BOOK LOVERS EXPO

SOUTH CAROLINA 2025

WELCOME TO COLUMBIA, SC

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RICHLAND COUNTY

THE CITY OF COLUMBIA

WELCOME YOU TO

South Carolina

BOOK LOVERS EXPO

& FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Featured Authors

Andrea Edwards



Andrea Edwards is a dedicated financial literacy educator and advocate based in Capitol Heights, MD. She founded Living Life Resources, LLC in 2023, using the WealthWave platform and How Money Works book series to help individuals and families build financial stability and legacy wealth. She is also the owner of PrettiMuch Everything Sales, a top estate sale company in the DMV area. A licensed Life & Health Insurance Producer in multiple states, Andrea specializes in strategic financial planning, branding, and digital marketing. Passionate about financial empowerment, she equips clients with the tools for long-term financial success.

Learn more:
howmoneyworks.com/andreaedwards

Barnard the Barber

Barnard Sims (pen name: Barnard the Barber) is the award-winning author of The Southern Awakening: A Black Man's Guide to Liberating the Rural South. He is the founder of Reach One Chess, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to community empowerment. In addition to his writing and advocacy, Barnard is an actor, appearing in the film Till, produced by EGOT winner Whoopi Goldberg.

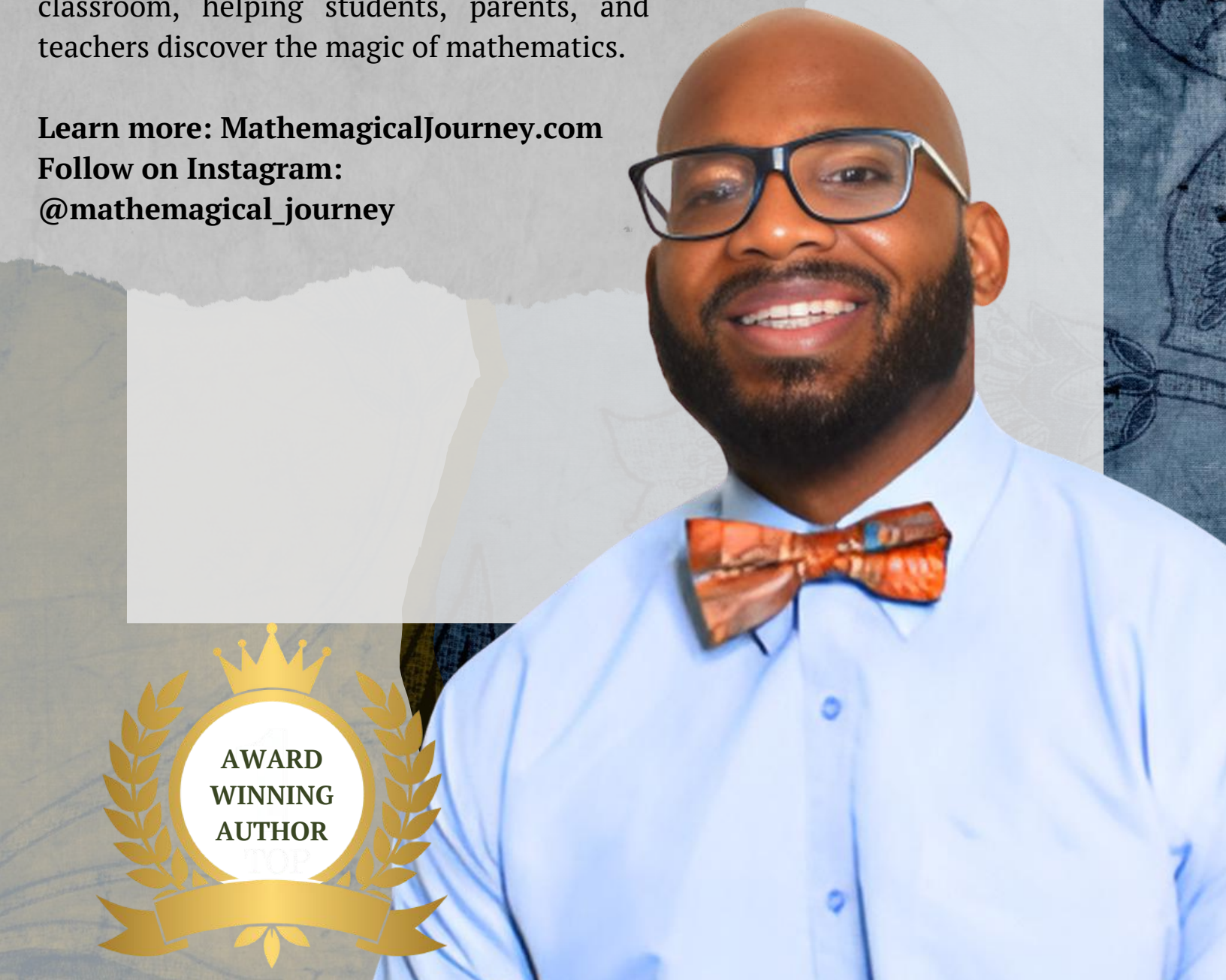
Learn more: BarnardtheBarber.com



Barry R. Beck Jr

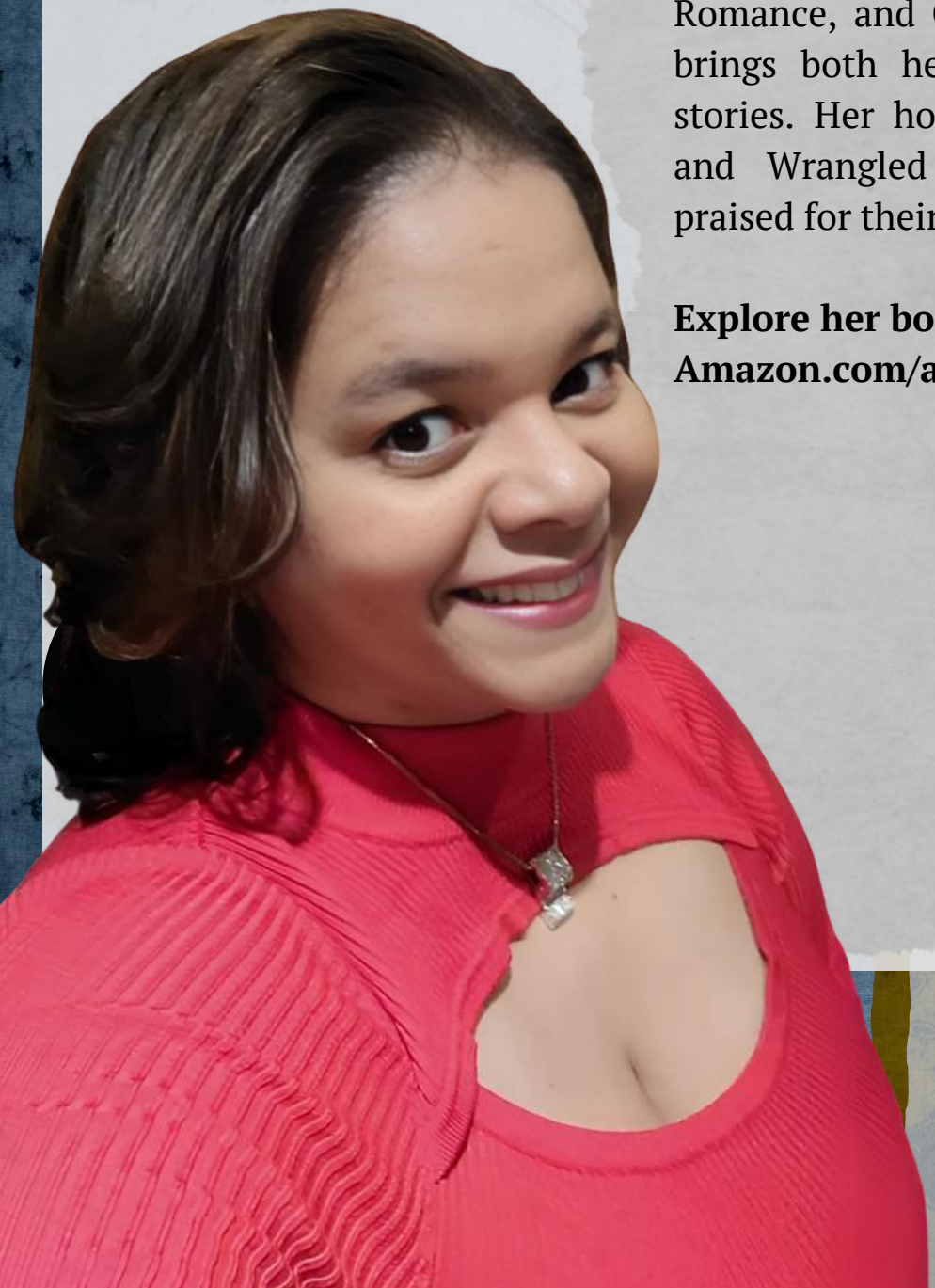
Barry R. Beck Jr. is a passionate math educator and author from Danville, VA. With a long and successful teaching career, he excels at making math engaging and accessible for students. Through his books, Barry extends his love for learning beyond the classroom, helping students, parents, and teachers discover the magic of mathematics.

Learn more: MathemagicalJourney.com
Follow on Instagram:
@mathemagical_journey



AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

Crystal Davis



Crystal Davis is a passionate romance author who began her literary journey as an editor and promoter before co-authoring her first novel, Blindsided By A Miami Boss's Love, in 2023. Writing across Romance, Erotic-Romance, and Christian-Holiday genres, she brings both heat and heartfelt joy to her stories. Her holiday novels, All Jingled Out and Wrangled for Christmas, have been praised for their Black Hallmark-style charm.

