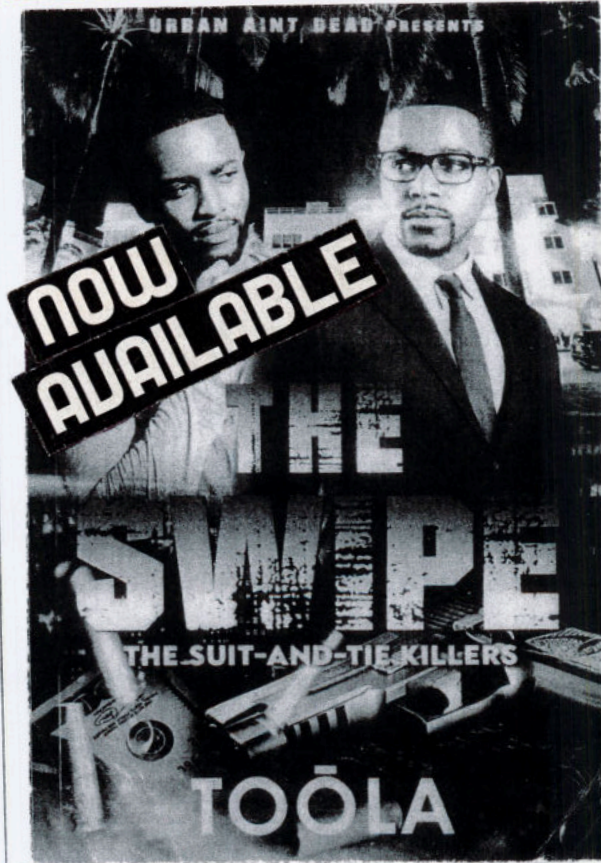


URBAN LIT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

BREAKING NEWS



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Urban LIT the Zine
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COMING SOON

HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR BOOK
FOR FREE ON AMAZON!!

TIPS ON BUILDING YOUR
AUTHOR'S PLATFORM!!

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR PUBLISHER
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FOR PUBLICATION IN AN ONLINE
MAGAZINE WHEN YOU HAVE NO
ACCESS TO THE INTERNET!!

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Urban LIT the Zine is a tri-annual publication (March, July, and November). It is the mission and purpose of Urban LIT to accumulate and disseminate information and resources that will assist aspiring writers (and published ones, too), of the "Urban" and/or "African-American" literature genres in successfully honing their craft; as well as publishing, marketing, promoting, and ultimately selling their work. All advertising published in this zine, therefore, is intended to be geared towards that end. We ask that Readers please use caution when entering into any legal contract with any literary service offering agent-type assistance, as well as publishers who charge rather than pay an author for publication of his or her work, and contests that charge high reading or processing fees. If you have ANY concerns regarding the claims or commitments of any advertiser in this publication - please contact that advertiser directly, as Urban LIT is unable to check or verify any claims or commitments made by such, and rely solely on the reports of our customers' experiences with them.

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From the Editor

Greetings! Welcome to the first issue of Urban LIT! Our mission is simple - to accumulate and provide the necessary information and resources to assist incarcerated writers of the urban and/or African-American fiction or non-fiction genre in successfully honing, marketing, and selling their work! In this commencement issue, to assist you in your journey as a novelist, we will be providing you with valuable information, tips, steps, etc., etc., on things such as reaching-out and finding an assistant and/or partner, building your author's platform, how to prevent publishers from hiding your earnings from you, a listing of companies and individuals doing bad business (i.e., taking advantage of our situation and circumstances), as well as resources and contacts that you can utilize in your journey to success! It is my hope that, with your support, in the near future we may be able to transform this project into a full-blown 8½"x11" full-color, glossy magazine! Please pass it along that we are actively searching for editors, graphic designers, and investors/partners who may be seriously interested in the potential of this project, as well as our up-coming project called "Talez From Da Hood," where we will be publishing short stories, and chapters from writers trying to market and promote their books, poetry, artwork, cash prize contests, etc., etc.! And we're just getting started! Wait until you see what we have in store for the next issue of Urban LIT...! Please enjoy our commencement issue! And please - keep writing, hoping - and dreaming!

