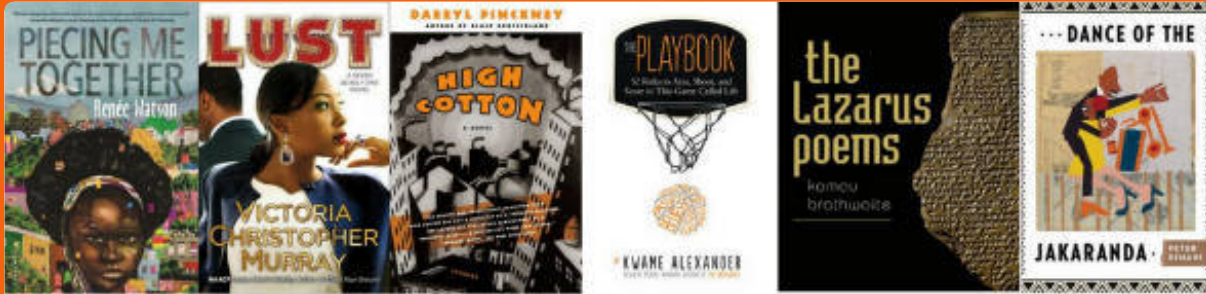


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New Books Coming Out February 2017

***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson**

A timely and powerful story about a teen girl striving for success in a world that too often feels like it wants to break her.

***Lust: A Seven Deadly Sins Novel* by Victoria Christopher Murray**

A novel inspired by the seven deadly sins about a woman caught between an entertainment mogul with a shady past and his childhood friend who is out for revenge.

***High Cotton: A Novel* by Darryl Pinckney**

This novel evokes a world that has not often been examined - the world of upper-middle-class blacks, obsessed with light skin and good hair.

***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life* by Kwame Alexander**

The Playbook is intended to provide inspiration on the court of life. Each rule contains wisdom from inspiring athletes and role models such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, LeBron James, Carli Lloyd, Steph Curry and Michelle Obama.

***The Lazarus Poems* by Kamau Brathwaite**

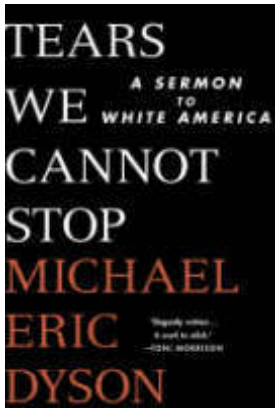
Central to the book is a series of poems outlining the speaker's (the poet's) experiences with what he calls Cultural Lynching. The speaker's pain and outrage are almost overwhelming. Filled with longing, rage, nostalgia, impotence, wisdom, and love, this book is moving in every sense of the word.

***Dance of the Jakaranda* by Peter Kimani**

"In this racially charged dance of power, the railroad into the interior of the country becomes a journey into the hearts of men and women. It is a dance of love and hate and mixed motives that drive human actions and alter the course of history. Kimani's writing has the clarity of analytic prose and the lyrical tenderness of poetry."—Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Learn about these and many [more excellent books coming out in February and the coming months.](#)

Recently Reviewed Books

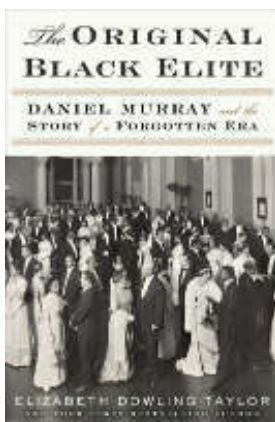


Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America by Michael Eric Dyson

While his previous works were aimed at a Black audience, this is his first intended to be read by whites. It is also written in a unique literary style, namely, as a sermon designed to keep Caucasians standing on their feet like an inspired congregation of holy rollers.

