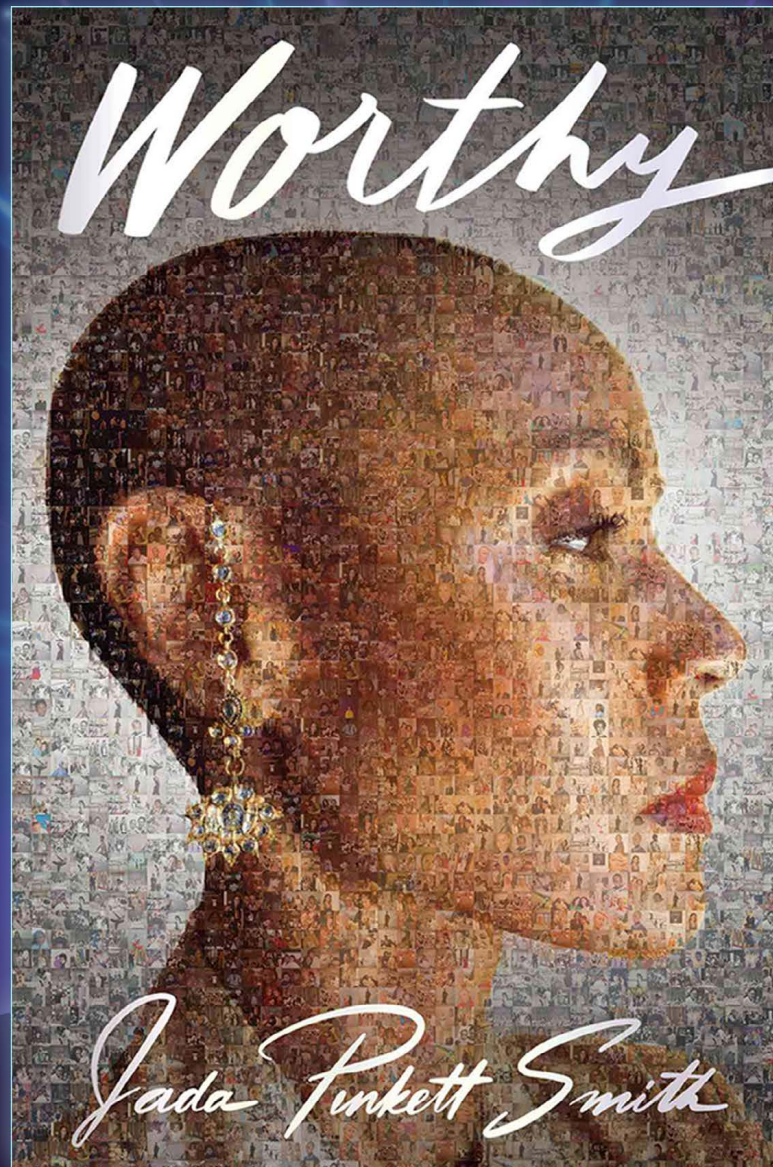
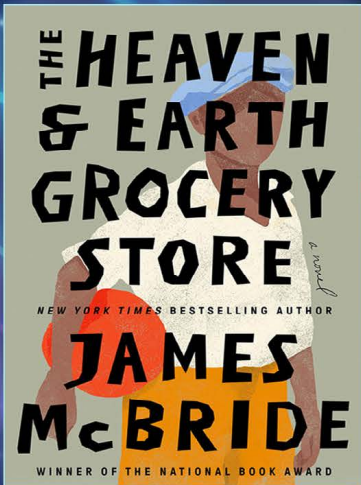


m.i.a



2023 MIAMI BOOK FAIR ISSUE

Miami Book Fair



Duke & Dame



EDITOR'S NOTE

Promoting journeys into wondrous lands

Okay, I'll admit it: I was a bit of a nerd growing up.

Don't get it twisted, as my nephew might say: I still had flavor. It's just that I'd rather explore life's adventures through the pages of a book – even if it was only a comic book – than experience those adventures myself. I should confess that this anomaly lasted only till the ripe old age of 10, when I started discovering baseball, basketball and girls – not necessarily in that order.

Reading, as the adage goes, is fundamental. No matter your position or condition, it can whisk you on a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination, to paraphrase the classic TV program "The Twilight Zone."

That's why Legacy M•I•A Magazine annually supports the Miami Book Fair and its mission of promoting literacy and literary achievement. From Nov. 12-19, thousands of readers and authors will converge on downtown Miami for what promoters call the nation's premier literary festival. Among the books they will promote (featured in this issue) include:

- Jada Pinkett Smith's memoir **"Worthy"** is a remarkable tale of beating the odds – including surviving a near-death experience, correspondent Denise Crittendon writes. "Filled with vivid prose and rich detail, it's a riveting ride through the world of a woman who has



risen from troubled youth to successful actress and devout spiritual seeker."

- In her tell-all autobiography **"Thicker Than Water,"** actor-activist Kerry Washington reveals a closely guarded family secret that rocked her world: The man she knew as her father for more than 40 years is not her biological father. In fact, she was conceived by an anonymous sperm donor she's still hoping to find.

- In his sci-fi novel **"Touched,"** award-winning author Walter Mosley details the life of a mild-mannered family man who, through a twist of fate, is transformed into superhero at the center of a supernatural plot to eliminate life on earth. Humanity itself is a horrific virus and the novel's transformed

hero is the cure.

- A human skeleton found at the base of a water well forms the storyline of James McBride's murder mystery **"The Heaven And Earth Grocery Store."** How the skeleton got there, and the identity of the deceased expose long-held secrets kept by Black and Jewish residents of a poor Pennsylvania town in the 1930s and beyond.

- In his essay written for **"Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America,"** artist Germane Barnes explores how Miami's population of Jamaicans, Haitians, Dominicans, Bahamians, Cubans and African Americans gives the city as much of a "Deep South" personality as found in traditional southern cities.

- In her poetry collection, **"Homelight,"** Lola Haskins uses a series of poems to explore the complex tolls of love, abuse, death and self-reflection. "The usually soft-spoken voice behind the text speaks volumes about troubling themes while embracing the simplicity of life itself," correspondent Jada Ingleton writes.

Enough of a tease? Check out this month's Miami Book Fair for more literary thrills.

Gregory J. Huskisson
Legacy Associate Publisher,
Editor in chief
Gjhusk@miamediagr.com ■

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 **'WORTHY' MEMOIR DELIVERS 'BREADCRUMBS' TOWARD HEALING**
By Denise Crittendon
- 6 **'THICKER THAN WATER' MEMOIR BARES TRUTH, PAIN, JOY**
By Janice Hayes Kyser
- 8-9 **MIAMI BOOK FAIR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**
- 10 **'TOUCHED' EXPLORES CLASSIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL**
By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
- 11 **MIAMI BOOK FAIR MAP AND DIRECTIONS**
- 12 **'RECONSTRUCTIONS' EXPLORES MELTING POT OF BLACKNESS IN U.S.**
By Ray Richardson
- 13 **NOVEL 'HEAVEN AND EARTH' HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF LOVE**
By Marissa Wells
- 14 **'HOMELIGHT' ANTHOLOGY CAPTURES THE RHYTHM & BLUES OF LIFE**
By Jada Ingleton



"THE LARGEST CIRCULATED BLACK PUBLICATION IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA"

Gregory J. Huskisson
Associate Publisher
Editor-in-Chief

N.G. Trotman
Managing Editor

Sergy Odiduro
Associate Editor

Sabrina G. Alexander
Graphic Designer

Jordan Polite
Director of Operations

Shannel Escoffery
Operations Manager

Rashad West
Producer/Digital Media
Specialist

Dexter A. Bridgeman
CEO & Founder

Publishers of:
M•I•A Magazine
Legacy Miami
Legacy South Florida

BOMA
BLACK OWNED MEDIA ALLIANCE

Member of the Black Owned
Media Alliance (BOMA)

Subscribe to and view the digital version of Legacy Magazine and view additional articles at
<http://bitly.com/legacymagazines>

[Facebook.com/TheMIAMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/TheMIAMagazine)

Twitter and Instagram: @TheMIAMagazine

#BeInformed #BeInfluential



THE HOME OF BLACK EXCELLENCE

'Worthy' memoir delivers 'breadcrumbs' toward healing

BY DENISE CRITTENDON

It was supposed to be a routine drug deal, but something was amiss.