**JUST LIKE IDEAS,
NO TWO WRITERS ARE
THE SAME.**

**FIND YOUR CREATIVITY,
NOT CONFORMITY.**

Respect.



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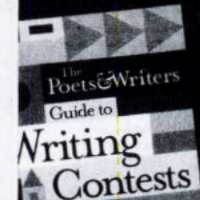
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**CHANGING
THE game**

REALITY CHECK

THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECT TO SUCCESS AS AN INCARCERATED AUTHOR/WRITER

The publishing game has changed over the last 20-years-or-so, making it much easier for an individual with a story to tell to get that story out there to the world. No matter what genre you're writing in. No longer do you have to go through an actual publishing house to do so. All you need are a few tools and resources such as a computer, internet access, a word processing app, and an Amazon KDP account. An editor and graphic designer are HIGHLY recommended - but not an end-all-be-all. But, with that being said, self-publishing is a most difficult task when one is an Individual-In-Custody, as it is no secret that incarceration is the most debilitating, mentally-challenging, humbling, oppressive thing that an individual can experience, due to the fact that - by design - incarceration practically renders you helpless. You are forced to depend on someone else - for EVERYTHING - whether that be your next meal, your next shower - or your next dollar. And although you can still become a published author while incarcerated, the chances of you actually establishing something like a moderate income from sales, or your own fan base, without outside help, is slim-to-none. Therefore, obtaining an assistant, a partner - or a "team" is ESSENTIAL to your success! It is critical, then, that you take some time to sit down and figure-out how, or IF you can do that - and execute your plan. It will be a difficult endeavor, and - for some - very time-consuming and expensive. However, the path of least resistance can be found in discovering the least expensive way to reach out and obtain this help, if it is unavailable through friends, family, advocates, supporters, etc., etc., by placing ads in publications that cater to the prison population. Believe it or not, there are numerous publications that allow incarcerated individuals the opportunity to place ads seeking assistance in productive, positive endeavors. One such place is The San Francisco Bay View Newspaper. They publish pen pal ads in the publication, and online (where you may be able to develop a relationship with someone willing to partner-up and/or assist you), as well as provide opportunity for business ad placement for under \$10.00! Their contact info is: San Francisco Bay View Newspaper, 4917 Third

Street, San Francisco, CA, 94124; Phone: (415) 671-0789;
Email: editor@sfbayview.com. I would suggest submitting
something relatively short and simple, like the following:

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[insert City or area of choice]. Top office skills
including editing, computer and bookkeeping are re-
quired. Media or publishing background helpful.
Work from home. References required. Do not email
your resume to [insert your email - or email you
wish you had!]. Do not call 1-800-BUY-BOOK. In-
stead, please send your two-page letter BY MAIL
to: [Insert your Contact Information].

The truth-of-the-matter is, the longer that you are incar-
cerated, the less time people will have for you. Even if
you do have someone out there willing to assist you - you
must recognize, and accept, that they have their own life -
and the likelihood that they have the time needed to COMMIT
to assisting you in your endeavor(s) may be, again, slim-to-
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box!

