

## 2008 National Black Arts Festival Artists' Market (Literary Salon)

### Sahar Simmons



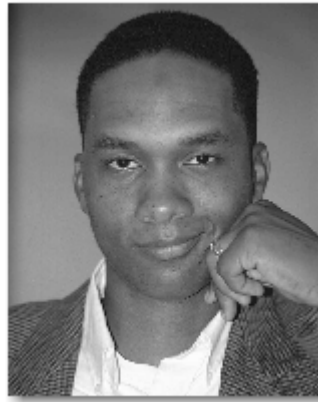
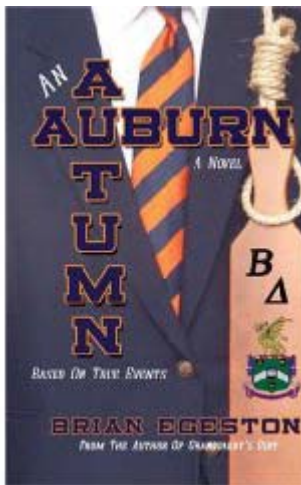
#### About The Book

Briana's Neighborhood captures the life and times of an eight-year-old African American girl, a feisty force to be reckoned with, who resides in Brooklyn, New York. In real life form Briana's character deals with divorce, death, puberty, love and realistic everyday issues that will lure minority children to read.

#### About The Author

Sahar Simmons was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA. "All About Me", is the first book from the Briana's Neighborhood series.

## **Brian Eggeston**



### **About the Book**

Based on a true story, *An Auburn Autumn* is a fast-paced and passionate story about what happens when power, class, race, money and big college football collide in a brewing and disastrous perfect storm that sweeps across the plains of a small Alabama town.

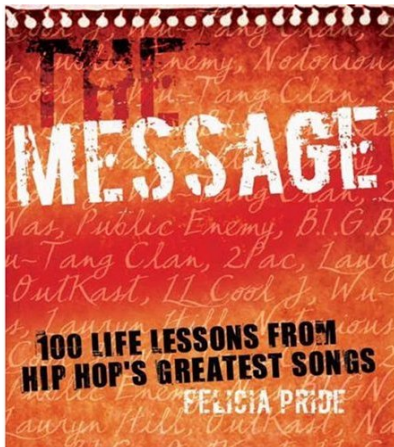
### **About the Author**

When asked to identify who he is, Brian has been known to bellow out, "I'm John & Delores' eldest boy." His jovial demeanor is but a mere facade for this rising writer. "I make people smile and feel comfortable because this thing that I do is not about me. Not about the accolades I can collect nor the notoriety I can attain. It's about the transferal of emotion through words." Often times, if I interact with people, it's a lighthearted or humorous environment. Then, when we're alone, just you and me, represented by my words in a book, I'm trying to touch your life in a matter of moments."

Perhaps it was in his formal education where Brian grasped the easy free-flowing spirit. While attending Tennessee State University, he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Post college, he began work as an engineer for Thomson Consumer Electronics and then for Motorola, Inc.

Writing became a solution to boredom for Brian. During the summer months in Nashville, Brian worked at Kinko's and during his off days he would come in and use the store's computers to compose literature. His first creation was an essay entitled, *A Black Eye: Views of the Black College Experience* which received rave reviews from students on campus. After using his employee discount to mass-produce the essay, he decided to write a short story. The short story became a long story and the long story ultimately transpired into his first novel, *Crossing Bridges A Testimony Of Brotherhood*. When asked about his long term goals as a writer, Brian will tell you, he simply wants to leave a legacy. "I look forward to being read by your grandchildren and your grandchildren's children."

## Felicia Pride



### About the Book

Who would have thought that you could get deep life lessons from hip-hop? Learn to deal with regrets by jamming to Jay-Z? Foster self-esteem listening to Mos Def? Exert your self-worth based on cues from a Queen Latifah song? Get career advice from an Ice-T rhyme? Reflect on spirituality through a Kanye West tune?

In her new book *THE MESSAGE: 100 LIFE LESSONS FROM HIP-HOP'S GREATEST SONGS*, Felicia Pride extracts empowering lessons embedded within the genre's most popular songs. Growing up with hip-hop, she has come to realize the way it shaped how she thinks, writes, and reacts, making her the person she is today. In *THE MESSAGE*, she uses short essays, aptly titled after a hip-hop song, and written in the language of the culture, to explore the themes of spirituality, success, business, and love. Incorporating her own experiences and reflections with the rapper's message, Pride goes on to share the wisdom she has learned from hip-hop and focuses on the positive influence the music has on its audience.