Jada, a scrappy, street-tough teenager, cracked the door slowly and noted that the guy standing in front of her looked hostile. As she reached for his wad of cash, he kicked the door open, breaking the chain that secured it. Before she knew it, she was crouched in a chair and trembling, a handgun pointed at the middle of her forehead.

Jada Pinkett Smith would survive that terrifying robbery, but it would take more than a near-death experience to end her stint as a drug trafficker on the brutal streets of Baltimore where she grew up. Ultimately, the lure of the performing arts as a dancer and high school thespian inspired her to choose the stage over the streets.

In her compelling, tell-all memoir, "Worthy," Pinkett Smith, now 51, opens up about her gradual transformation as she reveals the perils and the promise of a life punctuated by both sorrow and triumph.

"Worthy" is a remarkable tale of survival and beating the odds. Filled

with vivid prose and rich detail, it's a riveting ride through the world of a woman who has risen from troubled youth to successful actress and devout spiritual seeker.

Included in her reflections are memories of her mother's occasional bouts with addiction, hours spent tending the garden of her wise, Jamaican-born grandmother, and experiences with a mind-altering plant medicine known as Ayahuasca.

Of course, the book also explores her highly publicized marriage to Hollywood A-lister, Will Smith, and the recent controversies surrounding their sometimes unconventional union. "Worthy" is officially the couple's first public announcement that they have been separated for nearly seven years — a revelation that has created quite a media buzz.

"During the first part of our separation we were still under the same roof," Pinkett Smith said during a recent interview with M•I•A magazine, explaining that she now lives in a separate home less than two blocks away. "I've been out of the house for a year or two now."

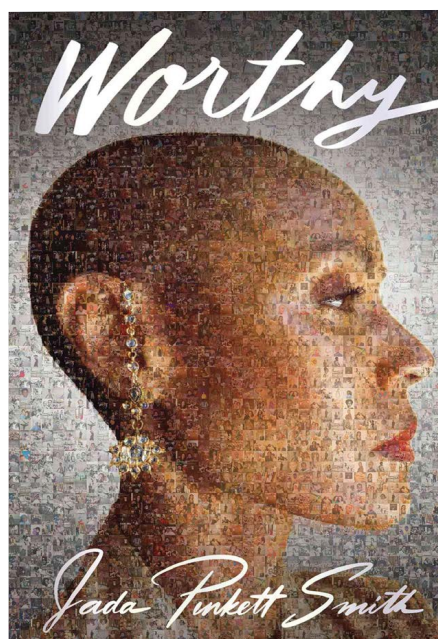
These days, she's more focused on a personal self-care regimen that begins with morning meditation, contemplative prayer and daily spiritual readings. At one point in her awakening, she met with the late world-renowned Zen master, Thich Nhat Hah, an encounter she details with great reverence in her book.

Her decision to divulge her full story — from days when she felt suicidal to those when she was at the top of her game — is part of an uphill climb toward an authentic feeling of worthiness. She also sees it as an effort to help others who "might be struggling with that need to feel worthy." Her core message? "You are not alone," she says.

Written in a frank, engaging tone, every chapter of "Worthy" begins with inspirational quotes and aphorisms that Pinkett Smith refers to as "breadcrumbs



Jada Pinkett Smith



one example. "I feel like people are inspired when they know they are not alone," the award-winning actress says. "I want people to tune in where they are in their own worthy journey and know that where they are is perfect and [that] every aspect of it is here to make you the best you can be. Life isn't always supposed to be pretty, so don't come down on yourself when it's not."

The same attitude applies to her bond with her children, her mother and a relationship with her husband that is still evolving. "I'm enjoying having this time to heal," she adds. "After the Oscars (slap incident), any idea of divorce went out the window. We're on a new trajectory together. We're just healing and what we're discovering together is just beautiful. Right now, we're on a new journey."

for people who might be stuck and confused." These life lessons and thought-provoking passages also are her way of proclaiming that after years of "dark depression," she is on a higher path.

Everyone goes through challenges and everyone can overcome them, she says. Her narrative, she insists, is just



Freelance journalist Denise Crittendon is author of the Afrofuturist sci-fi/fantasy, "Where it Rains in Color" (Angry Robot Books/ Dec. 2022)

Meet
JADA PINKETT SMITH
SUNDAY, NOV. 12
5:30 p.m.,
MDC Wolfson Campus





“artventurous”

When exploring vibrant, eye-catching street art inspires you to take an exhilarating adventure getting lost in the great outdoors.

That's my Miami.

Learn more at [FindYourMiami.com](https://www.findyourmiami.com)

FIND YOUR
MIAMI
GREATER MIAMI AND MIAMI BEACH™

'Thicker Than Water' memoir bares truth, pain, joy

By JANICE HAYES KYSER

"We need to talk to you."

Actor-activist Kerry Washington opens her poignant, tell-all memoir with that cryptic text message from her mother — an urgent missive she found strangely odd and direct. "Up until now, my parents hadn't been people who dove headfirst into difficult conversations," she writes.

Those six words preceded a conversation about a "truth" Washington says both set her free and set her back: The man she knew as her father for more than 40 years, Earl Washington, was not her biological father.

"It really turned my world upside down," the 46-year-old star of ABC's "Scandal," told People magazine.

The closely guarded family secret was revealed after Washington told her parents she planned to appear on Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS program, "Finding Your Roots," Washington told the magazine.

She ultimately discovered that she was conceived by a sperm donor she is still searching to find. It's that painful truth that led her to write her memoir, "Thicker Than Water," as part of her

desire to fully understand and embrace the truth about her birth and her life.

With the courage and vulnerability that earned her acclaim in television, film and theater, Washington reveals how she grew up in a home where pretense prevailed — her dad's alcoholism and her parents' incompatibility were the elephants in the room as she sought perfection to make peace in the home.

"With the day's performances over, the curtains drawn, the theater empty, I stayed up to see what ghosts haunted the stage," she writes. "And there, in those late-night hours, I sometimes met my mom and dad without their masks, angry beasts with no audience to pretend for anymore.

"There was yelling and crying, but only when they thought I was asleep. The next morning, they'd smile and pretend all was fine..." she recalls. "So, I too, learned to smile, to cover for them, to pretend. I learned to be someone else early on."

Still, she credits her mother's drive and professionalism and her father's whimsy and imagination for helping her become the award-winning actor, director and producer she is today.

"But even before it was my occupational calling, the ability to live in my imagination was necessary for survival," she writes, "because in the reality of my day-to-day interactions with my parents there was an unexplainable cognitive dissonance that made it impossible to fully connect."