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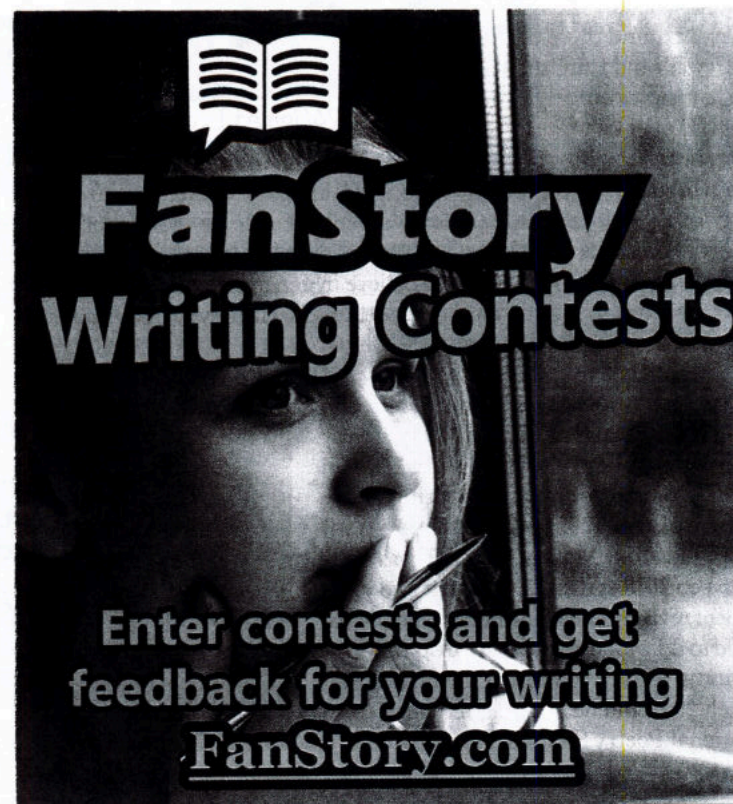
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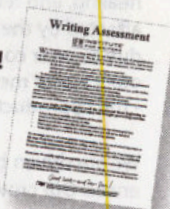
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HOW TO FORMAT YOUR MANUSCRIPT FOR SUBMISSION TO PUBLISHERS

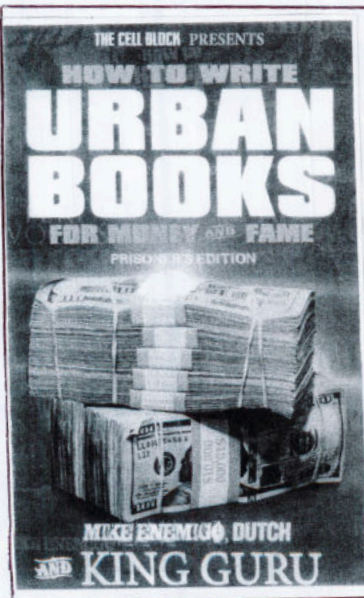
The first thing that you should recognize, if you haven't already, is the fact that - once you've navigated your way past the idea stage, and actually started the adventure of writing your book - **YOU ARE CREATING A PRODUCT.** You are engaged in the act of producing something that you hope to **PROFIT from.** If you're not self-publishing your book, you will have to submit it to an agent, an editor, and/or a publisher. **NORMALLY.** If you want it - or **YOU** - to be taken seriously, and not be discarded with the 1000's of other submissions and aspiring authors out there, you **must** present your book manuscript in as professional a manner as possible. The following is a bullet list of standard formatting, and tips, for submitting a professional manuscript to an agent, editor, publisher - or even typist whom you may elect to have enter your work into a program like Microsoft Word, so that your manuscript can be forever preserved, as well as be able to be submitted digitally (i.e., e-mail, etc., etc.):

- Set one-inch margins all the way around (top, bottom, left, and right).
- Use a 12-point font (or a setting of 12 typewritten characters-per-inch) of the Times New Roman, New Roman, or Courier style (these are the standard typefaces that come with typewriters).
- Double-space the body of your manuscript, so that there is room between lines for editing.
- On your Title Page, enter your contact information in the upper left-hand corner, and the approximate word count of your manuscript, in the right. (NOTE that, though this IS, technically, the first page - you don't start numbering the pages until your story actually begins.)
- Center the title of your book about 12-14 lines down from the top margin. Two lines beneath that (double-space), center, and type "by". Two lines beneath "by", type your name, or the pen name that you intend to write under. This is the pattern you