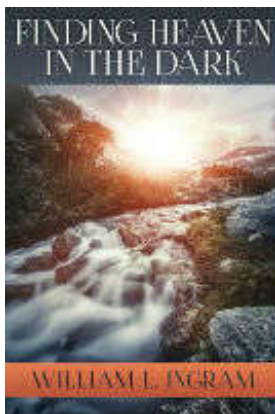
If I were Dyson, I wouldn't hold my breath for a positive reception from his intended audience, given the ascension of Donald Trump and the celebration of rednecks in the runaway best seller, *Hillbilly Elegy*. He might be better off redirecting his sermon to the African-American community and changing his incendiary opus' subtitle to

"Preaching to the Choir!" (St. Martin's Press, Jan 17, 2017)



The Original Black Elite: Daniel Murray and the Story of a Forgotten Era by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor

Elizabeth Dowling Taylor's new book, *The Original Black Elite: Daniel Murray and the Story of a Forgotten Era* is an important contribution to ensuring American history during the hundred-year period between the Emancipation Proclamation and the beginning of the Civil Rights era is told. *The Original Black Elite* communicates this history from the perspective of the life of Daniel Murray and his contemporaries in the Washington DC elite. His life and those in his circle demonstrated that Black success was not dependent upon white largess, and was only hindered when whites actively worked to stop it.. (Amistad, Jan 31, 2017)



Finding Heaven in the Dark by William L. Ingram

Ingram is a natural storyteller. *Finding Heaven in the Dark* is well written, heartfelt and readable. However, his path to self, through religion and meditation using this particular practice and teachings, is immensely personal. His belief system won't be for everyone and at times it bordered on proselytizing, however his search for self, self-love and self-acceptance is universal. Ultimately, Ingram is asking big questions—questions we've all contemplated at one point or another—about existence, about faith, about how our choices make us, for better or worse, who we are. What he learns is that it is not what happens to us, but how we handle it, that really shows our strength of character. How he comes to this discovery isn't really the

point, it's that he comes to it all. That he finds redemption, faith, and self-acceptance in a life filled with such hardship, gives hope to all of us. And that is really the point. (Dog Ear Publishing, Jul 22, 2016)

A Blast from the Past: "The Book Beat" Radio Program



In the late 1990's Lee Meadows hosted a weekly radio program on WPON in Detroit called "The Book Beat". Meadows's program included interviews of our favorite African American Authors—some of them at the beginning of their careers.

AALBC.com has archived many of these programs including interviews with J. California Cooper, Eric Jerome Dickey, Tananarive Due, Lolita Files, Linda Dominique Grosvenor, Omar Tyree, and others for your enjoyment. You can even [listen to an interview with me](#) (AALBC.com's founder and webmaster) which was conducted less than a year after this site's launch. Visit the "[Book Beat](#)" to listen to these wonderful interviews.

AALBC.com Discussion Forums—Join The Conversation!

African-American Literature Discussion

- Where is the highest concentration of Black-owned bookstores in the United States?
- Three Black writers have won the Nobel Prize for Literature; do you know who they are?
- What are 8 things writers need to do to get published and not exploited?

Culture, Race & Economy Discussion

- Why Obama's statement, "The country is better off" Rings Hollow
 - I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar!
 - The Best Definition of White Supremacy Ever
-



Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival - Author Village

This past Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the 17th Annual Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival. The highlight for me was the Author Village, where I had the opportunity to meet several authors and even a couple of clients.

Some of the participating authors included Jeff Carroll, Holly Mosley Cooper, Darrin DeWitt Henson, William L. Ingram, Pamala McCoy, Ersula Knox Odom, Stephanie Outten, Paul C. Thornton, and Cathy Finch White. Learn more about these authors and thousands of others on [AALBC.com](#).

Never miss another terrific event, [visit our Events Calendar](#).



Pamala McCoy Interviewed by Beauty Talk Illustrated Magazine

Managing BONA5D full-time gives Pamala the opportunity to help individuals navigate their financial woes through a struggling economy to reach a place of freedom. She has a special interest to work with women and support women issues, particularly financial education. She believes teaching them the important tools necessary to mastering their finances will subsequently build confidence and lead women to a place of financial independence.

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Peace & Love,



[Troy Johnson](#),
Founder & Webmaster, AALBC.com

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