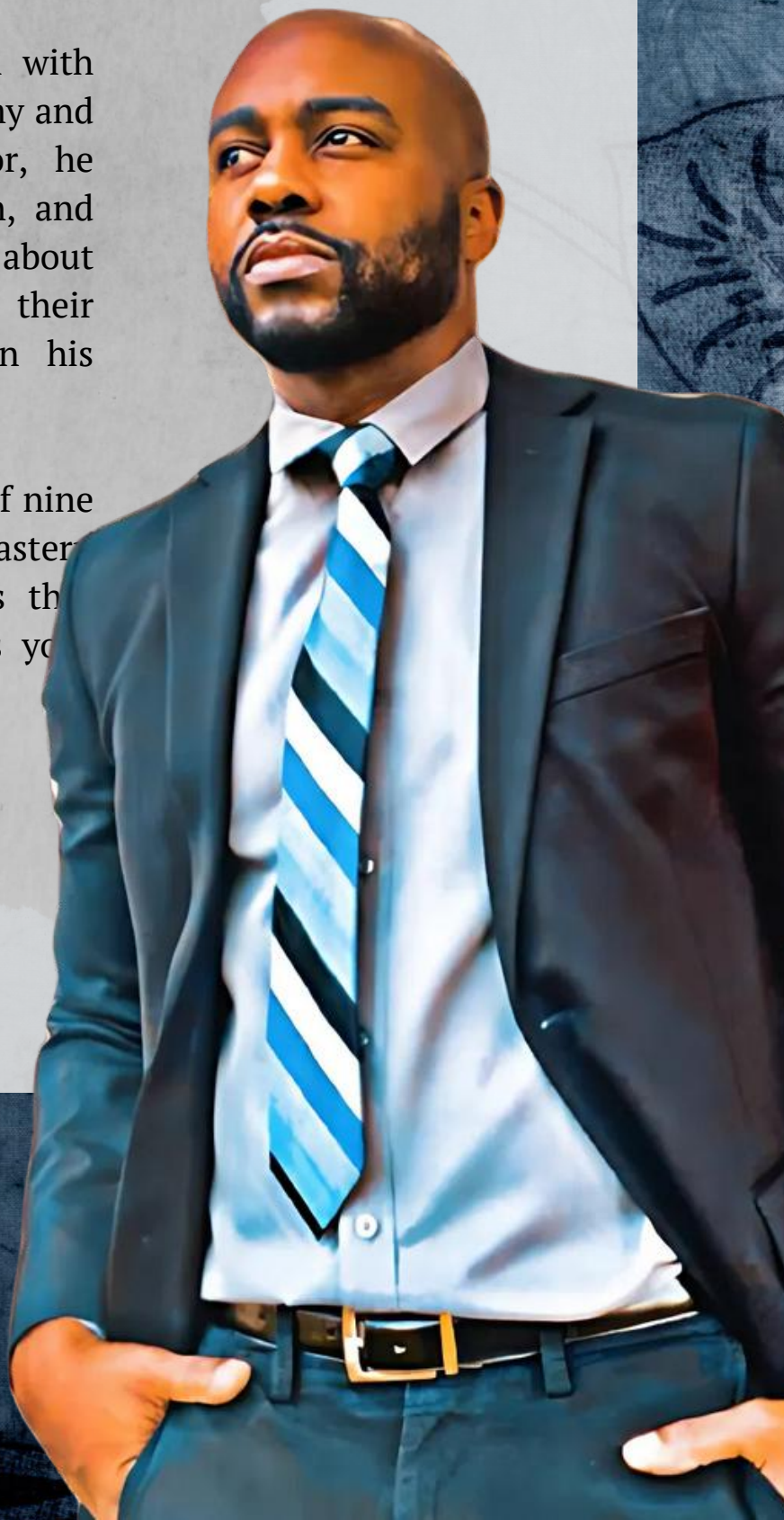
Explore her books:
Amazon.com/author/crystal-davis

Danny Lampkin

Danny Lampkin is a retired veteran with over 22 years of service in both the Army and Navy. Now an author and motivator, he brings a mix of inspiration, raw truth, and humor to his writing. Passionate about fitness, he encourages others to push their physical limits while also serving in his church's Youth Ministry Team.

Danny and his wife are proud parents of nine children and currently reside in southeaster Alabama. If you're looking for books th inspire, challenge, and entertain, he's yo guy!

Website: authordannylampkin.com



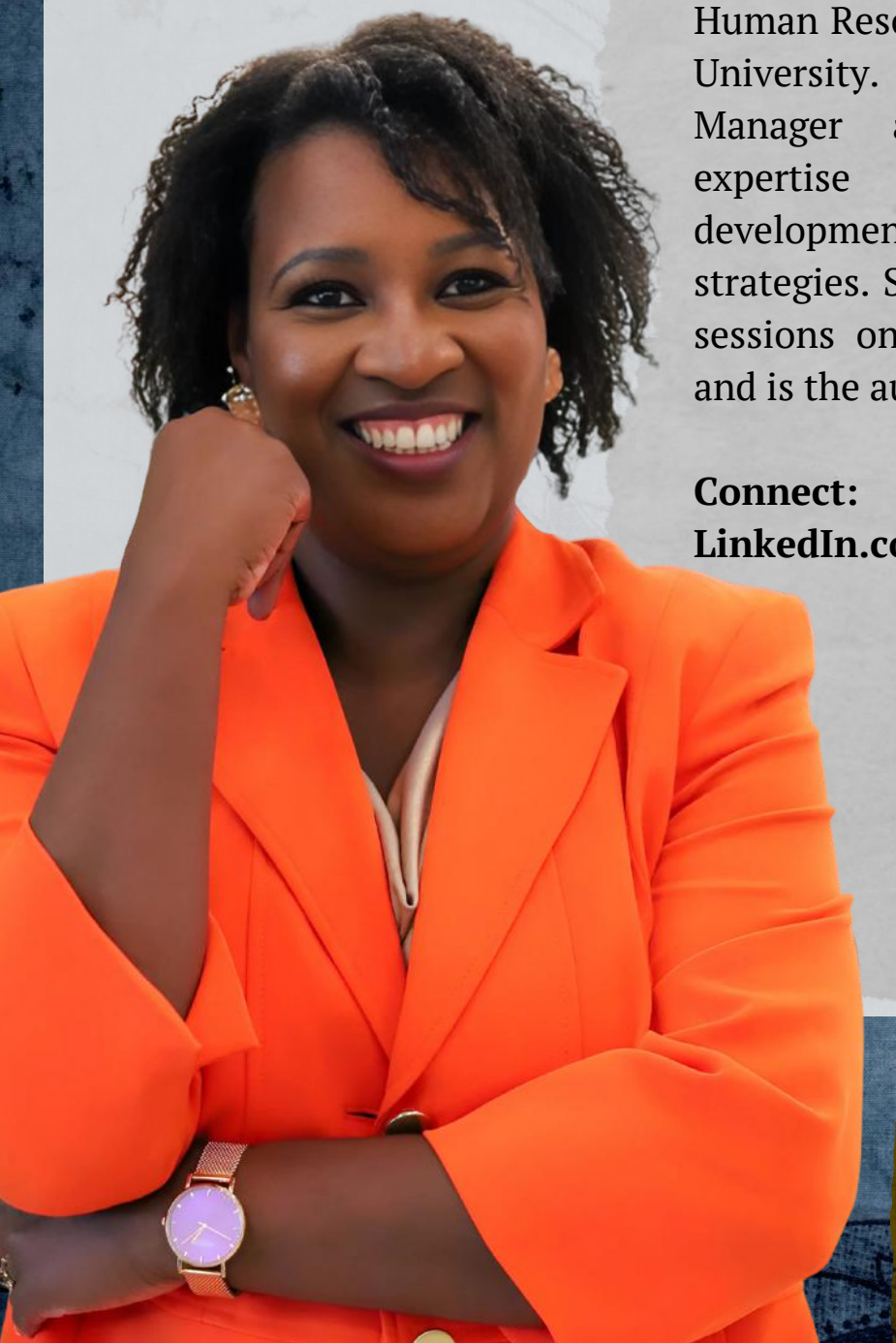
Debbie Engle

Debbie Engle is a writer, special education teacher, and educational therapist passionate about advocating for individuals with disabilities. She speaks at churches, conferences, and parent groups, offering hope and encouragement. A lover of music, hiking, and travel, she enjoys praising God through worship and spending time with her husband, Dan, their family, and their cat, Pancake.

Learn more: LeafChaserBooks.com



Donna Davis



Donna Davis is the CEO of D.W. Davis Consulting, LLC, specializing in helping individuals overcome barriers in life and business. A retired South Carolina state leader with nearly 30 years of service, she holds degrees in Sociology, Psychology, and Human Resource Development from Clemson University. Donna is a Certified Public Manager and AI Consultant, offering expertise in grant writing, program development, and AI-driven business strategies. She leads workshops and coaching sessions on resilience and strategic growth and is the author of I Wish She Knew.

Connect:
LinkedIn.com/in/donna-davis-04137934

Dr. Geraldine Gadson-Fox

Dr. Geraldine Gadson-Fox is a best-selling author, ordained minister, and assistant pastor in Columbia, SC. Passionate about uplifting single mothers, she shares her inspiring journey in The Mighty Hands of God – The Miracle Worker, a bestselling and award-winning book. A lifelong writer of Bible lessons and faith-based literature, Dr. Fox's work highlights resilience, faith, and triumph over adversity.

Learn More:
Facebook: GeraldineFox
Amazon: https://amzn.to/3kOWhFM



Dr. Kylie Victoria McBride

Dr. Kylie Victoria McBride is an author, cleric, educator, and speaker dedicated to leadership development and personal growth. As both an educator and pastor, she understands the challenges leaders face and shares her insights in The Moses Mentality, encouraging emerging leaders to embrace their calling. She has also authored Leaving My Brother's House, a powerful memoir of healing, and contributed to Properly ID'd, a collaborative work on identity in faith. Holding multiple degrees, including a Doctorate of Ministry in Urban Ministry, Dr. McBride is committed to lifelong learning and community service.

Learn more at drkyliespeaks.com



Dr. Robyn Mixon



Dr. Robyn Mixon is an educator, counselor, and author dedicated to empowering families and supporting children with special needs. A North Charleston native, she has spent over 20 years educating students with disabilities and currently serves as a Transition Specialist in Dorchester 4 School District. Dr. Mixon holds a doctorate in Advanced Studies in Human Behavior and has a passion for strengthening family relationships.

Her book, For the Love of Maddie, shares the powerful story of the bond she built with her daughter following a life-threatening childbirth experience. Through her writing and volunteer work, she continues to advocate for family unity and child development.

Learn more at
robynsnestpublications.com

Ebony the GODDESS

Ebony tha GODDESS is a nationally renowned Spoken Word Artist, Author, Singer, Plus Size Model, and Podcaster who captivates audiences with her raw authenticity and poetic brilliance. Hailing from Moss Point, MS, she carries the spirit of her hometown as "The Moon of Moss Point." A member of Black On Black Rhyme's Step2DaMic Poetry Troupe and THE 20/20 Network, LLC, Ebony has performed across the country, leaving a lasting impact on every stage she graces.

Her album, Ebony Speaks, is a powerful tribute to the GODDESS energy of the late Lady Tess, while her book, Worth the Weight, boldly confronts the darkness of her past and celebrates her journey toward healing and self-love. Through poetry and purpose, Ebony tha GODDESS continues to inspire and uplift audiences worldwide.

