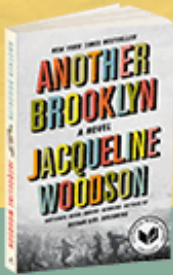


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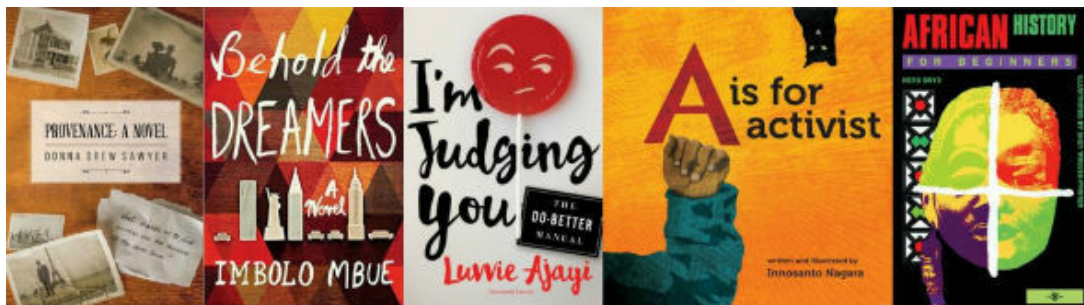
Another Brooklyn by Jacqueline Woodson
FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
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Bestselling Books



Bestselling Books: March/April 2017

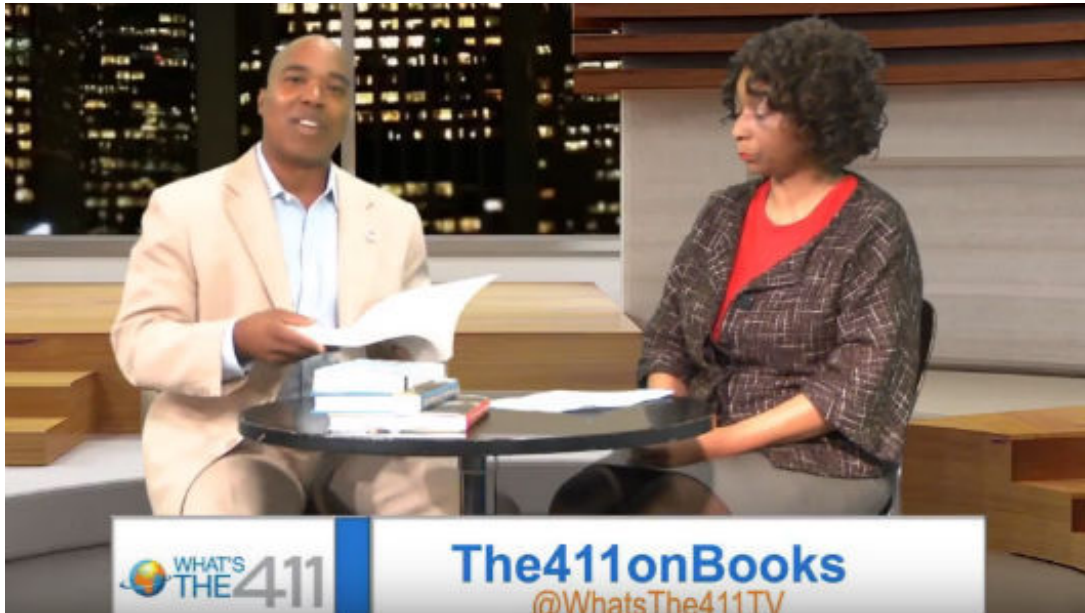
Provenance a novel by Donna Drew Sawyer, which tops our fiction list, is now a 3-time AALBC.com Bestseller. Number one on our Children's list is *Sydney Sunshine and the Not-So-Magic Mirror*, which makes 9-year-old author, [Sydney McGee](#), the youngest bestselling author in AALBC.com history. On the nonfiction side we have *10 Ways Anyone Can Graduate From College Debt-Free: A Guide To Post-College Freedom* by Kevin Y. Brown, leading all nonfiction titles.



[Check out all the AALBC.com Bestsellers going back to 1998.](#)

We are also in the process of designing a bestselling book seal which publishers and authors may use to help readers discover the books which are attracting the most attention on AALBC.com. We can use your help. [Take a look at some of our designs and let us know what think.](#)

AALBC.com Partners with What's The 411 TV



Troy Johnson with Ruth J. Morrison, CEO of What's The 411 Networks

AALBC.com has partnered with What's The 411 TV to bring information about Black books, authors, events, and news to both What's The 411TV and AALBC.com's audiences.

What's The 411 TV reaches 14 million subscribers across the country on DishTV and can also be seen on Time Warner Cable, Cablevision, Verizon FiOS, and RCN in New York City. The relationship is a great opportunity to expand our respective platforms, reach more reader, and celebrate Black culture through books.