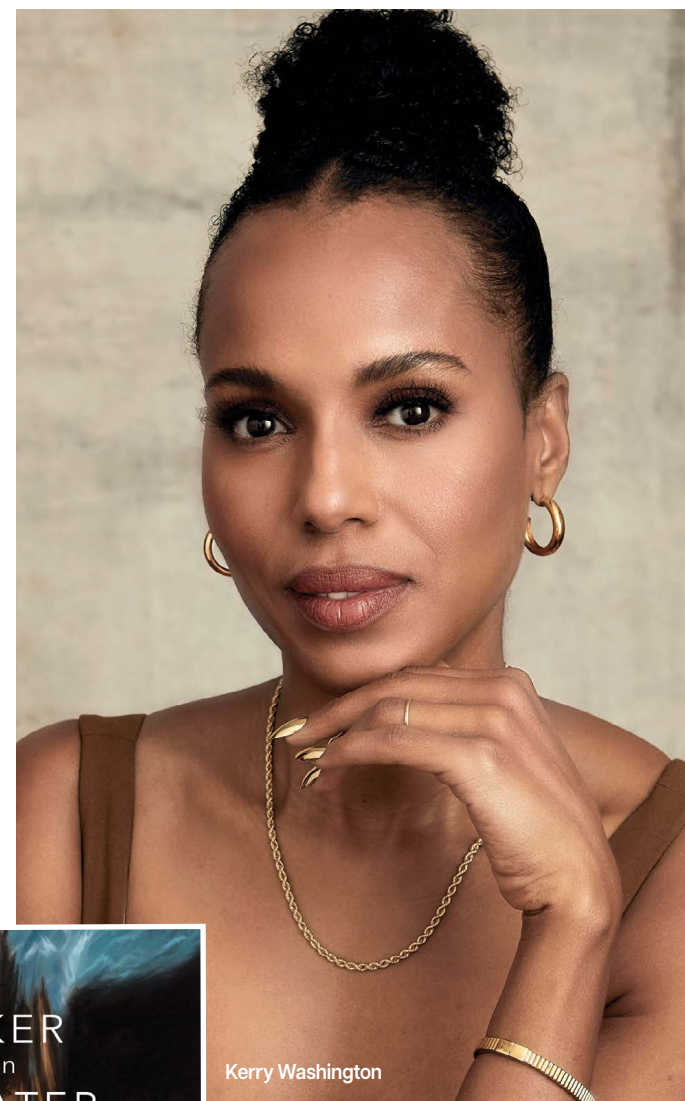
Like many children of alcoholics, Washington says she suffered from anxiety, anger and depression that led to drug abuse, an eating disorder and thoughts of suicide.

"I was using alcohol and sometimes food and sometimes weed and sometimes sex to alter my brain chemistry and allow me a dangerously destructive escape," she writes.

In spite of the dysfunction, there was also joy. Washington not only found escape and empowerment in acting, she also found serenity, strength and

clarity in water. As a child, in fact, she imagined herself as a beautiful mermaid or an accomplished synchronized swimmer.

Today, she still participates in therapy to better understand her past and plan a healthy future. She says she's grateful for the comfortable lifestyle provided by her college educated parents who prioritized her education and provided experiences and comforts that



Kerry Washington



made her the "golden child" among her peer group.

With the wisdom collected from her triumphs in life, Washington has created her own family with husband and former NFL player, Nnamdi Asomugha, with whom she has four children, including a

stepdaughter.

Her uncompromising quest for truth, meanwhile, has led her to search for the man who gave her life while seeking to forgive and understand the man who raised her as his own.

"What I'm learning to do in my life is accept the void, let the dad who raised me be the center of his story, let my biological donor be the center of his, while I focus on being the center of my own story and focusing on a deeper truth for myself."

Meet
KERRY WASHINGTON
 SUNDAY, NOV. 12
 4 p.m., MDC
 Wolfson Campus



Janice Hayes Kyser, a Las Vegas-based freelance writer, is a former award-winning reporter with the Seattle Times and the Detroit News.



“EDITORIALIZING THE SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA BLACK COMMUNITY”

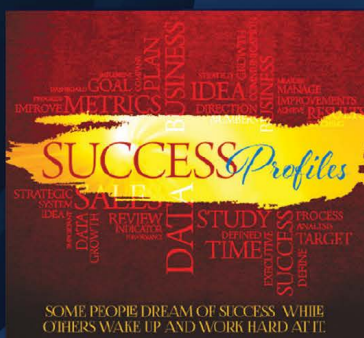


The Home of Black Excellence!

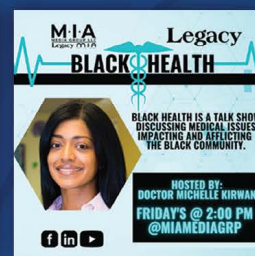
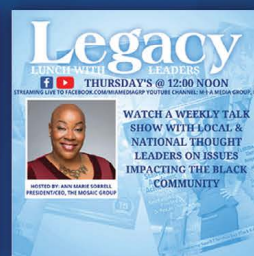
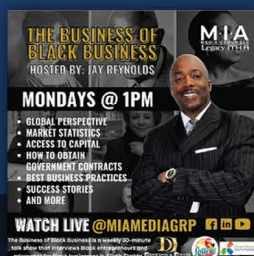
PUBLISHERS OF LEGACY MIAMI, LEGACY SOUTH FLORIDA AND M·I·A MAGAZINES



CREATORS OF DIGITAL PRODUCTS



CREATORS OF BROADCAST PRODUCTS





Miami Book Fair Program Highlights

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES VISIT MIAMIBOOKFAIR.COM

Free parking at Building 7; NE 1 & 2 Avenues; and NE 5 & 6 Streets

Accessible by car, bus, Metrorail, and Metromover

(Numbers represent building, floor, then room number)

The following three authors are ticketed events; ticket purchase includes free book and ticket to street fair (Nov. 18-19).

KERRY WASHINGTON

• Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m.,
MDC Wolfson Campus

JADA PINKETT SMITH

• Sunday, Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m.,
MDC Wolfson Campus

WALTER MOSLEY

• Wed., Nov. 15, 8 p.m.,
MDC Wolfson Campus

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

UKHAMB, created by award-winning artist and architect Germane Barnes, is a 10-foot-tall circular wood structure named for a type of African woven-wood based. This Museum of Art and Design at MDC commissioned piece is part of its annual Pavilion series, curated by Isabela Villanueva, and consisting of site-specific, creative spatial interventions. Ukhamba will be on view Nov. 2023 - Feb. 2024 at MDC's

Wolfson Campus, and March - May 2024 at MDC's North Campus.

LOLA HASKINS

• Sat., Nov. 18, 11:30 a.m., Building 8,
Room 8303

Germane Barnes in conversation with artist **OLALEKAN JEYIFOUS**, a "field guide" contributor to the 2021 exhibition of the same name at NYC's Museum of Modern Art

• Sat., Nov. 18, 12 noon, MAGIC
Screening Room

JAMES MCBRIDE

• Sat., Nov. 18, 12 noon, Auditorium

Saturday, Nov. 18

JAMILA MINNICKS' *Moonrise Over New Jessup*: A Novel: a young woman who flees to a 1950s all-Black town in Alabama falls in love with a man who challenges the town's long-standing status, actions that could lead to the couple's expulsion - or worse.

• 3 p.m. Building 8, Room 8201

MAHOGANY L. BROWNE'S *Chrome Valley*: poems offers an intricate portrait of Black womanhood in America, capturing the pleasures and pangs of young love and motherhood, and reveling in the beauty of the undaunted self-determination passed down from Black woman to Black woman.

• 4 p.m.; Building 8, Room 8303

RACHEL ELIZA GRIFFITH'S *Promise*: a novel, as the news fills with calls for freedom, equality, and justice for Black Americans, two Black sisters begin to be viewed as threats by their white neighbors.

• 1:30 p.m., Building 8/Room 8201

In RACHEL L. SWARNS' *The 272*

The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church - Swarns offers a groundbreaking story of nearly two centuries of indentured servitude and enslavement to uncover the harrowing origin story of the Catholic Church in the United States.

• 3 p.m., Building 8/Room 8301

TANANARIVE DUE work of historical fiction, *The Reformatory: A Novel*, 12-year-old Robbie Stephens Jr. is sentenced to six months at the Gracetown School for Boys, furthering his journey into the terrors of the Jim Crow South. Additionally, at 4 p.m., in (Building 8) room 82010 Due will be sharing *The Wishing Pool and Other Stories*, classic tales of horror, stories set in a Florida town, and two sections of post-apocalyptic futures.

TRACY K. SMITH'S *To Free the Captives*: A Plea for the American Soul - she looks at the constant assaults on Black life, drawing on several avenues of thinking - personal, documentary, and spiritual - to understand who we are as a

nation and what we might hope to mean to one another.