Connect with her at
ebonythagoddess.com

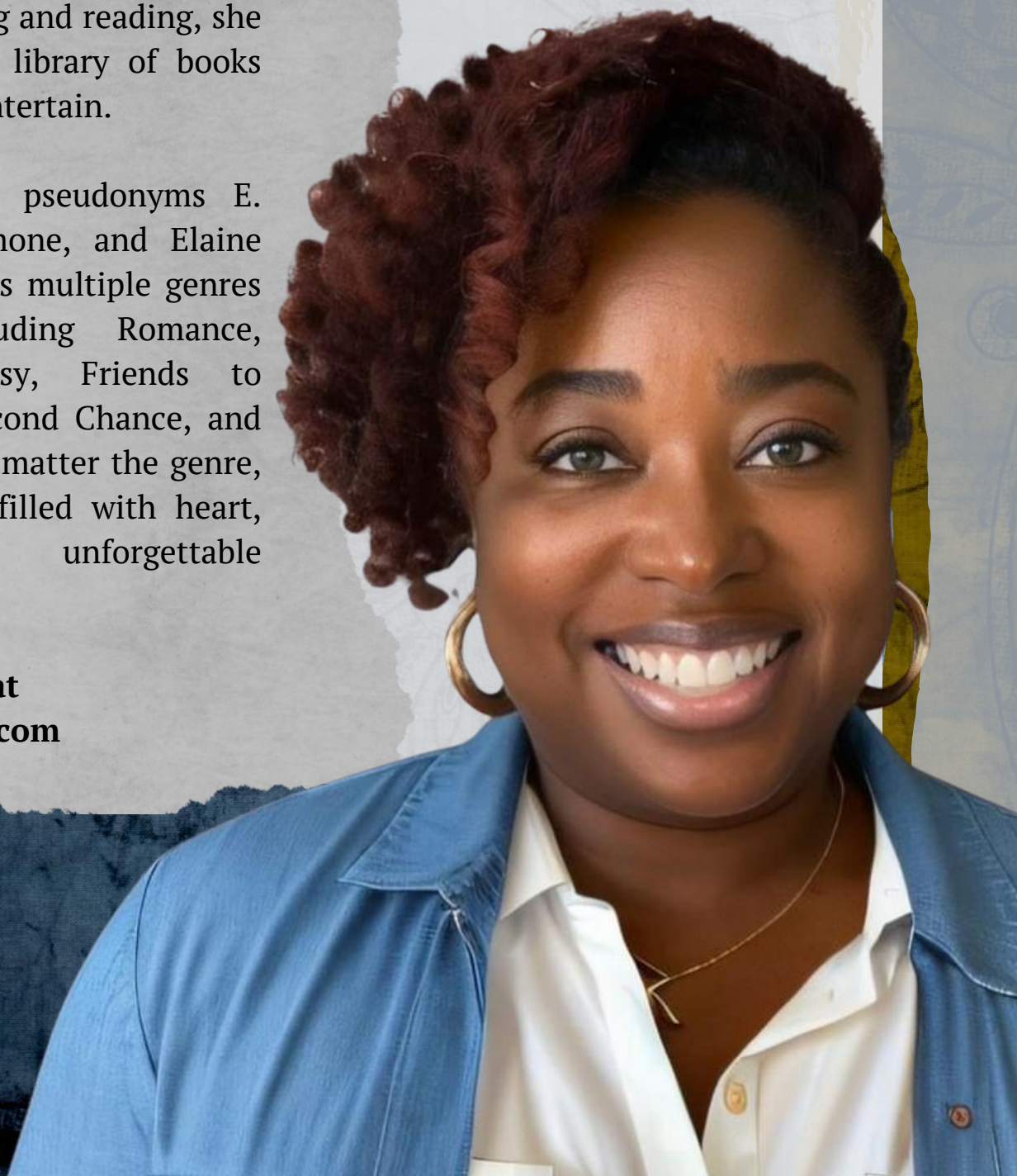


Elaine Jenkins

Elaine Jenkins is a Southern storyteller who redefines the meaning of G.R.I.T.S. (Girl Raised in the South) by blending humor, passion, and a touch of spice into her writing. With a love for both cooking and reading, she has built an entire library of books that captivate and entertain.

Writing under the pseudonyms E. Jenkins, Ingrid Symone, and Elaine Jenkins, she explores multiple genres and tropes, including Romance, Paranormal, Fantasy, Friends to Lovers, Holiday, Second Chance, and LGBTQ+ stories. No matter the genre, Elaine's books are filled with heart, laughter, and unforgettable characters.

Discover her work at
elainesbookpalace.com



Gloria Mangum Glasgow

Gloria Mangum Glasgow is on a mission to inspire and uplift women by sharing profound insights that deepen the quality of life. She believes that everyone deserves to live with peace, contentment, and joy, and is a passionate advocate for pursuing these ideals within honorable standards. Gloria understands firsthand the inner conflict women face when their desires clash with expectations, obligations, and traditions, and how this can lead to a hidden self.

With her heartfelt message, Gloria encourages others to embrace their truths, redefine their paths, and live in alignment with their true essence. She is eager to share what God has placed on her heart, trusting that readers will feel empowered and renewed through every page of her book.

thebookbutler.com/gmglasgow

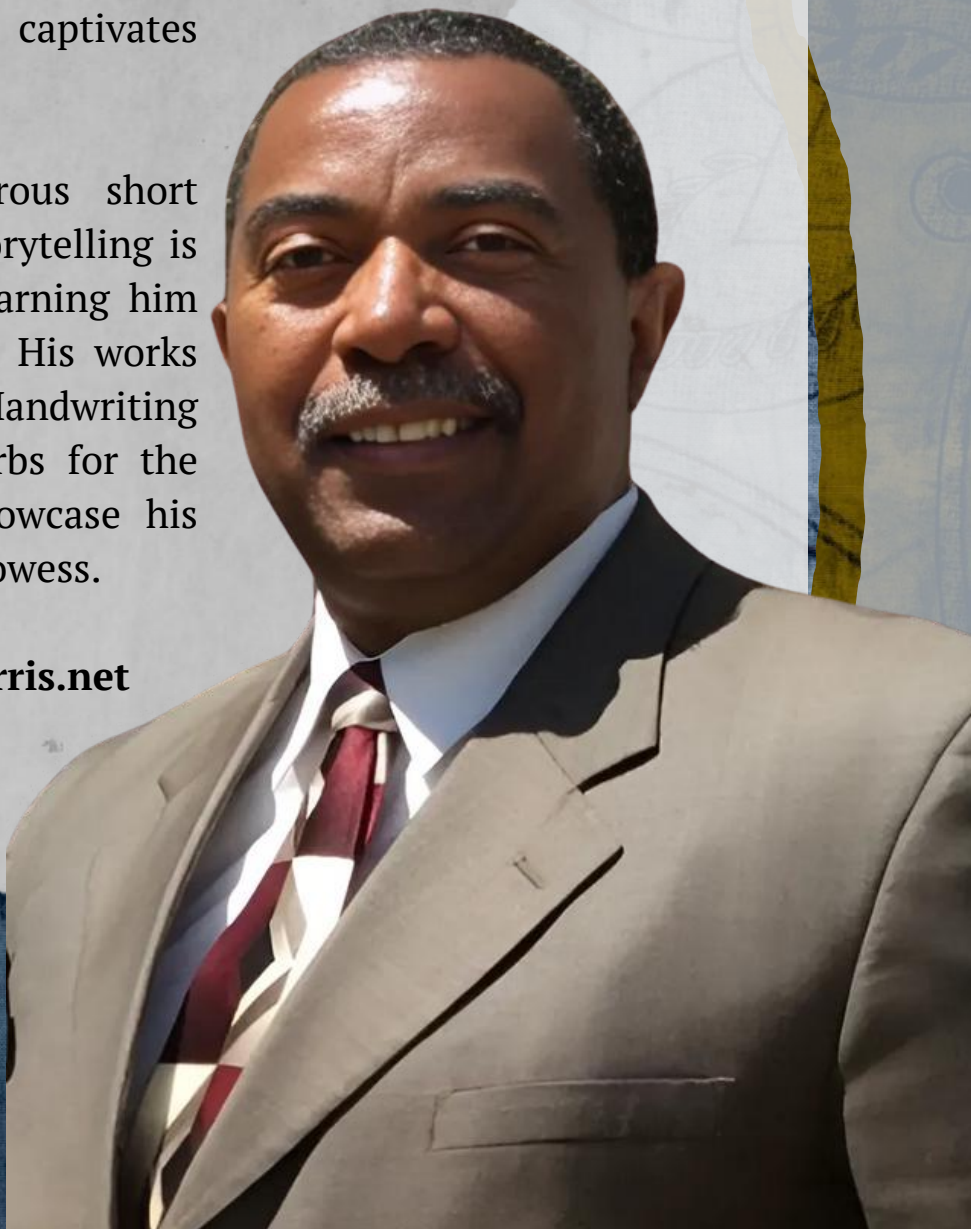


Gregory K. Morris

Gregory K. Morris crafts stories like a fine wine—rich, complex, and deeply satisfying. His narratives blend drama, romance, passion, and humor, infused with history, science, and heart-wrenching emotion. Whether mystery, historical fiction, action-adventure, or romance, his works remain true to his mission: uplifting ink that captivates and inspires.

With seven novels and numerous short stories to his name, Gregory's storytelling is both immersive and unbridled, earning him recognition in the literary world. His works HNIC, DNA, and the short story "Handwriting on the Wall" (featured in Proverbs for the People by Kensington Press) showcase his dynamic talent and storytelling prowess.

Explore his work at gregorykmorris.net



Hakim Tate

Hakim U. Tate is a dedicated author, community leader, and advocate for youth empowerment. A native of Washington, D.C., and a third-generation Washingtonian, he is the founder of the Books & Badges program, which fosters literacy, public speaking, and publishing opportunities for students.

As the author of several beloved children's books, including God Bless the Mother and The Twins Adventures series, Hakim blends storytelling with valuable life lessons. His newest best-seller, The Twins Adventures: All Fun and Games, continues his mission to inspire young readers.

Beyond writing, Hakim has served with the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) since 2003, earning commendations for his work in tactical and community policing. His dedication to his community was recognized when he was named NCAA's 2024 Hometown Hero.



Follow him:
IG: @hakim_dagoldenchild_tate
Facebook: Hakim Golden Child Tate

Harmony Chandler

At just 8 years old, **Harmony Chandler** is already making waves in both academics and the arts! A second-grade honors student, she excels in her school's gifted and talented program, consistently going above and beyond expectations.

Harmony has also stepped into the literary world with confidence, publishing her first book, Harmony's Loose Tooth—a delightful start to what promises to be an incredible creative journey.

With her unstoppable passion and bright future ahead, this is just the beginning for Harmony!

Follow her journey on Instagram: @thelittlemissharmony



Isis Jenkins



Isis Jenkins is an ordained pastor, healthcare chaplain, and co-founder of Sharing Our Souls with KARE Ministries, a nonprofit dedicated to grief support. She leads the care ministry at International Praise Church of God and offers grief services across South Carolina.

With degrees in Business Management, Chaplaincy, and Pastoral Counseling, along with Clinical Pastoral Education training, Isis blends faith, leadership, and compassion to guide others through loss.

A wife, mother, and grandmother, she believes: "We were not meant to do life alone, and neither should we grieve alone."