25 African Male Writers You Should Read

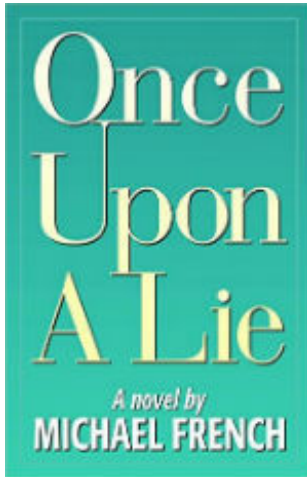


We all know the iconic writers like Nigeria's Chinua Achebe whose debut novel, *Things Fall Apart*, is perhaps the most widely read novel from the continent. We may also be familiar with the and Wole Soyinka, the first African to win a Nobel Prize in Literature. We may also be aware of Kenya's Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o or Nuruddin Farah of Somalia, but there are many other great writers to be discovered; here we highlight just a small sample—enjoy! [Learn more](#).

New Books Coming Out June 2017

Learn about these and [other excellent new books](#) coming out this month and in the coming months.

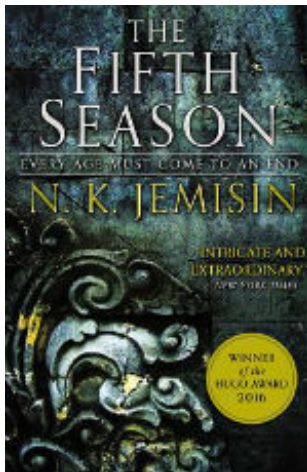
Recently Reviewed Books



Once Upon a Lie by Michael R. French

Full of twists, turns and surprises, *Once Upon a Lie* will keep you guessing until the very end. Though readable and engaging, the real complexity and intricacy is in the telling of the stories and the rich multilayered and multi-dimensional characters that French handily delivers. Jaleel's story, brilliantly highlights the often unrelenting pitfalls many black men face, in a country too often willing to punish them for simply living while black. And while the ending is in many ways as bleak you would imagine, it is not tragic for whom you'd expect. In fact, I found the book to be nothing like I thought it would be, at almost every turn. And for that I applaud French. Highly recommended.

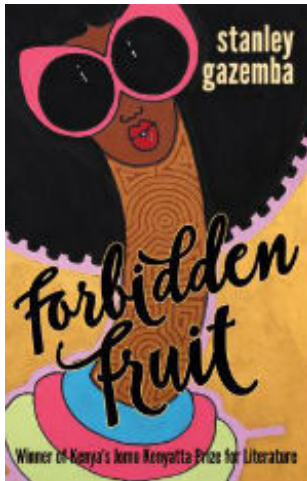
Recommended Reads



The Fifth Season N. K. Jemisin

Jemisin's first novel, *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, was nominated for the 2010 Nebula Award and short-listed for the James Tiptree Jr. Award. In 2011, it was also nominated for the Hugo Award, World Fantasy Award, and won the 2011 Locus Award for Best First Novel.

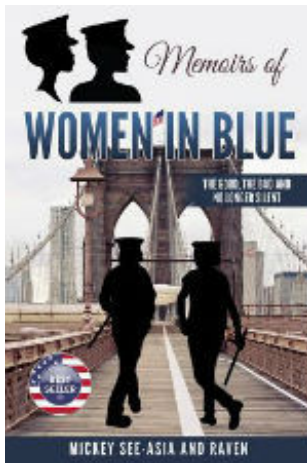
In 2016, she became the first black person to win the Best Novel Hugo for *The Fifth Season*. The New York Times described *The Fifth Season* as "intricate and extraordinary," when it listed it a Notable Book of 2015.



Forbidden Fruit by Stanley Gazemba

Forbidden Fruit is more than a dramatic tale of rural life in western Kenya. The moral slips and desperate cover-ups—sometimes sad, sometimes farcical—are the stories of time and place beyond the village of Maragoli. Previously published in Kenya as *The Stone Hills of Maragoli* (Kwani? 2010), won the prestigious Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature.

Republished (June 2017) by The Mantle who publishes emerging critics, writers, and intellectuals in the areas of arts & culture, international affairs, philosophy, and world literature.



Memoirs of Women in Blue: The Good, The Bad and No Longer Silent by Mickey See-Asia and Raven

Mickey See-Asia and Raven, two former New York City police officers give you an inside look at what they observed while trying to protect the public. They also dealt with the politics that governed how police officers should act while in the performance of their duty. Furthermore, memoirs expose the reader to the realities faced by female police officers, who, for years have remained silent. Now, the public needs so desperately to interpret the senseless acts of violence that is occurring on an almost daily basis across our country.