*THE MESSAGE* turns the often negative perceptions of hip-hop completely around, offers a fresh perspective on why the culture is loved worldwide, and simultaneously provides motivational material for the hip-hop generation culled from its own unique artistic expression. In the introduction she writes, "This book is about searching for the power within and using motivational aspects of hip-hop music to help us successfully maneuver our worlds."

*THE MESSAGE* unleashes the power in the music and leaves readers with a compendium of wisdom to incorporate in their own lives, proving in Pride's words that "we can learn from hip-hop."

### About the Author

**Felicia Pride** is a writer, booklover, literacy advocate, and hip-hop baby. She's the author of *THE MESSAGE: 100 LIFE LESSONS FROM HIP-HOP'S GREATEST SONGS* (Thunder's Mouth Press/Perseus, October 2007), coauthor of the young adult anthology *HALLWAY DIARIES* (Harlequin/Kimani Tru, September 2007), and author of *EVERYBODY HATES FIRST GIRLFRIENDS* (Simon & Schuster, September 2007), a

chapter book in the book series based on the award-winning television show *Everybody Hates Chris*.

She's the book blogger for AOL Black Voices' book blog, [More than Words](#) and the managing editor of [Mosaic Literary Magazine](#). Her writing about hip-hop, books, publishing, and pop culture has appeared in various publications including *VIBE*, *Publishers Weekly*, *PopMatters*, and the *Baltimore City Paper*.

In 2004, she founded [BackList](#) ([www.thebacklist.net](http://www.thebacklist.net)), an organization that provides editorial, consulting, event planning and community outreach services. As a consultant, Felicia has worked with several award-winning authors and publishers. [The BackList blog and website](#) is one of the few online platforms that discusses the book publishing world from a multicultural standpoint.

As a literacy advocate, Felicia has been an invited speaker at various publishing and literary panels. She also conducts publishing workshops to empower emerging writers and serves on the board for the [Literary Freedom Project](#).

Felicia has taught at the College of New Rochelle and holds an M.A. in writing and publishing from Emerson College. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland via West Orange, New Jersey, Felicia lives in Maryland and thanks to technology, works everywhere.

## **Dr. Evelyn Bethune**



### **About the Book**

#### ***Mary's Grandbabies***

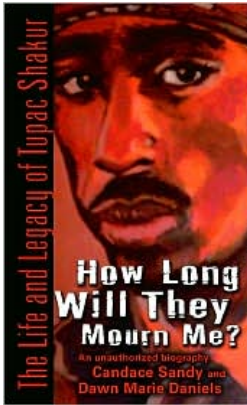
Out of the darkness of slavery, into the light of FREEDOM

Written by: Dr. Evelyn Bethune (One of Mary's Grandbabies)

### **About the Author**

Dr. Evelyn Bethune, granddaughter of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune is CEO / Co-chairperson of the Mary McLeod Bethune Educational Legacy Foundation, Inc. which was founded by the grandchildren of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune to ensure the continuation, growth and development and of her legacy of encouraging and promoting education in a variety of platforms. Dr. Bethune, as CEO and her partner, Rev. Bonnie Gomez, as COO, co-founded Into the Light, LLC, the faith based company established to promote products that empower and build wealth for the purpose of helping to build God's Kingdom on earth by establishing methods for self determination for those who just need a hand up, not a hand-out. Dr. Bethune serves as president of the Houston Area Chapter of the Bethune Cookman College Alumni Association. She actively works to promote Bethune-Cookman College and recruit students at any given opportunity. She currently serves locally as a two term elected member of the Board of Directors for Pacifica Radio LSB, KPFT Radio, Houston and most recently was re-elected for her second term, to serve on the National Board of Pacifica Foundation. She is also Director of the Youth Empowerment Committee of the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce and 2008 President Elect of the Elsie Knight Section, National Council of Negro Women, Houston. Dr. Bethune is the Organizing Director of the after school program Center for Educational Development at Outreach Missionary Baptist Church, which opened in August of 2007. She is a lecturer and motivational speaker, sharing personal insights and life lessons as well as speaking on the life of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

## Dawn Marie Daniels & Candace Sandy



### About the Book

“Buried as a g while tha whole world remembers me”  
–Tupac Shakur, from “Until the End of Time”

Tupac Shakur was larger than life. A gifted rapper, actor, and poet, he was fearless, prolific, and controversial—and often said that he never expected to live past the age of thirty. He was right. On September 13, 1996, he died of gunshot wounds at age twenty-five. But even ten years after Tupac’s tragic passing, the impact of his life and talent continues to flourish. Lauded as one of the greatest hip-hop artists of all time, Tupac has sold more than sixty-seven million records worldwide, making him the top-selling rapper ever.