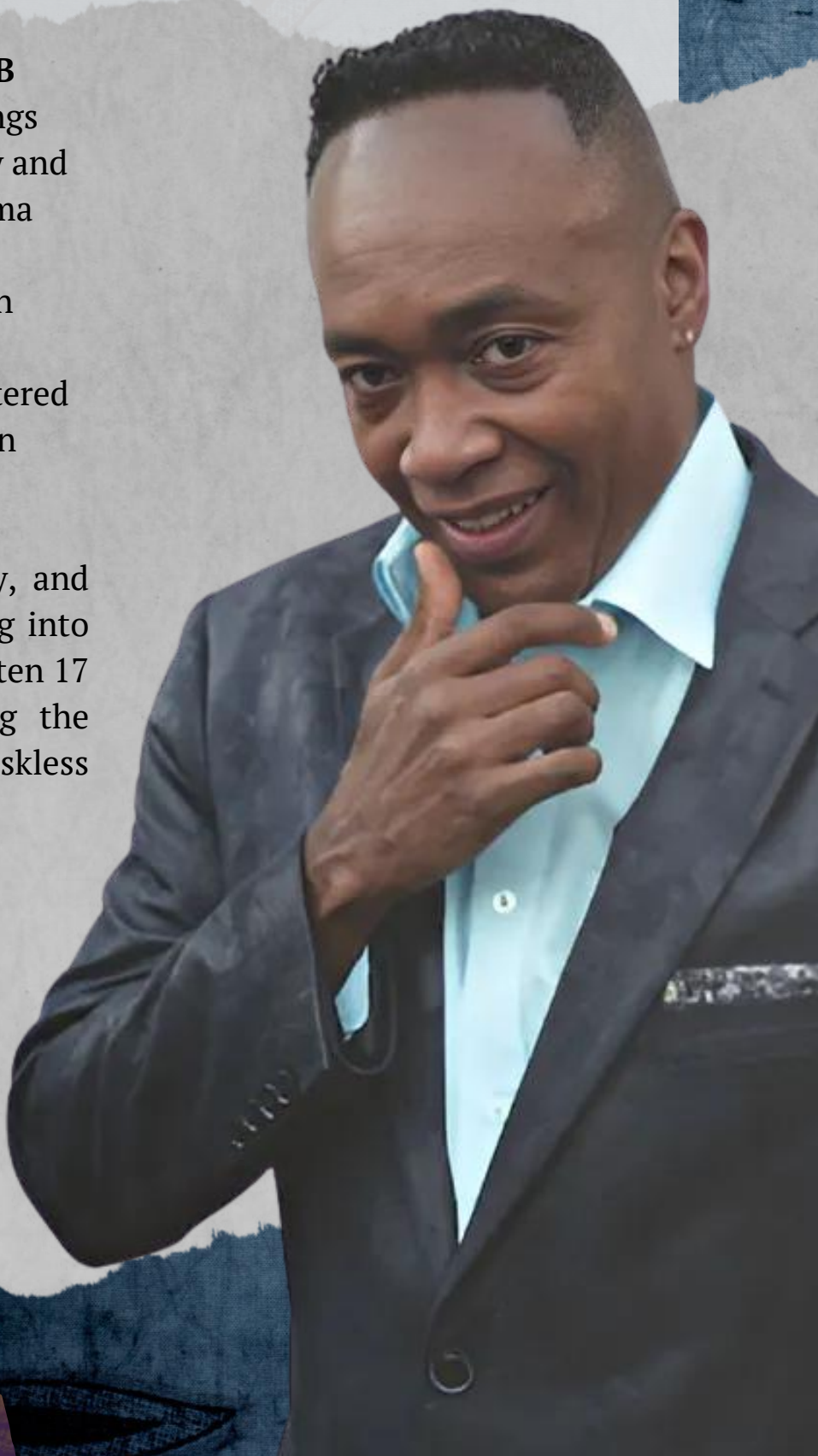
Website: isisjenkins.com

JB Brown Ph.D

Born in Barnwell, South Carolina, **JB Brown** is the seventh of eight siblings and a veteran of both the U.S. Army and Air Force. He holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies, a Master's in Education, a Bachelor's in Computer Information Management, and an Associate's in Applied Science. A nationally registered EMT, he has a diverse background in both the arts and sciences.

Dr. JB began writing plays, poetry, and short stories at 12, later expanding into music, books, and film. He has written 17 scripts and four books, including the children's book Poppy, The Maskless Anti-Bullying Guinea Pig. His film Forbidden Love is one of his standout projects.

Website: jbstarpresents.tv



JP Graves

J.P. Graves – Author of Dark Science Fiction and Horror Thrillers

J.P. Graves crafts gripping tales of psychological depth, fast-paced action, and unsettling suspense. Inspired by authors like Stephen King, Dean Koontz, and Patrick Lee, his writing explores the darker sides of human nature and the unknown.

His debut novel, Crimes of an Empire, examines the brutal realities of human expansion, while In Darkest Dreams ventures into cosmic horror and the fragility of the human mind. When not writing, J.P. Graves immerses himself in researching the unknown, attending author events, and refining his craft.

He currently resides in Graniteville, South Carolina, where he continues to create thrilling, twisted stories.

Website: Booksbyjpgraves.com



Katrina

Katrina – Author of the Krave Series

Katrina is the author behind the gripping Krave series, a collection that delves into love, heartbreak, obsession, and submission. Through Krave, Krave: I Can't Breathe, and Krave: My Girls, she explores the complexities of relationships, leaving readers wondering—how would you handle Krave?

As the host of Conversations with KRAVE on YouTube, Katrina creates a space for open, raw discussions on love and relationships. When she's not writing or engaging with her audience, she enjoys diving into her favorite crime shows, FBI and Law & Order.

Step into the world of Krave—you just might find yourself within its pages.



Kenyon Strother

Kenyon Strother – Author of the Threads of Power Series

Kenyon Strother is the author of the Threads of Power series, a young adult fantasy adventure. Born and raised in Irmo, South Carolina, he draws inspiration from his family's diverse heritage, mythology, and love of travel. As a longtime fantasy and sci-fi fan, representation is important to him—he wants his own children to always see themselves reflected in the stories they love.

The first two books in the Threads of Power series, The Awakening and Loom of Fates, have been inducted into the Library of Congress. When he's not writing, Kenyon enjoys time with his fiancée and children, exploring virtual reality, and diving into movies and TV shows while dreaming up his next fantasy adventure.

Website: kenyonwrites.com



Kimalee Finelli



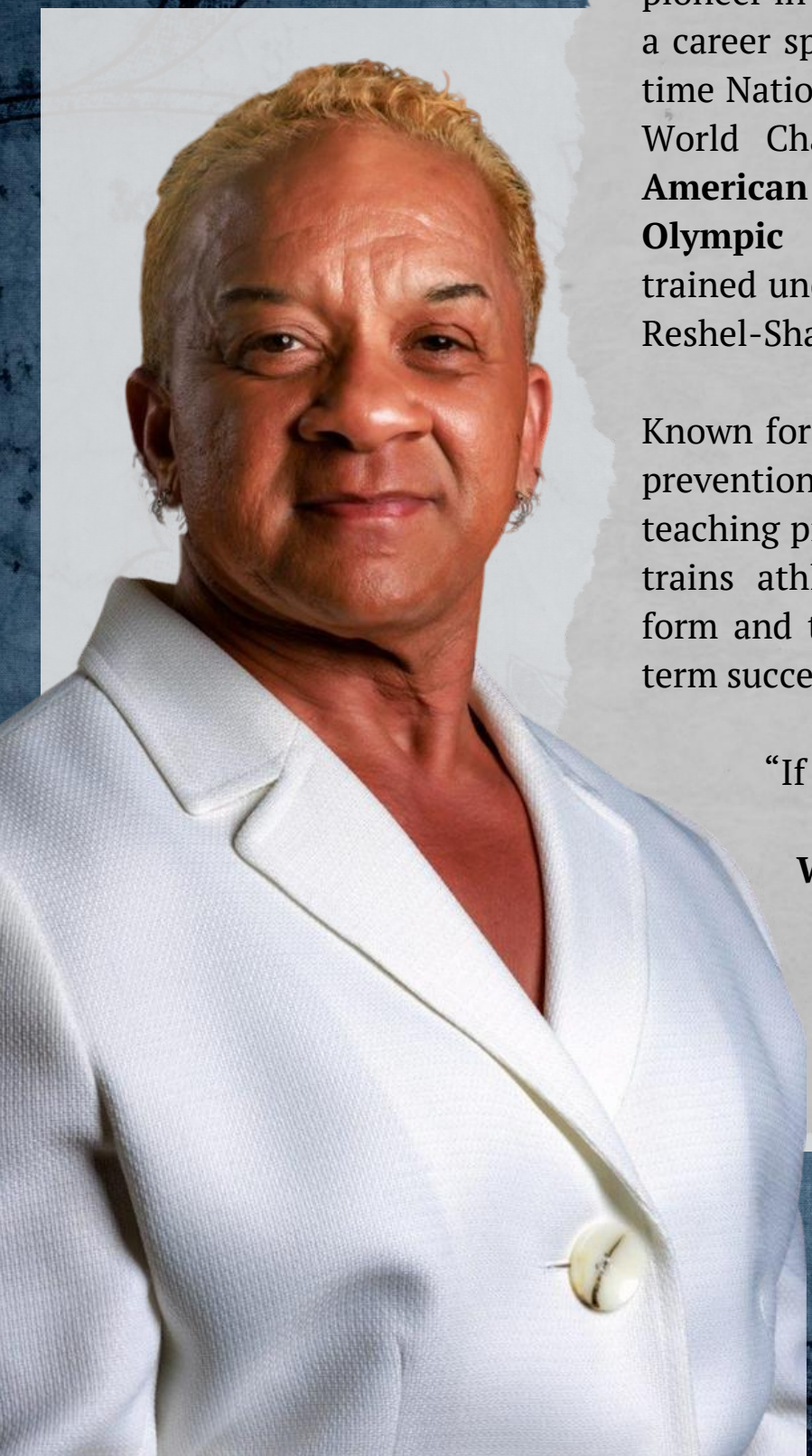
Kimalee Finelli – Author of Under Authority Kimalee

Finelli is a writer based in sunny South Carolina. She has studied with the Long Ridge Writer's Group and has written articles and short stories, with Under Authority as her debut novel. Based on true events and written as fiction, the book follows a young woman's journey to confront her past and heal from a traumatic religious experience.

When she's not writing, Kimalee is a devoted wife, mother, and preschool assistant. She enjoys hiking near waterfalls, spending time with her pets, sipping coffee, reading books, watching movies, and exploring quaint towns.

Website: kimaleefinelli.com

Krista Ford



Krista Ford is a decorated athlete and pioneer in powerlifting and bobsledding, with a career spanning over 39 years. She is a 14-time National Powerlifting Champion, 7-time World Champion, and **the first African-American woman to compete on the US Olympic Bobsledding Team.** Krista has trained under world-renowned coaches Dawn Reshel-Sharon and Janice Roge-Henderson.

Known for her emphasis on safety and injury prevention, Krista has dedicated her career to teaching proper weightlifting techniques. She trains athletes at all levels, ensuring that form and technique are prioritized for long-term success. Krista's motto is simple:

"If there's pain, there is no gain."