• 3 p.m., Chapman

TRACEY ROSE PEYTON'S *Night Wherever We Go*

a novel in which six enslaved women on a struggling plantation stage a covert rebellion against their owners, with each facing individual trials and desires as they unite in defiance.

• 3 p.m., Building 8/Room 8201

Sunday, Nov. 19

ADRIAN MATEJKA'S *Last On His Feet*

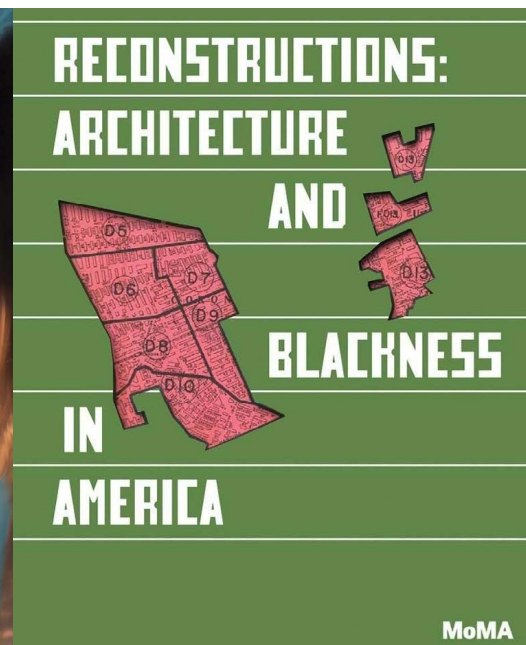
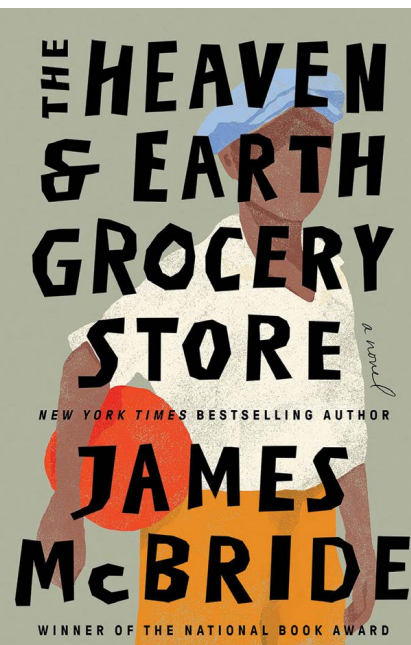
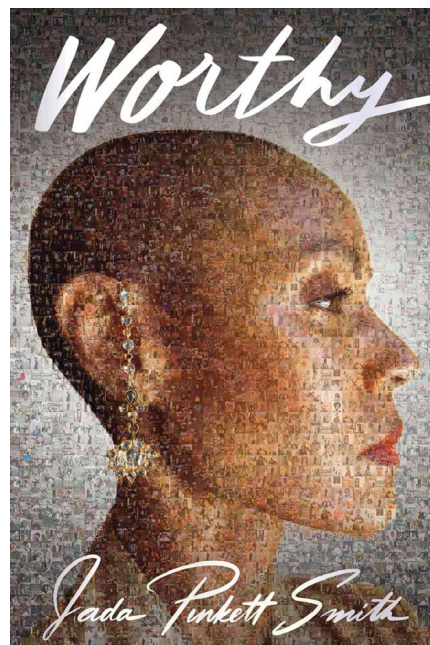
Jack Johnson and the Battle of the Century - verse and illustration are combined to offer a front-row seat to the epic fight between the world's first Black heavyweight champion and his opponent, former champion Jim Jeffries, the "great white hope."

• 3 p.m., Building 2/Room 2106

BRENDAN SLOCUMB'S *Symphony of Secrets*: a novel, where a music professor discovers a shocking secret about the most famous American composer of all time. His music may have been stolen from a Black Jazz Age prodigy.

• 1:30 p.m., Building 3/Room 3209

HALLE HILL'S *Good Women*: Stories, chronicles the stories of 12 Black women across the Appalachian



Miami Book Fair Program Highlights

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES VISIT MIAMIBOOKFAIR.COM



South, from a woman meeting her sugar daddy's mother to a state fair employee considering revenge on a local preacher.

• 11 a.m., Building 8/Room 8201

Dream Town: Shaker Heights and the Quest for Racial Equity, **LAURA MECKLER** tells the story of a decades-long pursuit in Shaker Heights, Ohio, to become a national model for housing integration, uncovering the persistent roadblocks that have threatened the progress of racial equity.

• 12 noon, Chapman

RETIRED JUDGE PHILLIP A.

HUBBART'S *From Death Row to*

Freedom: The Struggle for Racial Justice in the Pitts-Lee Case is an insider's account of the case of Freddie Pitts and Wilbert Lee, two Black men wrongfully charged, convicted, and sentenced to death for the murder of two white gas station attendants in Port St. Joe, Florida, in 1963. Their story chronicles the deep prejudice in the courts and police brutality during the Civil Rights Era.

• 11 a.m., Building 8/Room 8202

King: A Life is one of the first major biographies of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. in decades. In it, **JONATHAN EIG** offers an intimate view of an emotionally troubled man who was rarely at peace with himself.

• 12 noon, Chapman

Labeled: Ward of the State: A Memoir is **KENISHA E. ANTHONY'S** powerful story of an abandoned child of drug-addicted parents and Florida's broken child welfare system, who went on to earn graduate degrees and become an advocate for change.

• 1 p.m., Building 8/Room 8203

The Girl in the Yellow Poncho: A Memoir, **KRISTAL BRENT ZOOK** – abandoned by her white father and raised by her African American mother and grandmother – shares a story of strong Black women and the generational cycles of oppression and survival that seemingly defined their lives.

• 3 p.m., Building 8/Room 8203

LEON FORD was 19 when he was shot five times by a police officer during a traffic stop. When he woke up, he discovered he was a new father and paralyzed from the waist down.

An Unspeakable Hope: Brutality, Forgiveness, and Building a Better Future for My Son is his memoir and manifesto, and offers fresh, counterintuitive ways to effect social change.

• 5 p.m., Building 8/Room 8301

Razzle Dazzle: New and Selected Poems 2002–2022 traces the evolution of **MAJOR JACKSON'S** transformative imagination and fierce music through five acclaimed volumes across two decades of

writing. This collection offers a sustained portrait of a poet “bound up in the ecstatic,” whose buoyant lyricism confronts the social and political forces that would demean humanity. In August 2014, Michael Brown – a young, unarmed Black man – was shot to death by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. What followed was a period of protests and turmoil, culminating in an extensive report filed by the Department of Justice detailing biased policing and court practices in the city.

• 1 p.m., Building 8/Room 8303

In the dystopian Chain-Gang All-Stars: a novel, **NANA KWAME ADJEI-BRENYAH** offers a clear-eyed look at the American prison system's unholy alliance of systemic racism, unchecked capitalism, and mass incarceration – and what freedom in this country really means.

• 11 a.m., Auditorium

Award-winning poet **NICOLE SEALEY** revisits the investigation in **The Ferguson Report: An Erasure**, a book that redacts the report, an act of erasure that reimagines the original text as it strips it away.

• 1 p.m., Building 8/ 8303

The Super Hero's Journey is a synthesis of **PATRICK MCDONNELL'S** positive inspirational sensibility and Marvel Entertainment's blockbuster brand, featuring classic superheroes

like the Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk, and Black Panther.

• 3 p.m., Building 8/MAGIC Screening Room

A Right Worthy Woman: a novel, **RUTH P. WATSON** examines the real-life Maggie Lena Walker, daughter of a formerly enslaved woman, who became the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States.

• 2 p.m., Building 8/Room 8202

In How We Ended Racism: Realizing a New Possibility in One Generation, **SHELLY TYGIELSKI** and **JUSTIN MICHAEL WILLIAMS** reveal a path for ending racism in a single generation. Drawing from a wide array of scientific studies and their practical successes in teaching a multitude of diverse groups, they offer a way to shift perspectives and enact lasting change.