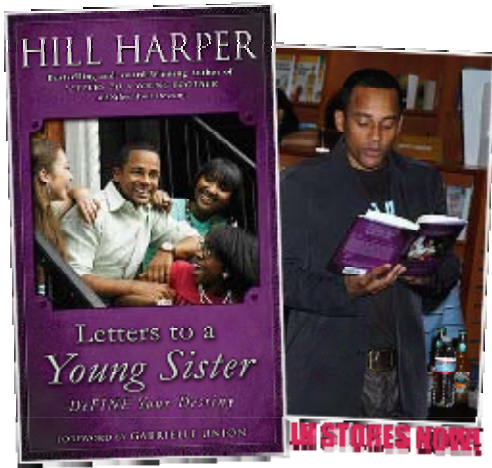
How Long Will They Mourn Me? celebrates Tupac’s unforgettable life—his rise to fame; his tumultuous dark side marked by sex, drugs, and violence; and the indelible legacy he left behind. Although Tupac’s murder remains unsolved, the spirit of this legendary artist is far from forgotten. How long will we mourn him? Fans worldwide will grieve his untimely death for a long time to come.

### About the Authors

**Candace Sandy** is the President of Candace Sandy Communications a multi media cooperative targeting women. For nine years, Candace Sandy has also served as the Communications Director for Congressman Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY) of the Sixth Congressional District, a member of the House Foreign Service and Financial Services Committees. A frequent lecturer, who has served on several high-profile political campaigns, Sandy has worked tirelessly on behalf of women’s issues including poverty, domestic violence, anti crime, financial literacy, and reentry in New York City. Sandy is the former General Manager of New York University Radio Station WNYU 89.1 FM. As a former Radio Advertising Bureau Mercury AD/LAB Fellow, Sandy has covered such events as the 1993 and 1997 Presidential Inaugurations and the 1996 Summer Olympics.

**Dawn Marie Daniels** brings a spirited array of professional credentials to her role as Editor of *Souls of My Sisters*. She was the editorial force behind a number of award-winning authors, and has utilized her position and power as one of the book industry's premier editors to ensure that African American projects get the attention they deserve. Daniels has established a commanding presence in adult nonfiction with such books as *In the Meantime* and *One Day My Soul Just Opened Up*, both New York Times bestsellers by Iyanla Vanzant. She utilized her eight years of publishing experience to bring new talent to the surface and helped push them to the forefront of the publishing industry. Daniels' authors have been published through various imprints such as Prentice Hall Press, Fireside, Touchstone, S&S Aguilar, Scribner Paperback fiction, Simon & Schuster Trade, and Pocket Books

## Hill Harper



### About the Book

In this follow-up to his national bestseller, the inspiring public speaker and CSI:NY star Hill Harper shares his powerful wisdom for young women, drawing on the courageous advice of female role models and interviews with young women around the country.

Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny  
By Hill Harper  
Author of the award-winning  
LETTERS TO A YOUNG BROTHER  
Foreword by Gabrielle Union

A YOUNG SISTER: DeFINE Your Destiny (Gotham Books, June 3, 2008), Hill Harper opens up an honest dialogue with young women, offering guidance, advice, and reassurance, urging young sisters to identify, embrace, and go after their passions and dreams.

With the care and candidness of an older brother, Harper delivers straight talk and stirring encouragement about the important and sensitive issues young women face, such as self esteem, sex, money, education, and relationships with family, friends and men—offering the support and good advice needed to help young sisters reach their highest potential. LETTERS TO A YOUNG SISTER lays out Harper's vision to young women for facing today's tough issues and becoming the architect of their own lives, including:

- o Creating an authentic image that is as unique as one's fingerprint
- o Turning dreams into reality
- o Boys, sex, responsibility and dating
- o Confronting racism and sexism
- o Avoiding credit card addiction

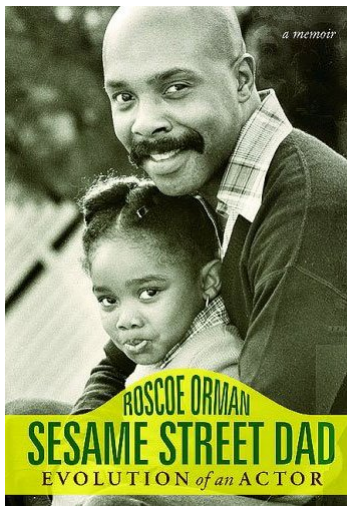
Featuring a foreword by actress Gabrielle Union, as well as advice from other well-known accomplished women such as Michelle Obama, Ruby Dee, Angela Bassett, Ciara, Eve, Nia Long, and Kim Porter, LETTERS TO A YOUNG SISTER is a must-have for young women trying to find their way.