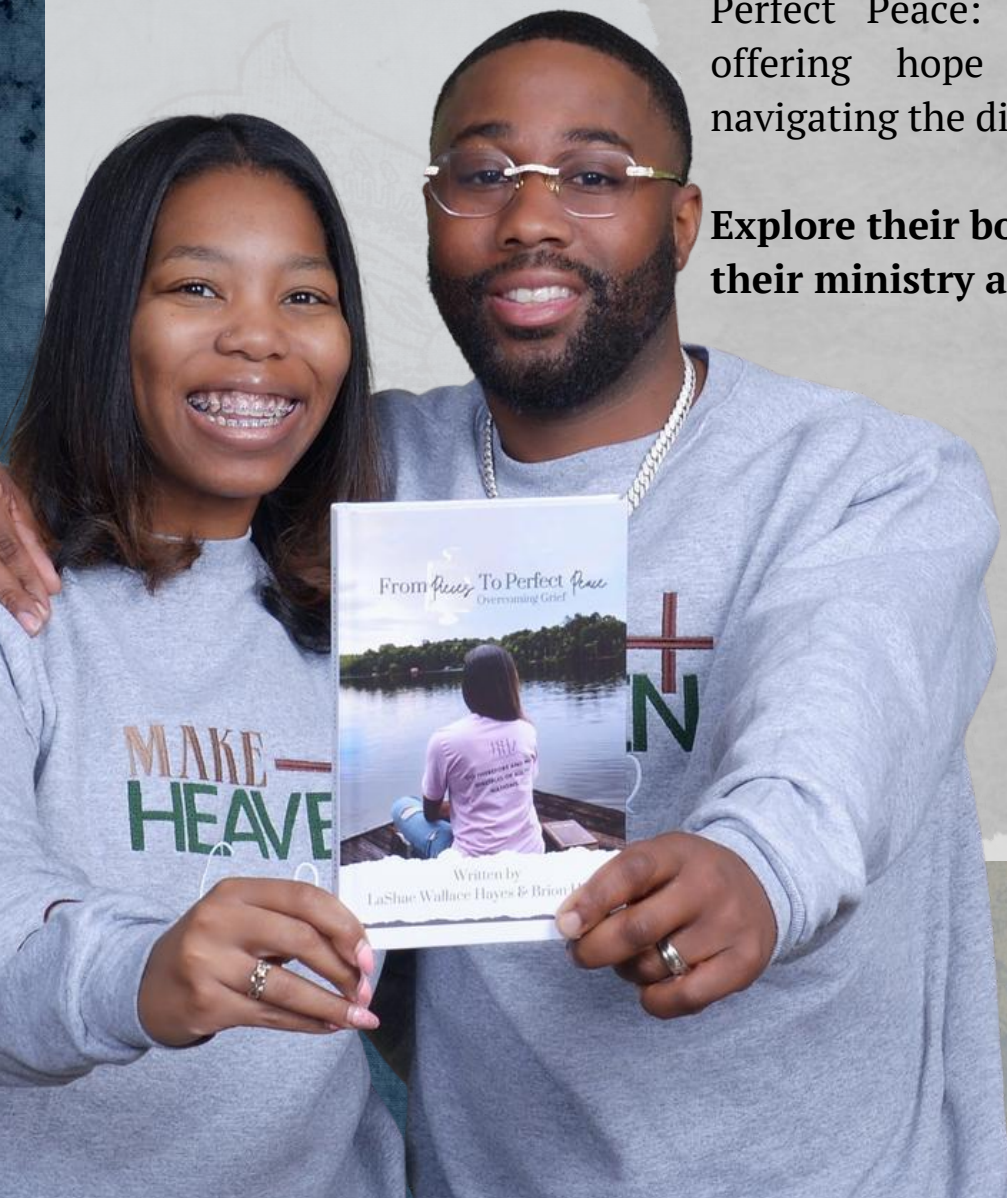
Website: powerbykrista.com

POWER BY KRISTA

LaShae Wallace Hayes & Brion Hayes

LaShae Wallace Hayes, a Professional School Counselor and author, alongside her husband Brion Hayes, is dedicated to uplifting others through faith, healing, and encouragement. LaShae's work is deeply rooted in her devotion to Jesus, sharing inspiring Christian lessons, adages, and scriptures. Together with her husband, **Brion Hayes,** they co-authored From Pieces to Perfect Peace: Overcoming Grief, a book offering hope and guidance to those navigating the difficult journey of loss.

Explore their books and connect with their ministry at griefrevealsgifts.com.



Honoring the Legacy of Emily Meggett

Ms. Emily H. Meggett, born on Edisto Island in 1932, was a beloved cook, author, and community leader. A proud member of New First Missionary Baptist Church, she served her community for over 45 years, feeding countless people with love and devotion.

She authored Gullah Geechie Home Cooking (2022) and received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award. Charleston declared July 22, 2022, "Emily Meggett's Day" in her honor. She passed away at age 90, leaving a lasting legacy of faith, kindness, and culinary expertise.

Website: griefrevealsgifts.com



Linda Crosby

Linda Crosby is a U.S. Army Veteran, published poet, and self-described “prayer warrior.” A lover of music, classic movies, and biographies of both Old Hollywood and modern stars, Linda lives in the South with her husband, Roy, and their furbaby, Bella. She is a devoted wife, stepmother, sister, aunt, and friend.

Website: lindacrosbyauthor.com



Marie Pierre



Marie Pierre is an author whose love of reading inspired her to write stories that both children and parents can enjoy. After reading thirty books one summer, Marie was captivated by the adventures in those pages, leading her to write her own. Her first book, The Adventure of Being a Kid, was designed for busy parents and their children. She followed it with Jacob Defeats the Dragon and Arnold, My Pet Turtle, and aims to publish sixty books. Marie's goal is for kids worldwide to fall in love with reading and embark on countless adventures through her stories.

Website: KidsLoveAdventures.com

Mesha M. Ellick

Mesha M. Ellick, a former U.S. Army combat medic, is an author driven by a passion for storytelling. Her debut children's book, Grandma's Combat Boots and Bedtime Stories, reflects her resilience and creativity. A native of Indiana, she now dedicates her time to writing inspiring stories for both children and adults while volunteering in the Richland community. When not writing, Mesha enjoys gardening, fishing, reading, cooking, and traveling to explore new cultures and landscapes.

Website:
amazon.com/author/thewritersvoice365



MT Lynx

M.T. Lynx, a South Carolina-based author, grew up in Europe, developing a love for diverse cultures. A recipient of several National Library of Poetry awards, Lynx is known for the award-winning Project Agosha, the Myths of Endolia series, and the Bleuffy comics. When not writing, M.T. enjoys playing D&D with friends and spending time with family and her two editor-cats.

Website: mtlynx.com



AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

Nicholas Jordan



Nicholas Jordan, known as Cool Colas, is a self-published author, speaker, comic book creator, activist, and pro-black media analyst. His books, Rem Realm: Curse of a Billionaire and The Pro-Black Blerd Series: Exposing Anti-Black Media Tropes the Blerd Way, aim to provide authentic content from the perspective of an empowered, black nerd. With nearly a decade of experience in Civil Rights work focused on Black Empowerment, he uses his platform, Cool Colas Brand, to advocate for pro-black content, expose anti-blackness, and enrich the minds of those embracing pro-blackness.

Website: coolcolas.com
Instagram - @coolcolas

Nicole Lanier Montez

Nicole Lanier Montez won the 2024 Litstar Book Award for her book of poetry “Standing in the Shadows of Freedom”. She passionately promotes poetry throughout the U.S. Join Nicole for a poetry reading from her award-winning book.

For more information visit 4square.com.



AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

Ontwanet Moran

Ontwanet Moran is a Licensed Financial Professional and Coach with over 14 years of experience. She empowers professionals to master money management, guiding them to secure their retirement, safeguard their families, and build wealth through strategic coaching and financial solutions. Ontwanet's mission is to eradicate financial illiteracy, a crisis affecting over 4.5 billion people globally. She helps individuals and businesses reduce taxes, build lasting retirement plans, and preserve wealth with strategic estate planning.

Learn more:
howmoneyworks.com/ontwanetmoran



Rebekah Taylor

Rebekah Taylor is an up-and-coming author and mother of two, stepmother of five, and wife. With a master's degree in education, she spent years teaching preschool before relocating to South Carolina, where she now focuses on her writing. In addition to being an author, she is an artist, blogger, clogger, and a survivor of domestic violence.

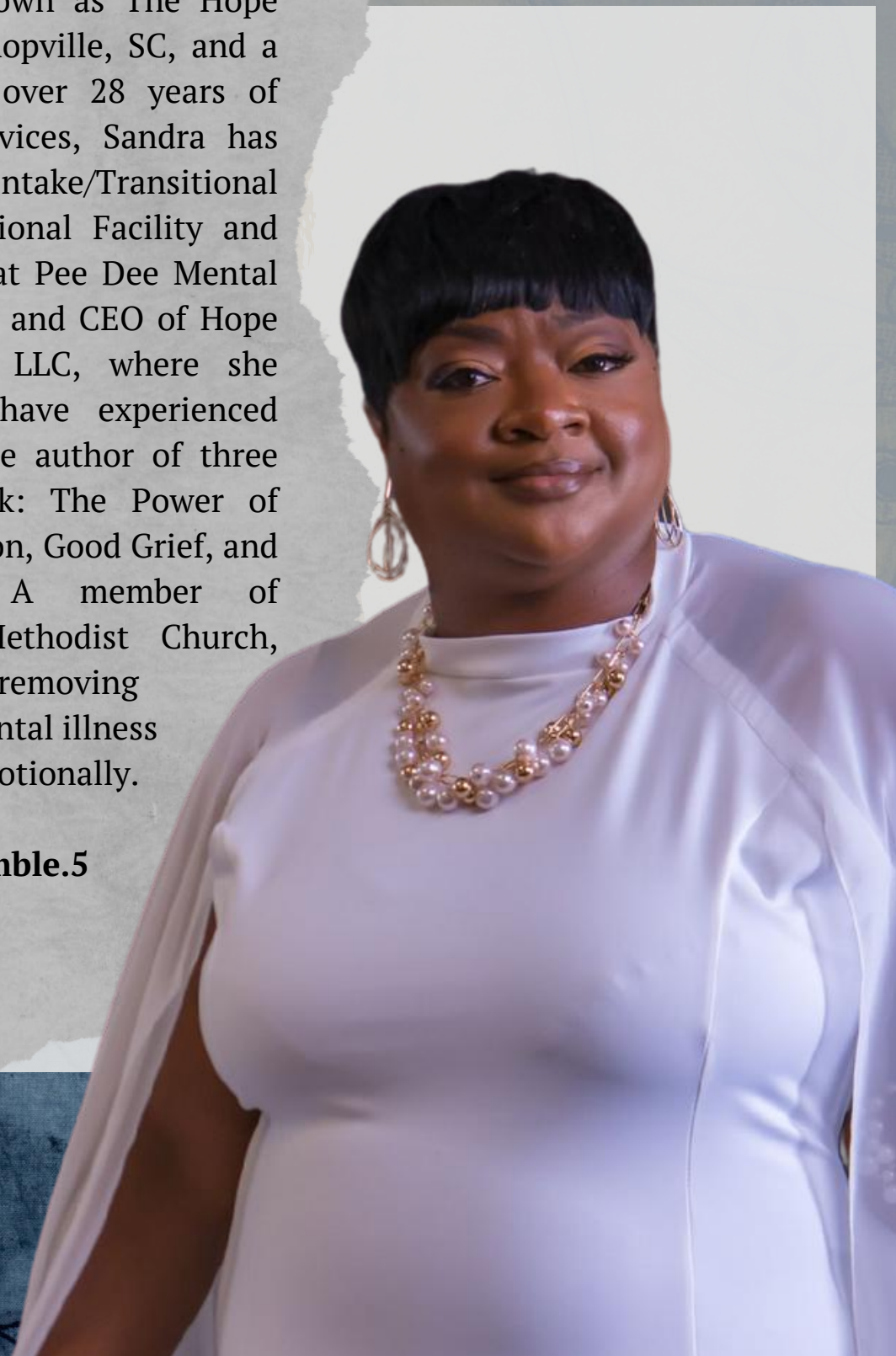
Website: rebekah-taylor.com



Sandra Gamble

Sandra Gamble, also known as The Hope Dealer, is a native of Bishopville, SC, and a survivor of abuse. With over 28 years of experience in human services, Sandra has served in roles such as Intake/Transitional Counselor at Lee Correctional Facility and Adult Services Counselor at Pee Dee Mental Health. She is the founder and CEO of Hope Dealer Wounded Healer LLC, where she empowers women who have experienced trauma. Sandra is also the author of three books: To Hell and Back: The Power of Forgiveness and Redemption, Good Grief, and Give Up To Glow. A member of Mechanicsville United Methodist Church, Sandra is passionate about removing the stigma surrounding mental illness and helping others heal emotionally.

facebook.com/sandra.gamble.5



Shanell W. Wilkes

Shanell W. Wilkes
Author of This Is Me | Storyteller | Writing Mentor

Shanell is a lifelong lover of reading and writing, now stepping into the literary world to inspire others. Her debut book, This Is Me, explores personal themes and encourages readers to embrace their authentic voices. Passionate about storytelling and creativity, Shanell believes in the power of words to heal and empower, especially in young minds.