• 11 a.m., Building 8/Room 8301

In A Mindful Journey, **JEFF COBY** shares his understanding of the challenges one faces on the path to self-fulfillment and the transformative power of mindfulness in overcoming them. He shares his own personal journey with vulnerability and honesty, intending to inspire, motivate and guide readers through their own life challenges.

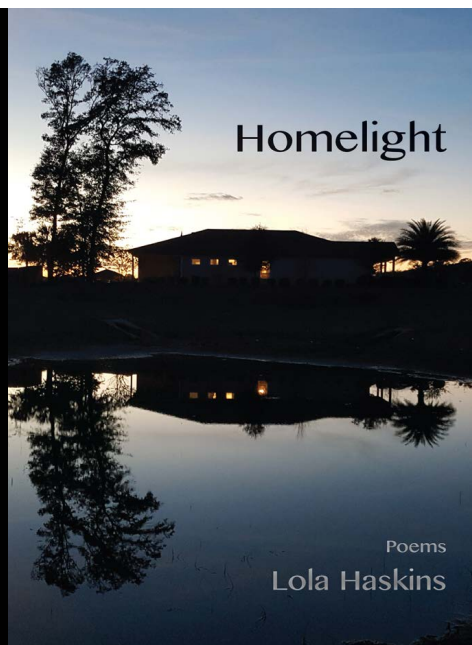
■

TOUCHED



WALTER
MOSLEY

Homelight



Poems
Lola Haskins

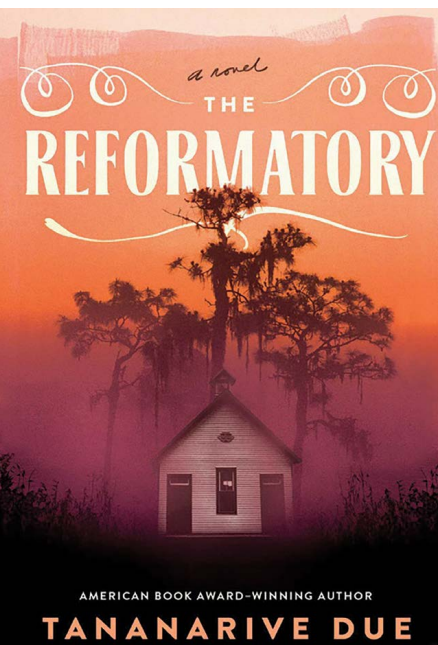
“Ford takes us on a path that leads from rage through rehabilitation all the way to redemption.” —ROB KENNER, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Marathon, Don't Stop* and Founding Editor at *Vibe*

AN UNSPEAKABLE HOPE

BRUTALITY, FORGIVENESS, AND
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR MY SON

LEON FORD

WITH JEFFERY RENARD ALLEN



a novel
THE
REFORMATORY

AMERICAN BOOK AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

TANANARIVE DUE

'Touched' novel explores classic struggle between good and evil

BY EDDIE B. ALLEN JR.

Filled with nervous excitement, I needed a little mental prep for this one. I was about to interview award-winning author Walter Mosley, the man who introduced the world to fictional Black detective Easy Rawlins and the author of other books I've devoured and seen adapted for the big screen.

Fortunately for me, the 40-or-so minutes we spent reflecting on his new novel, "Touched," were casual and conversational, just writer to writer. Mosley spoke of the characters in "Touched," which he'll discuss at the Miami Book Fair, as if they were old friends or interesting relatives.

"You're telling human stories," said Mosley, who has written more than 60 critically acclaimed books, including the best-selling mystery series featuring Rawlins. "In doing that, you have to make them real people," he shared with M•I•A magazine.

"Touched" explores Martin Just's transformation from average, meek family man to a man at the center of a supernatural plot to eradicate life on



Eddie B. Allen Jr. is a published author and award-winning freelance journalist. He is based in Detroit.

earth. Humanity itself is a virus destined on destroying all existence and Just, it turns out, is the cure.

When Just finds himself and his family targeted by Tor Waxman, the pale embodiment of evil – bent on ending innocent life – Martin realizes he was being prepared for a winner-take-all mission.

"With his boundless talent and skilled range, Mosley brings an ethereal, incisive look at a primal struggle driven by a spirit of the universe," book publisher Grove Atlantic writes in its review. "Expansive and innovative, sexy and satirical, "'Touched'" brilliantly imagines the ways in which human life and technological innovation threaten existence itself."

For his part, Mosley believes in keeping things simple.

"I like to write about families," Mosley said. "Originally, in the genre, it comes out of existentialism and you have an individual who is going to do what's right, regardless of what you say. 'You can put me in jail – I don't have a wife, a job, children, a car – I don't care what you do to me. Well that's a little bit easy.'"

Mosley's preference for higher stakes is why he gives Martin a wife, son and daughter. Fortunately for the character, his clan is willing to put themselves at risk – not only to support him, but to help defend their home, their community and life as they know it.

Though mere mortal characters like Easy Rawlins and Fearless Jones are generally better known to Mosley fans, "Touched" is his 14th book of speculative fiction, which describes genres including fantasy and sci-fi.

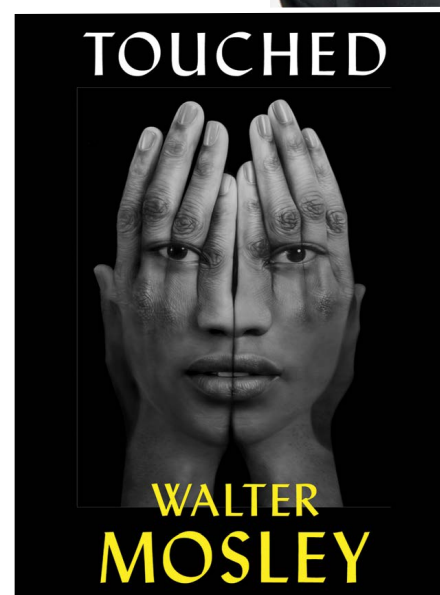
"I can do anything with speculative fiction," Mosley says. "For example, if you say, 'In 1827 there was a Black president,' that's speculative fiction, because it's not true. You've created the

history."

In the case of the Just household, Mosley's speculative spin places a Black, middle-class household on the frontline of preventing an apocalypse. Meanwhile, "Touched" even manages to give Martin and Tessa, his wife, a powerful subplot to which many couples can relate by revealing that... Well, I don't



Walter Mosley



want to give too much of the story away. Let's just say that this subplot puts Martin's manhood to a mental test even as his alter ego, Temple, uses otherworldly physical strength to destroy his enemies.