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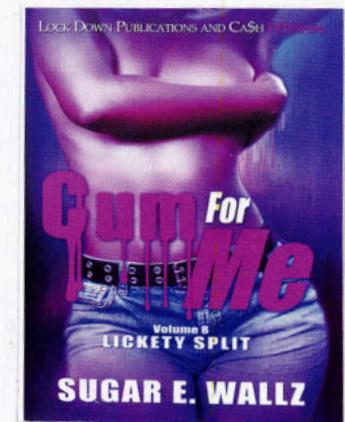
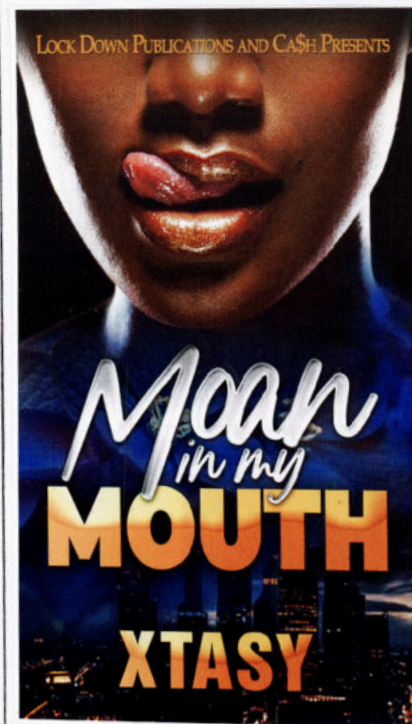
- Approximately 10 lines beneath your name/pen name is where your actual book/story will begin: "PROLOGUE", "CHAPTER ONE", and so-on-and-so-forth (which should also be centered). HOWEVER, on pages that are just continuances from the last line of the previous page, your just go FOUR lines beneath your name.
- INDENT ALL OF YOUR PARAGRAPHS.
- Do not BIND your manuscript, in any way. Keep the pages loose.
- Spell-check and proofread your work before you submit it - ANYWHERE.
- Make sure that your manuscript is clean and legible, so that it can be easily read, and any copies made will come out clean and crisp.

Once you've finished all of the above, you are ready for submission! You will need to attach a cover letter, or query letter, with every submission, providing just enough detail about your story to pique the curiosity of your potential publisher, so that they will be compelled to actually READ it! This can be done with a simple opening line or two introducing your novel, and why you chose that particular publisher to submit your work to; a blurb, or couple of short sentences, or a paragraph, that will create the intrigue necessary to read on - basically, like a book jacket showcasing your characters; a little information about yourself, and experience as a writer (and it's not a big issue if you have none, because, at some point EVERYBODY whom has been published was in that very same position!); and, in closing, inform them that you've included an SASE (self-addressed stamped-envelope) for an eagerly anticipated response!

You should also include a large manila envelope, and request for the return of your manuscript, if you would like it back. If you don't send one, it is a guarantee that you will not get it back.

As a final note, you may find it more prudent, and efficient, to make two copies of your manuscript and send one to a reputable prisoner assistance company - if you don't have a "helper", or assistant - who will scan, store, and email copies of your manuscript to publishers upon your request!

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COMPANIES YOU CAN PAY TO SELF-PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

Manuscripts To Go, c/o Chris Wanzer, 16420 Cooley Ranch, Dept. URB, geyderville, CA., 95441; spuntales@gmail.com; ManuscriptsToGo.com.

Midnight Express Books, Box 69, Dept. UL, Berryville, AR., 72616; mebooks1@yahoo.com; (870) 210-3772.

Freebird Publishers, 221 Pearl Street, Suite 541, North Dighton, MA., 02764; diane@freebirdpublishers.com; (888) 712-1987 (Toll Free); (774) 406-8682 (Phone/Text).

A2A Publications, P.O. Box 4231, Dept. LIT, Cary, NC., 27519; (984) 464-9269; (919) 225-6884; DWhite@aspire2acquire.org; www.aspire2acquire.org.