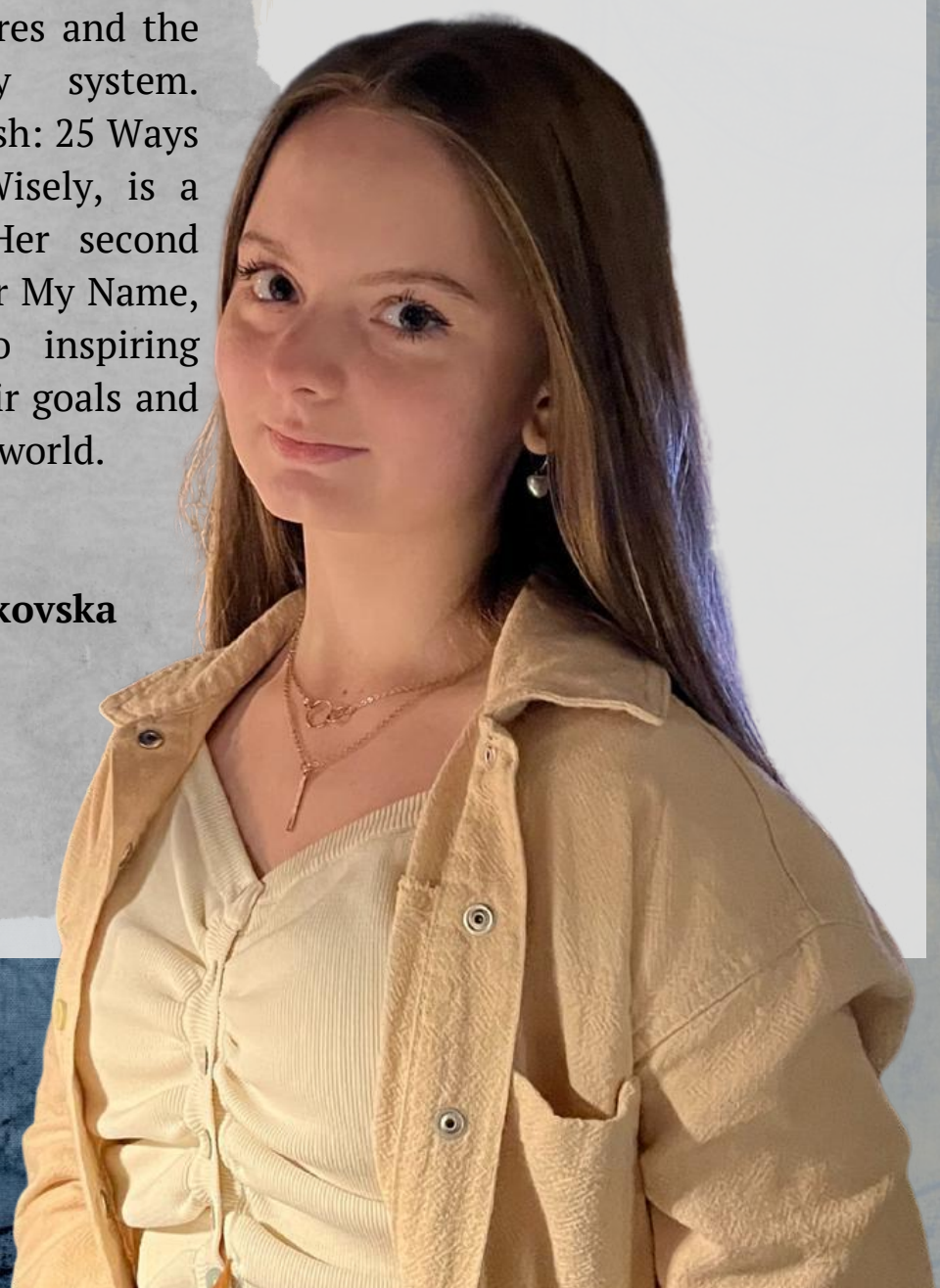
facebook.com/shanell.wilkes



Viktoriia Krechkovska

Viktoriia Krechkovska, a teenage author, began writing at 13 and has already published two books. Born in Ukraine and now residing in the USA, she's a middle school student whose books are in popular bookstores and the Greenville County Library system. Viktoriia's first book, Teen Cash: 25 Ways to Earn, Save, and Spend Wisely, is a financial guide for teens. Her second book, I Hope You'll Remember My Name, reflects her commitment to inspiring other teenagers to pursue their goals and make a positive impact on the world.

Website: viktoriia.space
Instagram: @viktoriiakrechkovska



Wendy T. Johnson



Wendy T. Johnson
Motivational Speaker
Certified Christian Life Coach
"Positivity Professor"

Wendy T. Johnson, known as the "Positivity Professor," is a dynamic motivational speaker and Certified Christian Life Coach with over 30 years of experience in leadership development. She empowers audiences to shift their mindset from negative to positive, using compelling stories and actionable insights. Wendy has spoken across the U.S. and hosted weekly Wake Up with Wendy! sessions for two years.

A lover of pearls, hats, and pompoms, Wendy is also a dedicated wife, mother, and passionate about helping others grow and thrive.

facebook.com/wendy.johnson.393

Yvette Way

Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, and now residing in Atlanta, Georgia, **Yvette Way** is an accomplished author with a passion for writing that began in fourth grade. With a BA in Communication from Curry College, Yvette's journey into fiction writing truly blossomed in tenth grade, when a teacher introduced her to the works of Dr. Maya Angelou and encouraged her creative pursuits. This mentorship led Yvette to contribute to a creative newsletter, solidifying her path as a writer.

As the founder of Symphony 18 Publishing, Yvette continues to inspire with her storytelling, empowering others to embrace their own creative journeys.

Website: symphony18publishing.com



Aspiring Author Workshops

at the South Carolina Book Lovers Expo

SCHEDULE



FACILITATOR: DEMETERIUS "FLITE" SMITH

11:30 AM Yes, You Have Something to Say! (3 Steps to Start Writing)
12:00 PM Tips & Techniques to Finish Your Manuscript
12:30 PM Publishing 101: Industry Insights & Pathways
1:30 PM Producing a Professional Product: Editing, Layout & Covers
2:00 PM Promotion & Profit: How to Market & Make Money
2:30 PM Beyond the Book: Turning Your Book into a Brand & Business

FACILITATOR: BRITTNEY LASHÉ HOLMAN



12:00 PM & 12:30 PM
You're Published! Now What? #BrandingEdition
1:00 PM & 2:00 PM
The Discover Lab for Children's Book Authors

SAT, MARCH 29TH | 11 AM - 3 PM
THE GALA EVENT CENTER | 1801 BUSH RIVER ROAD, COLUMBIA, SC
FREE ADMISSION TIX AT BBPCEVENTS.COM

DEMETERIUS "FLITE" SMITH

FLITESmith.com



Demeterius “FLITE” Smith is a master strategist, dynamic speaker, and author dedicated to helping individuals and organizations achieve sustainable transformation. Through business consulting, corporate training, keynote speaking, and publishing services, he empowers others to reach their full potential.

As the author of Strength 2 Shine, Faith Flow, and How To Fail At College, he coaches aspiring authors, helping them turn their stories into published works.

Driven by a commitment to growth and impact, he founded FLITE Smith Enterprises LLC to help others achieve the “better” they seek in life.

BRITTNEY LASHÉ HOLMAN

brittneylashepublishfirm.com



Brittney LaShe′ Holman is an author, entrepreneur, and mentor dedicated to empowering communities. She founded the I Am Lavish Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit providing mentorship, financial literacy, tutoring, and outreach for low-income communities in South Carolina.

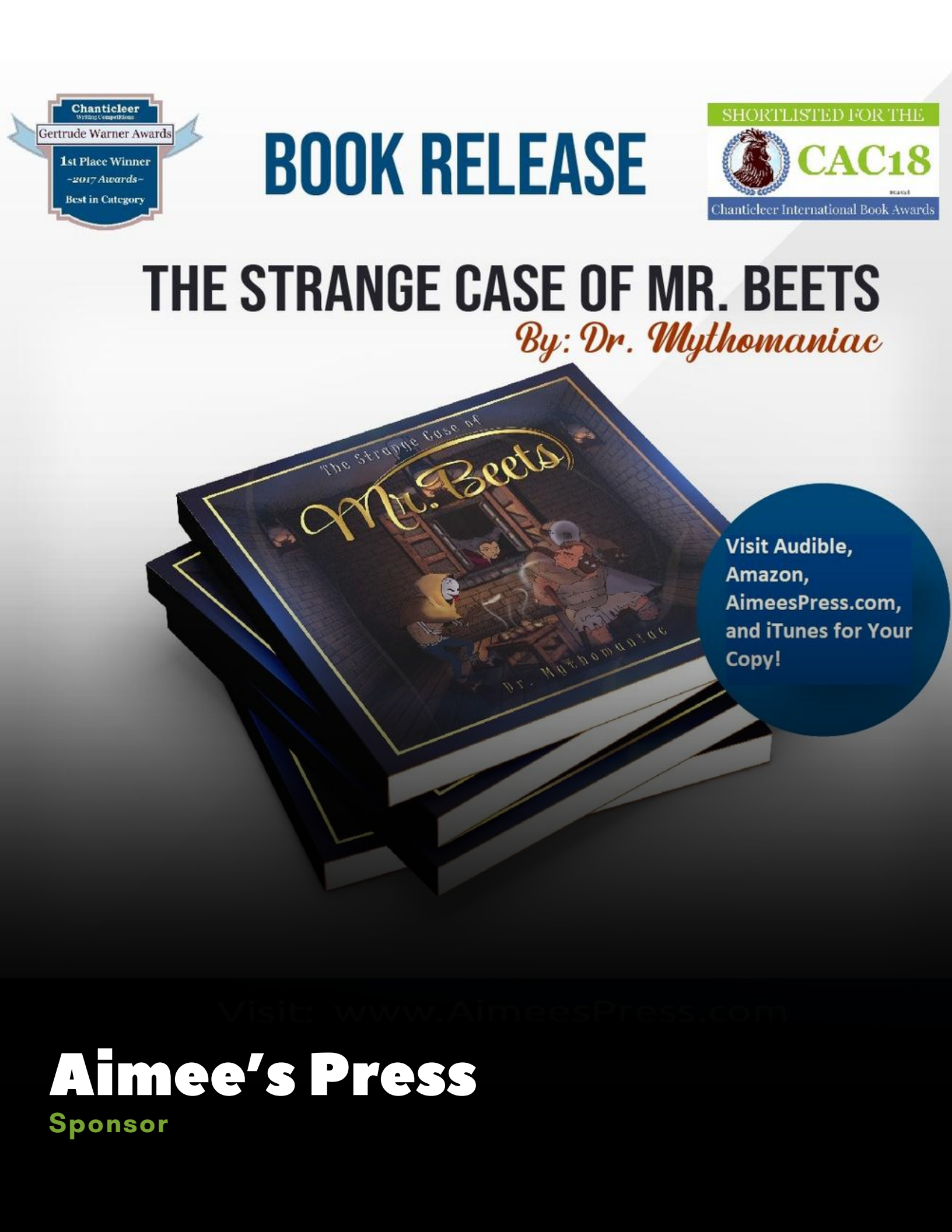
As CEO of Brittney LaShe′ Publishing Firm, LLC, she oversees publishing, graphics, and Lavish Looks. She also leads the Brittney LaShe Youth Mentorship Program for ages 8-17. A published author, her works include Daughters of the King, Don’t Play with Me, and The Blueprint to Starting a Business as a Young CEO.