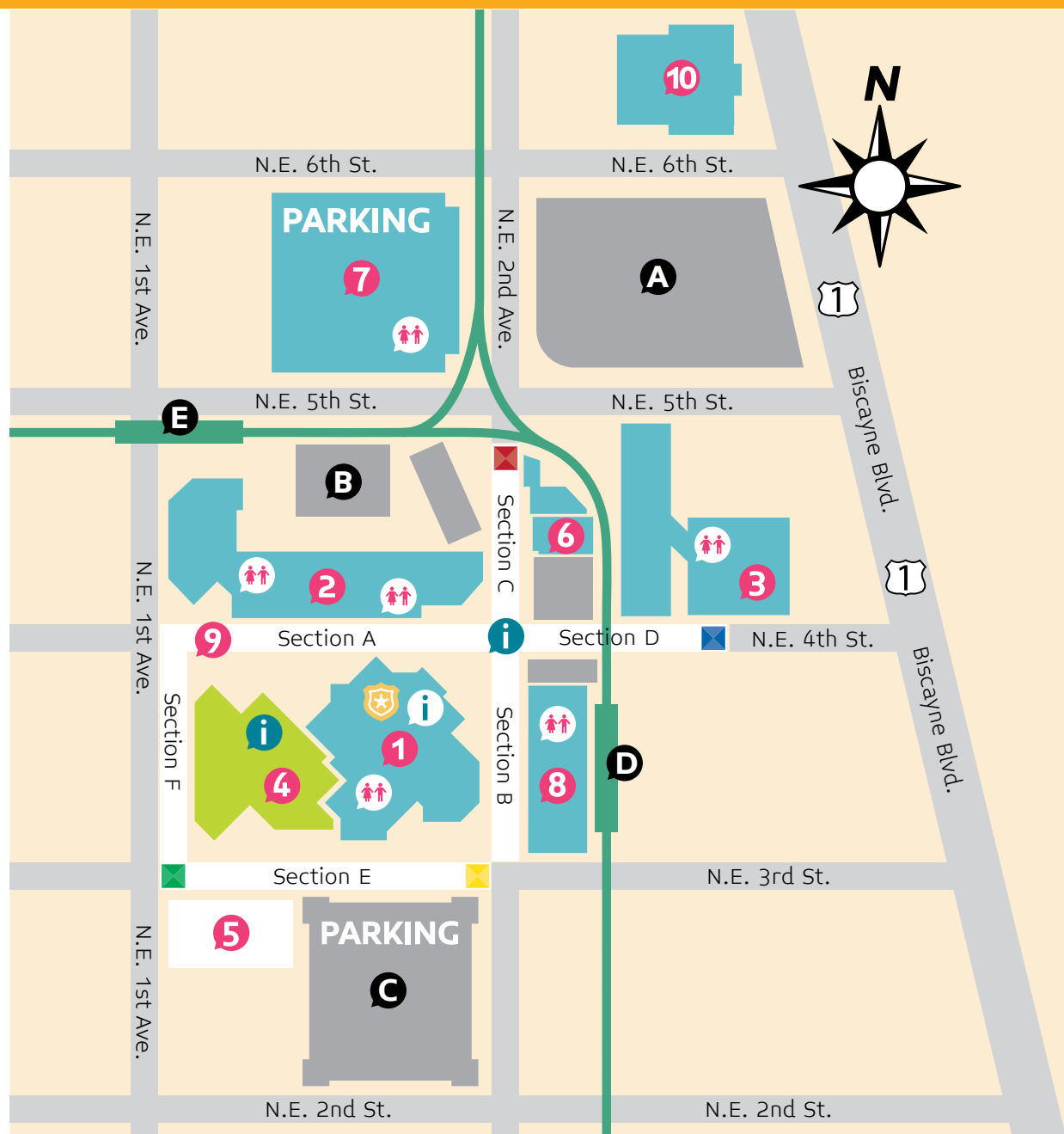
"That's correct about Martin's character, that he very much sees himself like a cog in the machine,

not the machine itself," Mosley said. "So he can be seen as weak, though it turns out that he's not weak. In order to underscore that, I needed to have Temple and Tessa, people who have obvious rebellious strengths that they use out in the world."

By the end of our chat, I was grateful for the time we spent chatting – and also grateful that I kept my composure throughout the interview with one of my literary heroes. The characters of "Touched" had reminded me that sometimes we simply have to rise to the occasion.

Meet
WALTER MOSLEY
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15
8 p.m., MDC
Wolfson Campus

where to go, how to get there



PRESENTATION ROOMS, ETC.

- 1 Building 1**
4th Floor - Lost Chapter Lounge
Room 1101 - The Art Lab
Room 1261 - Auditorium
- 2 Building 2**
Room 2106
- 3 Building 3**
Room 3209
Room 3210 - Chapman
- 4 Children's Alley**
- 5 Smorgasburg Miami**
- 6 Building 6**
Room 6100
- 7 Building 7**
Room 7128
FREE Parking (floors 2 - 9)
- 8 Building 8**
Room 8102 - MAGIC
Room 8201
Room 8202
Room 8203
Room 8301
Room 8302
Room 8503
Room 8525
- 9 Off The Shelf Music Stage**
- 10 Freedom Tower**

IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW

- Information Booth
- Restrooms
- MDC Public Safety Office

Entrances

- Green - Corner of N.E. 1st Avenue and N.E. 3rd Street
- Red - Corner of N.E. 5th Street and N.E. 2nd Avenue
- Yellow - Corner of N.E. 2nd Avenue and N.E. 3rd Street
- Blue - N.E. 4th Street west of Biscayne Boulevard

- A** Exhibitor Parking (No public access)
- B** City of Miami Fire Station #1
- C** Miami Parking Authority Garage #3
- D** Miami-Dade Transit Metromover Station (College/Bayside)
- E** Miami-Dade Transit Metromover Station (College North)

How to read Miami Dade College room numbers:

2 1 0 6
 ↑ ↑
 Building Floor

'Reconstructions' explores melting pot of Blackness in America

By **RAY RICHARDSON**

Miami-based artist Germaine Barnes is using his illustrious career as an architect to bring more awareness to the Black experience in America, particularly what he calls the “melting pot” of Blackness in his adopted home.

Barnes, 38, has lived in Miami since 2013 and drew inspiration for his work from the city’s vast minority cultures. The Chicago native is one of 11 architects who wrote an essay for the book “Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America,” an anthology that explores how architecture and racism intersect in urban environments.

The publication, as well as Barnes’ Ukhamba art structure, will be on display at the Miami Book Fair, which opens Nov. 12 at Miami Dade College.

In his essay, titled “A Spectrum of Blackness: The Search for Sedimentation in Miami,” Barnes explores how the city’s population of Jamaicans, Haitians, Dominicans, Bahamians, Cubans, and yes, African Americans, gives Miami as much of a “Deep South” personality as found in traditional southern cities in the U.S.

“In references to southern Blackness, a term that connotes a specific lineage for Black people in the United States, Miami is rarely included

among cities such as Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, and Alabama,” Barnes writes. “While these cities may be perceived as the Deep South, one could argue Miami is the Deepest South,” he continues. “A Spectrum of Blackness is an acknowledgment of the broad possibilities of origin, and therefore of cultural influence, present in this distinctively Black city known as Miami.”

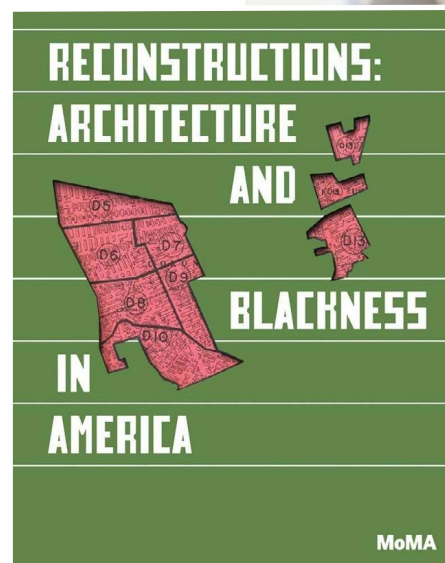
Barnes is an assistant professor at the University of Miami School of Architecture and the director of the university’s Community Housing and Identity Lab. He’s the first African American architect to have his work featured at Miami Dade’s Museum of Art and Design. The museum commissioned Barnes to develop an artistic structure as part of its Pavilion series.

Barnes named his art display “Ukhamba,” a term he learned during his four-month internship in Cape Town, South Africa in 2009. Ukhamba refers to a hand-made ceramic pot that people in southern African nations created to brew and drink beer. The pots were made with clay and other soft materials woven together.

Barnes is following a similar concept with his Pavilion display, a 10-foot-high circular structure that allows visitors to walk inside and see elements of the city of Miami in the background. Barnes said the fabric of his structure is a woven mixture of wood and steel. The intent of Ukhamba, which has four entrances, is to give visitors a peek into African art traditions and a view of Miami’s urban landscape at the same time.



Germaine Barnes



“This project is very high on my list of achievements,” Barnes said. “I want people to see the work and hopefully get more Black students involved in architecture.”