Says Harper, "As young women read it, they will hear a voice encouraging them and explaining to them how and why they are truly queens, constantly reminding them that they are beautiful, magnificent, brilliant and deserving of infinite and unreasonable happiness."

### **About the Author**

Hill Harper is author of the bestseller *Letters to a Young Brother* (Gotham Books, 2006), which won two NAACP awards and was named Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association in 2007. Currently starring in *CSI: NY* playing Dr. Hawkes, a role for which he won the 2008 Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a drama series, Hill has appeared in numerous prime-time television shows and feature films, including *The Sopranos*, *ER*, *Lackawanna Blues*, *He Got Game*, *The Skulls*, *In Too Deep*, *The Nephew*, and *The Visit*. Hill graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Brown University (and was valedictorian of his department) and cum laude with a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He also holds a master's degree with honors from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is a motivational speaker around the country. Named one of People's Sexiest Men Alive, he lives in Los Angeles.

## **Roscoe Orman**



### **About the Book**

With his instantly recognizable face, Roscoe Orman has become the personification of the perfect male friend and father figure while performing the role of Gordon Robinson on Sesame Street for more than thirty-two years. He is an experienced performing artist who provides an exemplary model in his television role, its influence evident by the recognition and love he sees on the faces of all who recognize him (even when he's not with Big Bird or Oscar).

Roscoe Orman's beautifully crafted memoir, *Sesame Street Dad: Evolution of an Actor* traces a lifetime of performances, punctuated by the events and movements that define the decades in between.

A strong element of *Sesame Street Dad* is Orman's belief in honing the onstage and film personification of the black male, reestablishing the concepts of honor and integrity. His appearance on Sesame Street as a trustworthy friend to children places him at the forefront of this "movement," his image being emblematic for trust, honesty and friendship for millions of Americans.

As important as his presence on this classic children's television program are Mr. Orman's ongoing contributions to theater during his forty-year professional career. His acting credentials are impressive and he, along with Ossie Davis, Morgan Freeman and untold numbers of other black actors helped define Black Theater as we now know it.

While cast in these roles, Orman has come into contact with many celebrities with whom he has established friendships. *Sesame Street Dad* pictures a number of these artists, either in their appearances on Sesame Street or on other occasions. He is quick to credit Sesame Workshop, a confluence of amazingly dedicated and talented television writers, producers, actors, puppeteers and behind-the-scenes people who have contributed to the long-lived popularity of this amazing program.

Roscoe Orman has lived a most enviable life, achieving success both personally and professionally. Sesame Street Dad leaves a legacy of his work and constitutes a tribute to all of those who worked with him in the early years and who continue to influence his work.

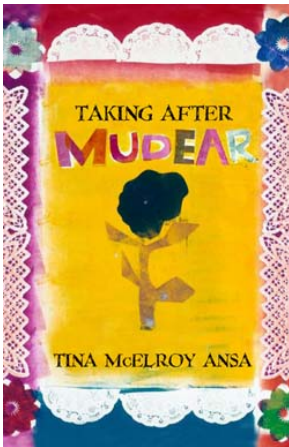
### **About the Author**

A multi-faceted performer with over forty years of experience as an actor and entertainer in theater, film and television, Roscoe Orman's career, particularly as the beloved "Gordon Robinson" on TV's most highly acclaimed children's program Sesame Street, has touched literally millions of people the world over. Orman studied acting at Circle In The Square Theatre School and singing at the Manhattan School of Music. An early member of the Free Southern Theater in the mid-1960s, he toured throughout the South for two years and was also a founding member of Harlem, New York's famed New Lafayette Theatre from 1967 to 1972. As an award-winning theater actor, he has performed in over 50 productions on the stages of Broadway, off-Broadway, regional, and repertory theaters across the country.