PEOPLE WHOM WILL TYPE-OUT YOUR MANUSCRIPT (TYPISTS)

Ambler Document Processing, P.O. Box 938, Dept. UL, Norwalk, CT., 06852.

T.O. Taylor Typing Service, 3205 Kiya Court #C5, Peoria, Illinois, 61604.

Manuscripts To Go, c/o Chris Wanzer, 16420 Cooley Ranch, Dept. UL, Geyderville, CA., 95441; spuntales@gmail.com; ManuscriptsToGo.com.

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The Productivity Equation

Building a Writing Practice
While Living With Limitations

RELIEVING THE BURDEN ON YOUR HELP
WITH THE USE OF OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION APPS

It's no secret that, as Individuals-In-Custody, computers and internet access are, practically, nonexistent. And, for a good majority of us, that means that the end of the road has arrived before we've even begun the journey! Even moreso, when it comes to those of us who can't afford typewriters, because we know that untyped submissions, as a matter of course, are tossed aside by potential publishers - which may result in the failure to recognize a potentially valuable and viable contribution to their publication - despite the fact that the contributor is incarcerated. Handwritten submissions simply don't meet the professional standard. This is not your fault, of course, it's just part of a system designed to keep publishing in the hands of the resource privileged. And despite the fact that we know that most publishers - especially, "literary" ones - will scoff at handwritten submissions, there are those of us whom are determined to submit their work, irregardless, of such obstacles. I would like to advise you - screw them! I would LIKE to tell you to IGNORE their guidelines and to submit your work in the best manner that you can, because your work deserves to be read just as much as anybody else who has access to a typewriter or computer. But - that would not be good advice - and the point-and-purpose of this publication is to provide you with proper, adequate, workable guidance and/or advice that will contribute to your overall success! So, in saying all of that, I am actually going to give you some USEFUL, PRACTICABLE advice; and, that is: If you have found someone willing enough to take the time out of his or her life and/or schedule to assist you in your writing endeavors - without complaining about how much time it takes to actually sit-down and type-out your manuscript (which usually results in months-upon-months-upon-months of procrastination!) - I would, first, like to congratulate you! YOU are a rare bird! But, for those of us whom aren't so

fortunate - I suggest and advise you to ask your "helper," or "assistant," etc., etc., to Google/look-up "OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION APPS" for computers and/or mobile devices! One such app is "Google Lens" - and it's FREE! It will allow them to use the camera in their smartphone to "read" what you've written and convert it into typed text. Then, all they would have to do, for the most part, is drop the converted text into an app like Microsoft Word - and it's practically ready for submission! On an iPhone, your helper or assistant, etc., etc., can simply take a picture of each page of your submission, and there is an option that will allow the iPhotos app (which I'm told comes standard with iPhone!) to read your text, too! Of course, because it is not an infallible technology, your helper/assistant WILL have to proofread the submission after the conversion (i.e., the neater your handwriting, the easier it will be for the app to convert it to typed text, and the less work your helper-assist will have to actually do!). This translates into a massive amount of time and effort saved! And THAT translates into the more likelihood of someone taking time out to help, where, before - there was less likelihood that prospective helper would have been available! Optical Character Recognition Apps serve as a great conversational point when trying to convince someone to assist you!

HOW TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR BOOK PROJECT USING CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding, in simple terms, is the process in which a group of people connected through a website contribute small amounts of money to help an individual, organization, company, or charity, with funding for whatever it is that they are trying to accomplish. Below is a list of websites that you may be able to utilize to assist you in the writing, publishing, promoting, and marketing of your book:

ArtistShare.com
Buzzbnk.org
Circleup.com

Bolstr.com
ChipIn.com
CrowdCube.com

RESOURCES

COMPANIES THAT WILL PUBLISH YOUR BOOK THROUGH/WITH AN ASSISTANT

Kindle Direct Publishing
(www.Amazon.KDP.com)

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12018 Lulu Drive
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Durham, NC 27709
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info@48HrBooks.com
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rpublisher@aol.com

