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Books to be Published in June



Summer will heat up with some great new titles. Walter Mosley is back with his latest installment in the Easy Rawlins series, *Charcoal Joe*. Can you believe it has been 25 years since the first book in the series, *Devil In A Blue Dress*, was published?

We are also excited by the first novel, *The Reactive*, from Masande Ntshanga who is the winner of the 2013 PEN International New Voices Award, as well as a Finalist for the 2015 Caine Prize for African Writing.

Bobby Brown, with help from acclaimed author Nick Chiles, reveals intimate details of his marriage to Whitney Houston, speaks about losing his daughter Bobbi Kristina, and shares insights into his amazing career in his new memoir, *Every Little Step: My Story*.

Also look out for new books from other AALBC.com Bestselling authors including Kimberla Lawson Roby (*A Sinful Calling*) and Timothy George (*The Dagger*). To discover these and other great soon to be released books, visit our [Books Coming Soon](#) section.

Bestselling Book March/April 2016



The publishing company founded by authors ReShonda Tate Billingsley and Victoria Christopher Murray, **Brown Girls Books**, dominated our bestsellers list this period, claiming the top three fiction positions. Our #1 fiction bestseller, *The Ex Chronicles* is an anthology where 20 writers share relationship stories. At #2 we have *The Perfect Find* by Tia Williams and completing the trifecta is *Dirt* by Teffanie Thompson.

Congratulations to Brown Girls Books and all of the bestselling authors. [Check out our full list bestselling titles](#) for fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's literature.

Beyond Phillis Wheatley — Important Firsts In Black Literature

Most readers know **Phillis Wheatley** was the first published African-American female poet. Did you also know that **George Moses Horton** (ca. 1797-1883), was the only man to publish volumes of poetry while in bondage and the first African American to publish any book in the South? Were you familiar with **Solomon Plaatje** who was born October 9, 1876, and was the author of *Mhudi* which was published in 1930; making it the first novel by a black South Africa? Jupiter Hammon, who was born on October 17, 1711, was perhaps the first Black person to be published, in 1761 before the United States was even formed.



“The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”

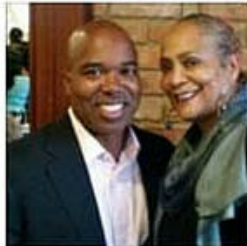


One of the most promising of the young Negro poets said to me once, “I want to be a poet—not a Negro poet,” meaning, I believe, “I want to write like a white poet;” meaning subconsciously, “I would like to be a white poet;” meaning behind that, “I would like to be white.” And I was sorry the young man said that, for no great poet has ever been afraid of being himself. And I doubted then that, with his desire to run away spiritually from his race, this boy would ever be a great poet. But this is the mountain standing in the way of any true Negro art in America—this urge within the race toward whiteness, the desire to pour racial individuality into the mold of American standardization, and to be as little Negro and as much American as possible.—Langston Hughes, Originally

published in *The Nation* magazine, June 23, 1926

This ninety-year-old article could be been written yesterday; [read it in its entirety](#).

The 2016 Black Pack Party: A Wonderful Celebration!



The 2016 Black Pack Party was a really wonderful celebration. [Read my thoughts about the event.](#) If you were able to join us in Chicago, please share your thoughts and photos in the article's comments section.

Events Coming in June

The Black Arts Movement

A Conversation



Summer is the busiest period for book festivals. In June the Go On Girl! Book Club will host their 25th Annual Awards Weekend. The international literary festival Calabash will kick off in Jamaica; Chris Abani, Paul Beatty, Teju Cole, Nicole Dennis-Benn, Jessica Care Moore, Marlon James and many other authors will be featured. The Sacramento Black Book Fair will celebrate their third year. And that is just the first week!

Also consider checking out the AAMBC Literary Awards and the combined celebration honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Black Arts Movement and the 20th Anniversary of Cave Canem (pictured above). [Learn more about these events and all the others coming in June and the rest of the year.](#)

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Also consider **Sponsoring our Monthly Newsletter**. This is a great way to reach readers of Black literature. All of our mailings are permanently archived on our website.

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As always, thanks for reading!

Peace & Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Johnson'.

Troy Johnson,
Founder & Webmaster, AALBC.com





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