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The Pink Lemonade Palace

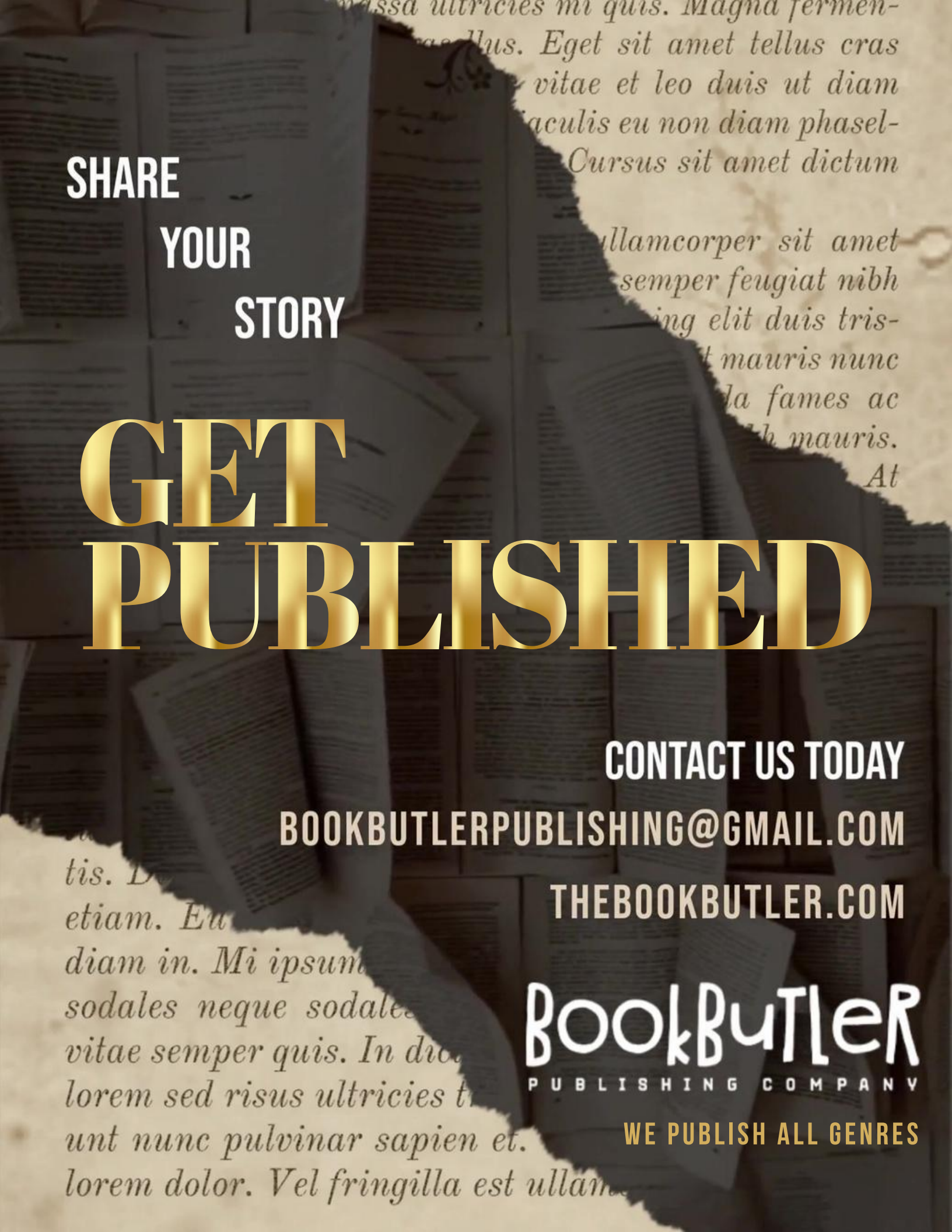
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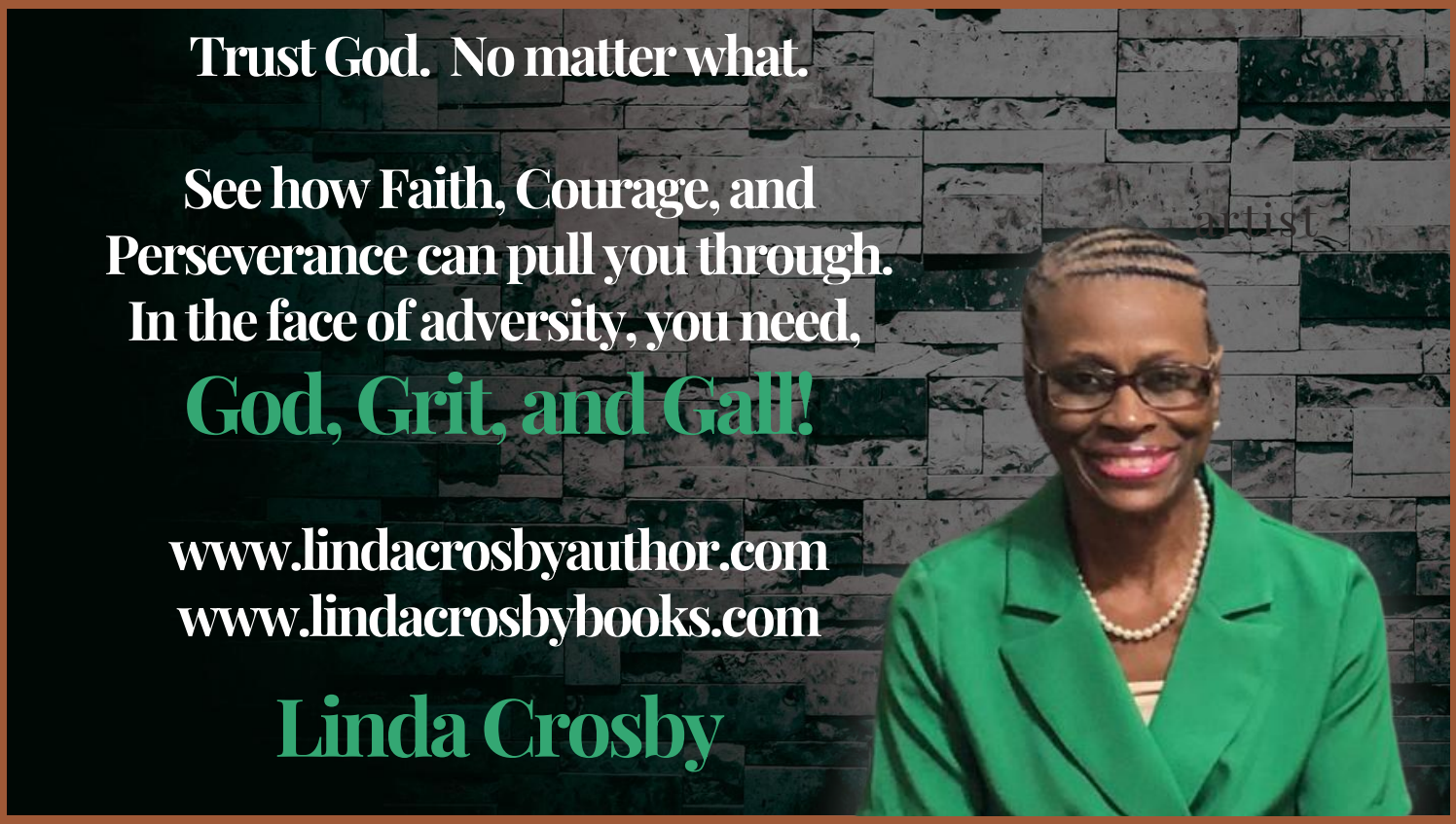
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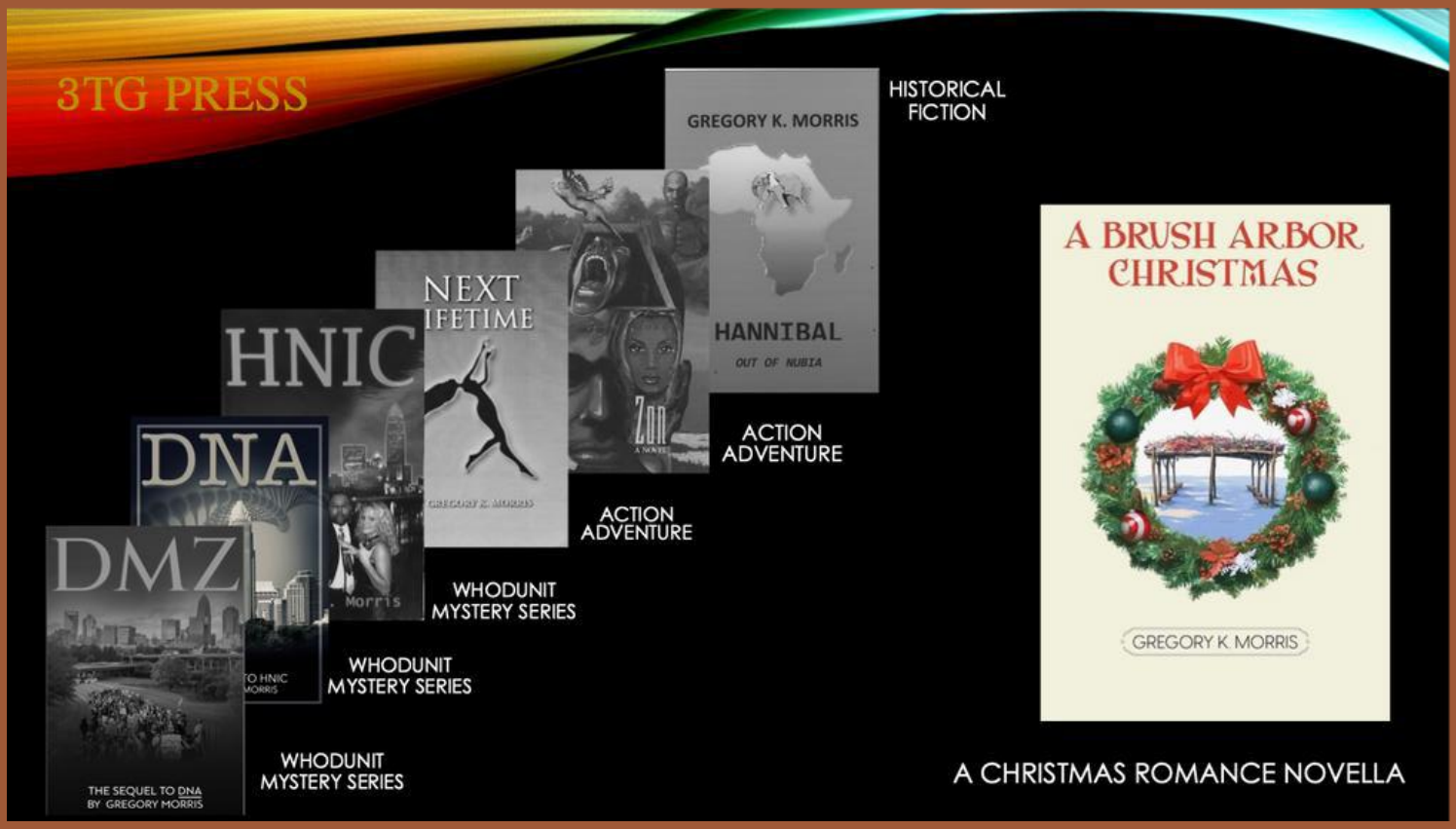
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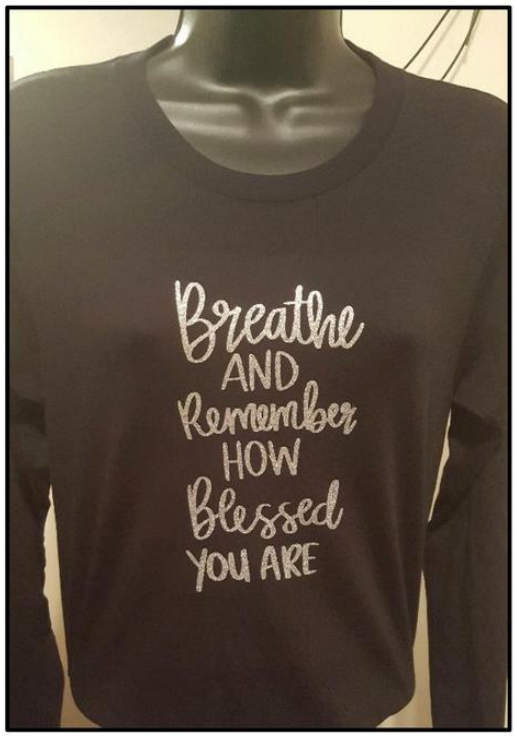
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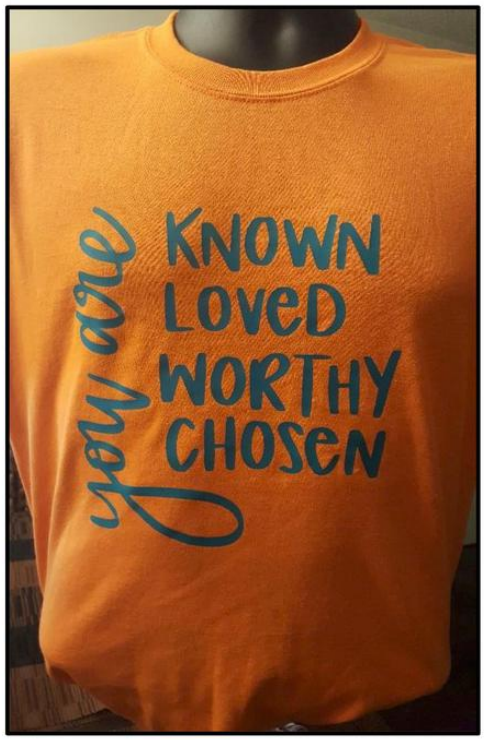
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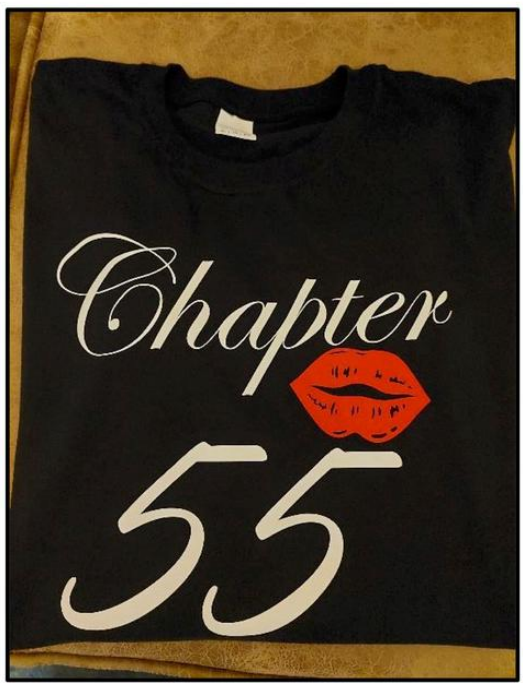