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(360) 565-6459
info@cadmuspublishing.com

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Inmates Little Helpers
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inmates123456@gmail.com
www.inmateslittlehelpers.com

Help From Outside
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Staff@prisonsfoundation.org

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gmail.com

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Peerbackers.com
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CrowdSupply.com
Fundable.com
FunderThunder.com
FundMyWish.com
GiveForward.com
GoGetFunding.com
Kickstarter.com
PeopleFundIt.com
Selfstarter.com

Although I have never used a crowdfunding site, myself, crowdfunding projects have opened-up a lot of opportunities for Individuals-In-Custody (check-out the July 2016 issue of Prison Legal News, pp. 54-55)! The steps to a successful campaign, as set forth in magazines such as Inc., Money, and Entrepreneur is as follows:

- STEP 1: Define your project (i.e., explain, in a few paragraphs, exactly what it is that you're trying to accomplish, and why people should support you).
- STEP 2: Figure how much it will cost. Then show potential donors how the money will be spent. For example; your book project might cost \$2,000, and broken-down like this: \$500 for website design, \$100 for book cover design, \$200 for social media monitoring for the first year, \$200 for a promotional video, and \$1,000 for a Prisoner Assistance company (to type, format, upload book to Amazon, set-up KDP account, etc., etc.).
- STEP 3: Research which of the websites featured above best fit your project. There are numerous crowdfunding websites out there - and they don't all cater to the same crowd.
- STEP 4: Provide a video of yourself, or sample of your book (e.g., first few chapters), etc., etc.
- STEP 5: Upload your campaign and begin tapping into your network! People can't contribute to what you're trying to do if they don't know about it! So, have people start spreading the word using email, mail, phone, social media, free ads, and everything else under the sun!

STEP 6: KEEP ASKING UNTIL YOU REACH YOUR GOAL, OR YOUR TIME RUNS OUT (most sites have a time-limit for your campaign)!

I know that it sounds like a lot of work. And it is. As I stated before, success will not be easy. But, the good news is, you don't actually have to do all of this! There are companies (some of which we have included in this issue of Urban LIT!), individuals, and "consultants" who can assist you with your campaign for a percentage of the funds you get! But before you hire them, make sure you check them out, first, to the best of your ability. Ask for references. And NEVER pay them up front, only pay them a fee based on your goal - like 10% - 20%.

NEED EMAIL SERVICE!?! I will scan, send, and receive responses to your one-page email for \$3.00 and a SASE to mail your reply! Additional pages will be \$1.00 per page. Send your check or money order (U.S. funds ONLY!) to: Malachi James, 1007 E. Nebraska, Peoria, IL., 61603. NOTE: AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT ESSAYS, POEMS, SHORT STORIES, ETC., TO PUBLISHERS!

Poets & Writers

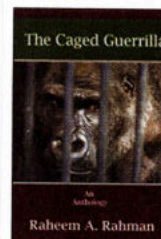
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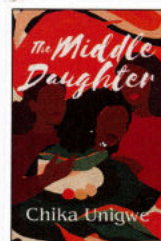
New Titles



The Caged Guerrilla
By Raheem A. Rahman

This book is an anthology that illustrates the hardships that one faces inside of prison walls, but also causes the reader to see the confines we have placed upon ourselves within society. The subjects range from prison literature to poetic expressions; from urban culture and social awareness to the revolutionary spirit. An eye-opening and emotional piece that deserves reading.

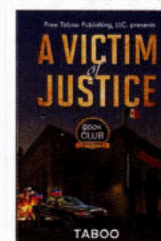
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The Middle Daughter
By Chika Unigwe
Dzanc Books

When seventeen-year-old Nani loses her older sister and then her father in quick succession, her world spins off its axis. A modern reimagining of the myth of Hades and Persephone within a Nigerian family, *The Middle Daughter* charts Nani's journey to freedom and homecoming.