Barnes’ previous work has been featured in several publications and locations, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Chicago Architecture Biennial, the New York Times, Architect Magazine and the National Museum of African American History and Life, where he was named one of the “future designers on the rise.”

Isabela Villanueva, curator for MOAD at Miami Dade College, said she’s admired Barnes’ work for a long time. “He’s extremely talented. I saw his work in New York. His name was on the top of my list when we were looking for a new artist this year.”

Villanueva shares Barnes’ commitment to bringing more diversity to architecture. To that end, she is coordinating a panel discussion for Nov. 18 that will feature Barnes and Cornell University professor Olalekan Jeyifous, a leading architect from Nigeria. The panel discussion is open to the public and starts at noon at Miami Dade College’s Wolfson Campus, Building 8. “We’re incredibly fortunate to have two of the leading African American architects in the world on our campus to talk about this industry,” Villanueva said. Barnes is just as capable at promoting the industry with words and thoughts. He has demonstrated the ability to connect architecture to Miami’s Black culture.

“The density and compression of Black Miami has produced a peculiarly intense story about Blackness in America,”

Barnes writes in his essay. “The city encapsulates all the various sediments from the north as well as influxes from the broader, underrepresented, global South.

“In this manner, Miami is both map and metaphor, a city through which the Black experience is revealed by the subtle yet distinctive spectrum of Blackness that defines us at multiple scales.” ■

Meet
GERMANE BARNES
SATURDAY, NOV. 18
12 noon, MAGIC
Screening Room



Ray Richardson is a freelance journalist based in Los Angeles.



Novel 'Heaven and Earth' highlights the power of love

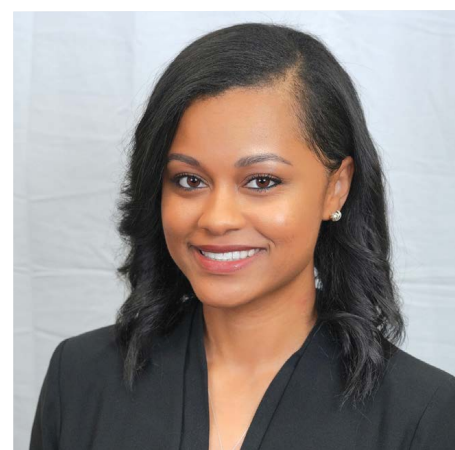
By **MARISSA WELLS**

Construction workers digging earth in a small Pennsylvania town are shocked to find this stunning discovery: there, at the bottom of a well, are the skeletal remains of a human body.

How the skeleton got there and the identity of the deceased ultimately will expose long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, a community in Pottstown, Pennsylvania where Jewish immigrants and African Americans coexisted, sharing dreams and hardships.

This is the haunting storyline of the skillfully crafted murder mystery "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," penned by award-winning author James McBride. Beautifully exploring race, identity and the wounds of history, McBride's latest novel offers a moving portrait of life for Black and Jewish immigrants in the middle of the 20th century.

The New York Times Book Review calls McBride's latest work "charming, smart, heart-blistering and heart-healing — a murder mystery



Marissa Wells, a Los Angeles-based freelance journalist, writes the weekly "Book Corner" column for the Los Angeles Wave & Independent Newspaper Group.

inside a great American novel."

"With this story, McBride brilliantly captures a rapidly changing country, as seen through the eyes of the recently arrived and the formerly enslaved people of Chicken Hill," the Times says. "He has reached back into our shared past when, by migration and violence, segregation and collision, America was still becoming America. And through this evocation, McBride offers us a thorough reminder: Against seemingly impossible odds, even in the midst of humanity's most wicked designs, love, community and action can save us."

For his part, McBride said his book ultimately is about the power of love.

"I'm trying to tell people that kindness moves the earth, that small choices you make today toward the good can create justice tomorrow, and that cynicism is like eating poison and expecting your enemy to die," McBride said in a prepared statement.

"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" is composed of intricately crafted characters whose lives intersect in unexpected ways.

"I prefer characters who try to do what most of us try to do in real life: find ways to beat back evil, envy, jealousy, greed, hate, and do it with humor," McBride said. "Humor belies respect, humanity, humility and happiness."

As readers join characters on their life journeys, they bear witness to the destructive impact of bigotry, hypocrisy and deceit on a community. Through trial and tribulation, it becomes evident that love is the unwavering force that sustains and strengthens this community.

"The murder, the skeleton, the body, the characters... were all devices to harness the more important theme, which is to stop hating and just love somebody," McBride said.

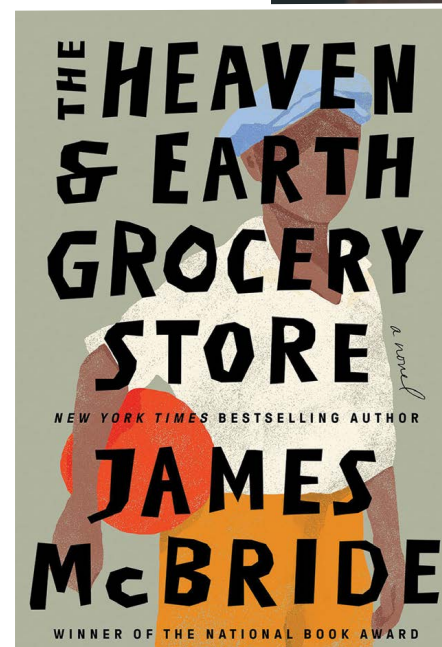
The highly anticipated novel

was inspired by McBride's decision to craft a narrative infused with the unique qualities that defined a camp for disabled children where he worked in the late 1970s.

According to McBride, those special elements are "the ragged, unkempt, weird, funny, glorious business of humanity, which often kicks aside societal nonsense to get to the business of the only thing that counts: love." "The Heaven and



James McBride



"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" is a page-turner that likely will captivate any reader who enjoys a suspenseful — at times humorous — and compassionate story that attests to the strength and influence

of love and community.

McBride's ultimate goal, he says, is simply to encourage and uplift readers.

"My job — one of my jobs, I suppose — is to try to inspire people with possibility. And let them know that no matter how difficult their lives may be, someone has been down that road before," McBride said.

"All of the characters in this book are fictional but they all walked this earth at some point, and I'm glad God let me find them."

Meet
JAMES MCBRIDE
SATURDAY, NOV. 18
12 noon,
Auditorium



'Homelight' anthology captures rhythm & blues of life, love, self-reflection

BY JADA INGLETON

*"How sweetly / habit grows, like mold
... / I told them their own troops / a
prickle of boys / brown hands / slippery
on their guns, / were loyal to me and /
now I tell them sing, / mouths full of dirt
or no / And even the ones whose throats
I slit, sing." — Panamá, 1989*

Lola Haskins' voice was strong and firm as she recited her poem "The Coup" via Zoom, a look of poise and passion falling over her face. The poem was just one of many examples in the "Homelight" collection where the author-poet challenged introspection and humanity at their core.

In her 14th poetry collection, "Homelight," Haskins uses a series of poems to explore the complex tolls of love, abuse, death and self-reflection. The usually soft-spoken voice behind the text speaks volumes about troubling themes while embracing the simplicity of life itself.

From northern California, by way of New York, the 79-year-old's background had a significant impact on the chapters' components. Haskins, who has served on the executive committee of Florida Defenders of the Environment



Jada Ingleton is a Legacy M•I•A intern who is graduating from Howard University during the Spring 2024 semester.

since 2011, reveals her longing for an understanding of the natural world. A recurring observation was the mention of birds and naturalistic influences, most notably an entire "Covid" section with poems written and based in the woods.

She cited one poem in particular, "The Discovery," for having taught her something she "never learned again" and providing a definitive end to the book.

"When you have an inspiration for yourself as to what time is, you stop worrying about it because you realize it's not like that at all," Haskins revealed during an interview with M•I•A magazine. "The book...circles around from the beginning. If you think about the very first section ["On the Shoulders of Giants"], everybody I wrote a tribute for isn't around anymore. Those times and this time exist at the same time only one time, and it's everything. And I was so excited when I figured that out, I was just so thrilled."