Recent Videos



Samson Dempsey the “Midtown Player” Turns Novelist

I've shot numerous videos of Brothers selling books on the street, but I have not done one in several years. I caught Sampson selling his books on 125th street in Harlem.

The first author I filmed selling books on the street was over 10 years ago, I captured then first-time author [Randy Kearsse](#).

Randy went on to publish several more books and gain a great deal more prominence. A decade later, Randy told me he had

only been out of jail for a couple of months and that he truly appreciated the support I showed him—that makes this all worthwhile :-)



Inventor of the Portable Backpack Desk, Milton Bertrand

When in Florida, I spend hours in Barnes and Noble and Starbucks working on AALBC.com. Over the last couple of years, I've become friendly with Milton Bertrand.

We started talking because I noticed he was sitting in the B&N at a desk that he brought into the store himself. I thought who brings a desk to a bookstore?! We started talking and he explained how his desk actually folded up into his backpack. I thought that was such a cool idea, maybe you will too.



Mystery Novelist Ashley Lynch-Harris

I met Ashley Lynch-Harris at the Oxford Exchange Book Fair in Tampa Florida, on May 7, 2017. She was a little apprehensive when I first offered to film her talking about her book. But her husband encouraged her (they make a lovely couple), and she did a great job describing her new murder mystery, *The Hotel Westend*, which sounds intriguing.

Vote for Your Favorite Black Author of the 21st Century



Octavia Butler



Tananarive Due



Terry McMillan



Toni Morrison

We are compiling a fascinating list of our favorite Black Authors. Our new survey expands the scope of [our list for the 20th Century](#), to include Black authors regardless of their nationality. The only requirement is that the authors you vote for must have been alive and published a book in the 21st century. **Everyone is welcome to vote.**

Cast your vote today! and share the poll with others. This is a great way to discover and share information about new but significant writers from our network of readers. **[Check out the current results.](#)**

Minorities in Publishing (MIP)

Minorities in Publishing is an excellent bimonthly podcast hosted by Jenn Baker who discusses, with other publishing industry professionals issued related to diversity (or lack thereof) in publishing.



Check out the conversation with Tracy Sherrod, editorial director of **Amistad Books** (an imprint of HarperCollins focusing solely on Black voices). They discuss Tracy's love of books and publishing, her desire to be an advocate for Black artists, the tenacity it takes to get in and stay in the industry, as well as how important support is from the consumer end to make sure more diverse books reach shelves.

130+ Book Events, Fairs, Festivals, and Conferences

We are hosting the 11th Anniversary Black Pack Party on the evening of Wednesday, May 31st.
[Join Us.](#)



Join the Conversation

Is This Photo of Viola Davis Subtly Racist?

Please take our **short short 4 question survey** and let us know what you think. We have been having a fascinating discussion on the subject of racism. Is racism firmly entrenched in our culture or in our minds?

[Check out this and other conversations on our discussion forums.](#)



Win Patti Labelle's New Cook Book

Be one of the first three subscribers to identify three of the five African male writers pictured near the beginning of this newsletter. Email the three names to troy@aalbc.com. The first three emails received with three correct names will win.

Desserts LaBelle: Soulful Sweets to Sing About by Patti Labelle. *Desserts LaBelle* is filled with beautiful images and instructions on making terrific desserts—including Patti LaBelle's world famous sweet potato pie.

This contest is sponsored by Grand Central Publishing.



Authors: Let AALBC.com be Your Official Web Presence

AALBC.com believes an author is best served by having their own website. In reaction to seeing so many authors give up running their own website and turning to Facebook or Amazon to serve as their primary web presence, we decided to launch a new service.

We can help you register your domain name and direct it to your AALBC.com Profile Page. This will not only give readers a much richer experience with your books, you'll also enjoy the next best thing to having a dedicated website. Plus you'll reap the benefits of being on the largest platform dedicated to Black books and authors. [Learn how to get started.](#)



Dear Troy,

I'll be in New York City, on May 31st, cohosting the [Black Park Party](#); in Sacramento CA, on June 6th, giving a talk entitled, "[The Impact of Amazon, Google, and Facebook on the Black Book Ecosystem](#) at the Sacramento Black Book Festival;" and in Atlanta GA, on June 10th, where I'm a contender for, "[Literary Activist of the Year](#)," an honor which will be presented during The African Americans On The Move Book Club Literary Awards.

If you can make any of these events please stop by and say hello; I'd enjoy to meeting you.

Troy, please know that **AALBC.com continues to grow because of your support**. Please spread the word about our site, post your comments on our pages, and consider [purchasing for your newsletter subscription](#).

Peace & Love,



Troy Johnson,
Founder & Webmaster, AALBC.com

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