Orman made his film debut in the title role of Universal Pictures' Willie Dynamite in 1973 and has also appeared in Follow That Bird, FX, Striking Distance, New Jersey Drive, Full Court Press, The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland, and Twilight's Last Gleaming, his most recent film project. In addition to the multiple Emmy Award-winning Sesame Street, television audiences have seen him on such programs as Sanford and Son, Kojak, All My Children, Hard Time on Planet Earth, A Man Called Hawk, Law and Order, Cosby, and Sex and the City. A busy voice-over artist, Orman has narrated and/or hosted such documentaries as Langston Hughes: The Dreamkeeper for PBS, Heritage of the Black West for National Geographic, Lifeline for the Discovery Channel, and Images in Black and White for ESPN.

Mr. Orman has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean with his Gordon of Sesame Street concerts and with Matt Robinson's one-character play, The Confessions of Stepin Fetchit. He is a board member at Luna Stage where he also teaches acting.

## Tina McElroy Ansa



### About the Book

TAKING AFTER MUDEAR

A sequel to the best-selling novel **UGLY WAYS**

**Esther Mudear Lovejoy of Mulberry, Georgia is back!**

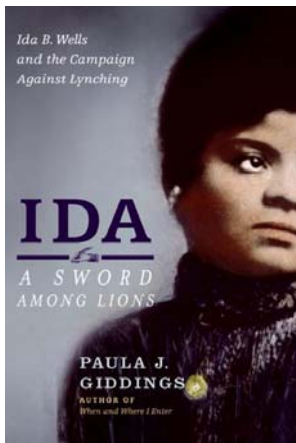
*Taking After Mudear*, Ansa's fifth novel, is the superbly crafted sequel to her award-winning best-seller, *Ugly Ways*. And it is the book fans have been waiting for. Jill McCorkle calls *Ugly Ways*, "an absolute beauty...that crackles and sings with life." And although, as *Taking After Mudear* opens, the matriarch of the Lovejoy family has been dead for months, she and Ansa's newest novel again crackle and sing with life.

*Taking After Mudear* continues to follow the story of the three Lovejoy sisters and their mother Mudear, who is deceased but refuses to die, in the small Georgia town of Mulberry.

### About the Author

Tina McElroy Ansa is a novelist, publisher, filmmaker, teacher and journalist. But above all, she is a storyteller. She calls herself "part of a long and honored writing tradition, one of those little Southern girls who always knew she wanted to be a writer." She grew up in Middle Georgia in the 1950s hearing her grandfather's stories on the porch of her family home and strangers' stories downtown in her father's juke joint, which have inspired Mulberry, Georgia, the mythical world of her four novels, **Baby of the Family, Ugly Ways, The Hand I Fan With** and **You Know Better**. In 2007, Ms. Ansa launched an independent publishing company, DownSouth Press, with its focus on African-American literature -- fiction and nonfiction. Her fifth novel, **Taking After Mudear**, a sequel to her bestselling *Ugly Ways*, is the lead title on DownSouth Press's first list in 2008. DownSouth Press will publish established as well as emerging literary voices.

## Paula Giddings



### About the Book

In the tradition of towering biographies that tell us as much about America as they do about their subject, *Ida: A Sword Among Lions* is a sweeping narrative about a country and a crusader embroiled in the struggle against lynching: a practice that imperiled not only the lives of black men and women, but also a nation based on law and driven by race.

At the center of the national drama is Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), born to slaves in Mississippi, who began her activist career by refusing to leave a first-class ladies' car on a Memphis railway and rose to lead the nation's first campaign against lynching. For Wells the key to the rise in violence was embedded in attitudes not only about black men but about women and sexuality as well. Her independent perspective and percussive personality gained her encomiums as a hero -- as well as aspersions on her character and threats of death. Exiled from the South by 1892, Wells subsequently took her campaign across the country and throughout the British Isles before she married and settled in Chicago, where she continued her activism as a journalist, suffragist, and independent candidate in the rough-and-tumble world of the Windy City's politics.

In this eagerly awaited biography by Paula J. Giddings, author of the groundbreaking book *When and Where I Enter*, which traced the activist history of black women in America, the irrepressible personality of Ida B. Wells surges out of the pages. With meticulous research and vivid rendering of her subject, Giddings also provides compelling portraits of twentieth-century progressive luminaries, black and white, with whom Wells worked during some of the most tumultuous periods in American history. Embattled all of her activist life, Wells found herself fighting not only conservative adversaries but icons of the civil rights and women's suffrage movements who sought to undermine her place in history.

In this definitive biography, which places Ida B. Wells firmly in the context of her times as well as ours, Giddings at long last gives this visionary reformer her due and, in the process, sheds light on an aspect of our history that is often left in the shadows.

**About the Author**

Paula J. Gidings is the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in Afro-American Studies at Smith College.