The award-winning author described how using poetry as a form of expression comes naturally to her, possibly a subsequent result of her musical background, as she used to sing in clubs.

In addition to her written work, Haskins has a multitude of collaborations under her belt, from multimedia theater productions with Dance Alive! to her most recent project with cellist Ben Noyes, creating a CD of poems for "The Grace to Leave."

"My talent, if I have one, is to get in and out before I get caught," she explained. "I think in small forms, and...I think in music. And it's difficult to explain in an extended way...But then you put the small musical forms together, and you have a symphony," Haskins continued. "I'm really ambitious, but I'm ambitious in a different way than somebody who is capable of writing long, whole books."

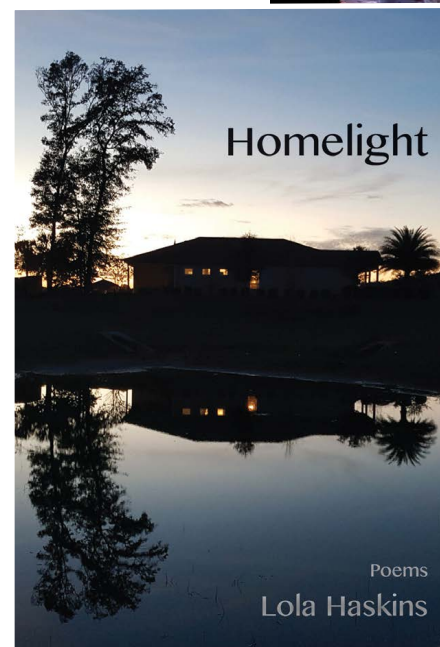
One read of "Homelight" is simply

not enough to fully grasp the multi-layered testaments that grace the pages. Haskins considers this book to be one of her most introspective works; she highlights the lessons she's learned from her daily forays in the woods and admits a fresh appreciation for time and the natural world.

In the midst of curating her next book "Like



Lola Haskins



belong to you anymore. It belongs to the person who's reading it. And every person brings his or her life to everything [they] read," Haskins said. "There's a joy in having it familiar enough that you can get further this time and never run out. There's no running out. The things I love the most, I want to go back to, because I know there's more."

Haskins is the recipient of several prominent awards, including three book prizes, two NEA fellowships, and several prizes for narrative poetry.

Zeros, Like Pearls" – an homage to the value of insects – she said she hopes to discover more of the real world and the potential lessons she can learn within herself.

"It's my personal strong belief that once you write something, it doesn't

**Meet
LOLA HASKINS**
SATURDAY, NOV. 18
11:30 a.m.,
Room 8303





The Florida Lottery proudly supports education by contributing over \$43 billion to local schools and awarding more than 917,000 Bright Futures Scholarships. So Florida students can do more than just dream of a brighter future, they can create one.

Learn more at flalottery.com/education

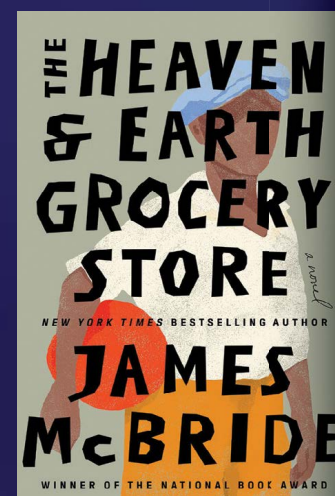
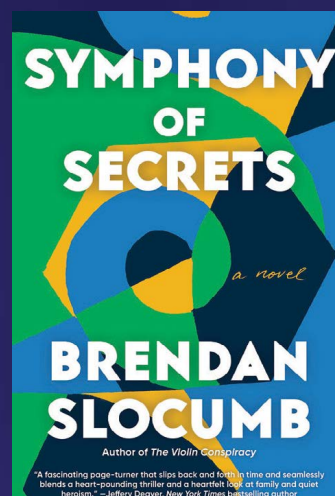
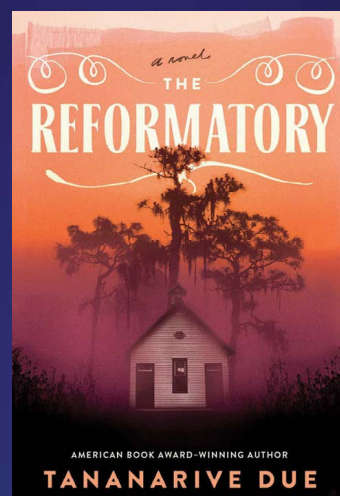
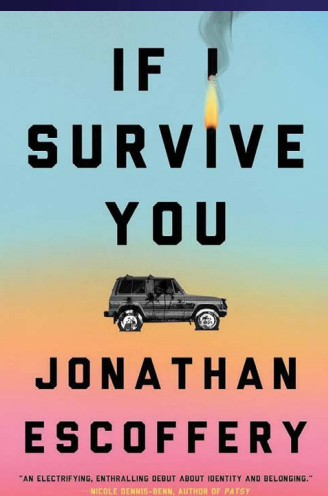
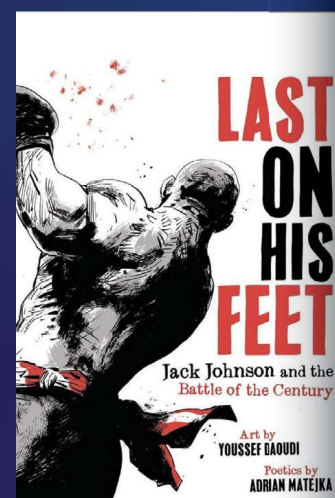
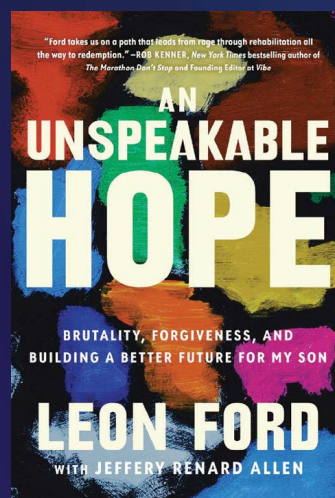
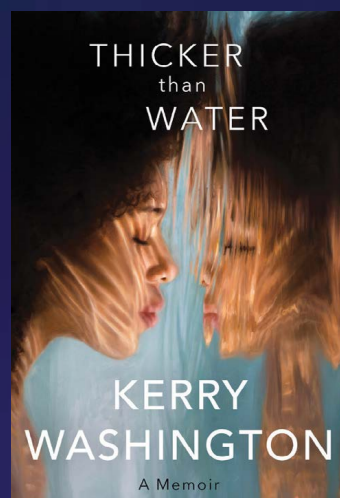
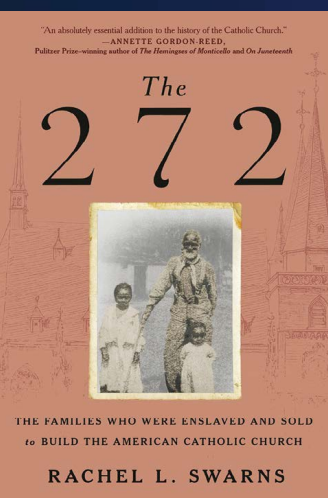
4

Miami
Book Fair

Miami Dade College

HEAR EVERY VOICE

Check out some of the authors coming to Miami Book Fair this year



Eight days of
**AUTHOR TALKS
AND READINGS,**
plus the open-
air **STREET
FAIR** with **LIVE
MUSIC** at the Off
the Shelf stage;
STORYTELLERS
and crafts in
Children's Alley; and
BOOKSELLERS,
artisans, and
festival foods.

SCAN HERE for
more information



NOVEMBER 12 - 19 | Street Fair: NOV. 17 - 19

400+ AUTHORS | DOWNTOWN MIAMI
IN ENGLISH, SPANISH & CREOLE