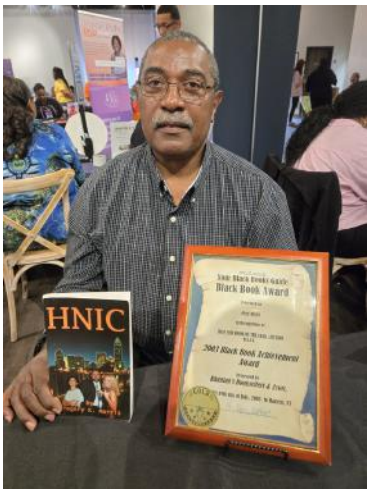











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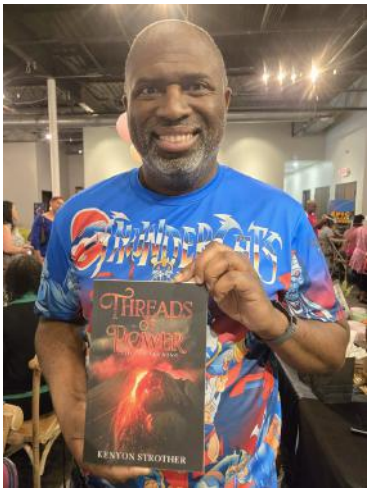

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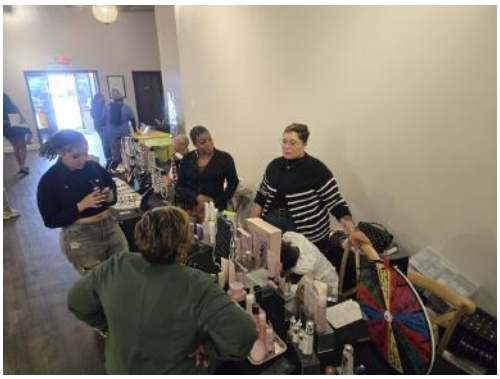

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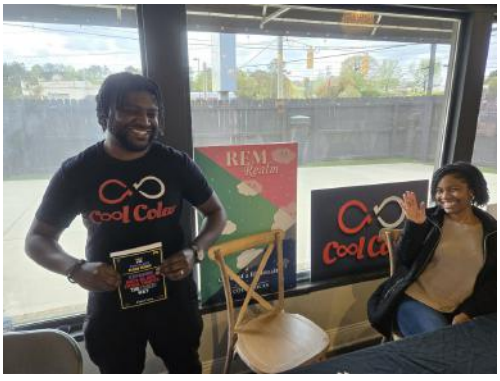

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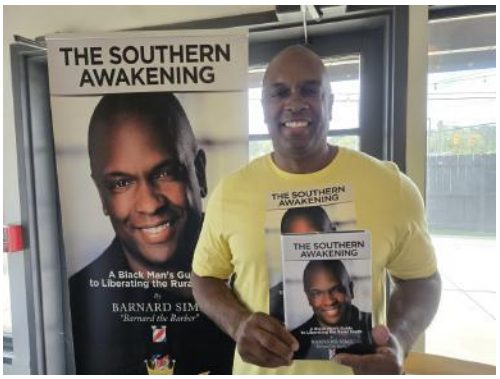







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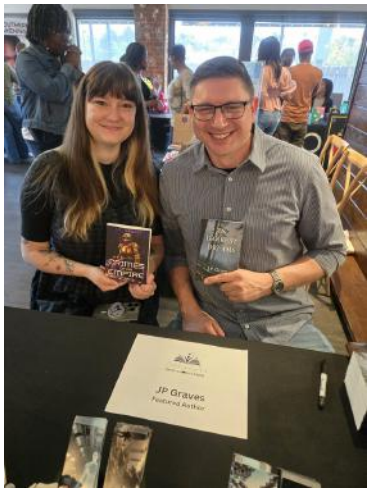



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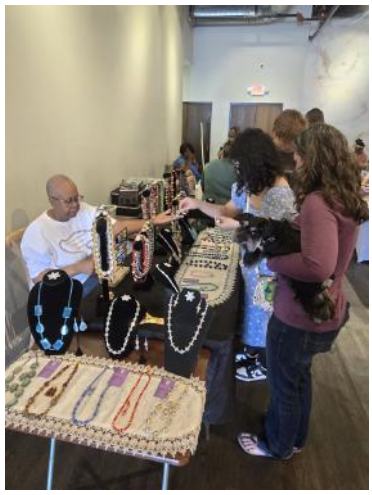















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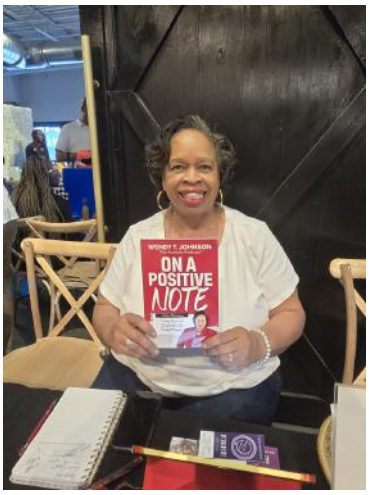

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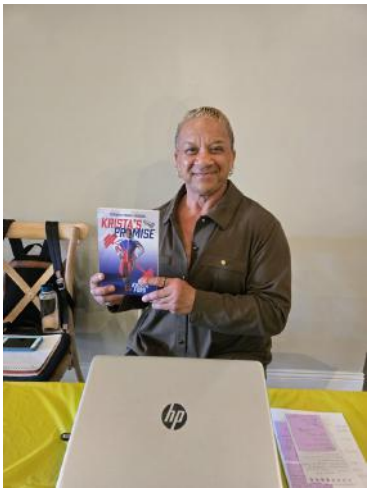

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