<https://www.dzancbooks.org>



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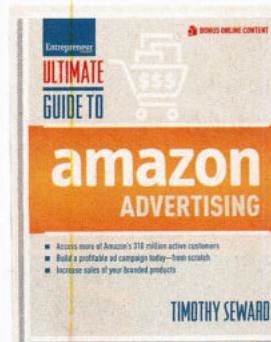
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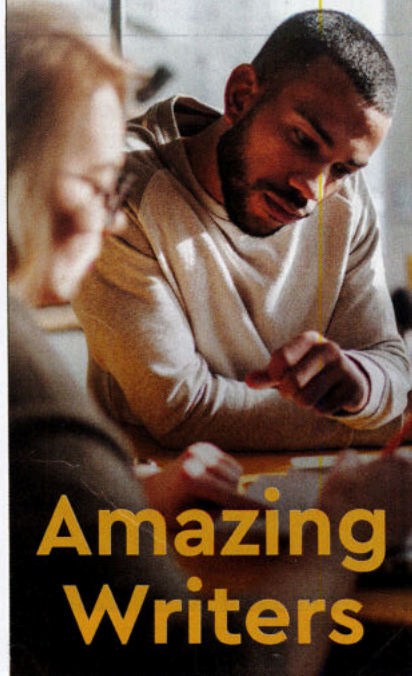
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GRAPHIC ARTISTS NEEDED! New publishing company producing a novel project called "The In-Crowd Movement Prison Advocacy, Pen Pal, and Leisure Time Mixbook" is searching for skilled individuals to collaborate and work with editors to enliven publication! Graphic Artists also needed for future magazine projects such as "The Urban Writer" and "Tales From Da Hood"! Payment will be made by the sharing of profits from sales of the publications! If interested, contact "EDITOR" at MyriadPublishing2024@gmail.com, and write "PROSPECTIVE GRAPHIC ARTIST/PARTNER" in the Subject field of your email! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE RESIDUAL INCOME FOR YOUR WORK!

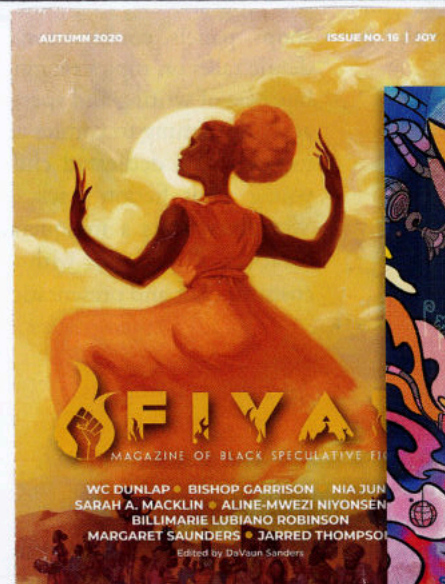
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ADVICE FOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO FIYAH MAG

FIYAH editors only accept submissions from poets and writers of African descent. The process for submitting a piece for publication isn't mysterious. You write your story, look at the submission guidelines, tweak your story to the submission guidelines, then submit it to the publication. "That's how WE get down," they say. "That's it. So, literally read, write, submit." You are encouraged to read back issues of FIYAH for a sense of editors' individual tastes and to blend speculative elements with a loving view of the Black experience in their work. If it's clear that a writer paid close attention to submission guidelines, editors will send a personal response advising as to what worked and what didn't work - and, in some cases, invite the writer to revise and resubmit. "We want to see Black writers grow and succeed and thrive in the field," explains one of FIYAH'S editors. "You can't do that, especially with regard to the work you create, without someone telling you in very loving and specific terms, what that work needs to do to shine."



"A quarterly speculative fiction magazine that features stories by and about Black people of the African Diaspora."

Reading period:
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Genres:
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Length:
Fiction to 15,000 words, poetry to 1,000 words, nonfiction to 1,200 words.

Submission format:
Submit through website.

Payment:
Yes.

Contact:
fiyahlitmag.com

On The Cover

BLACK LIVES MATTER! That was the reason for their very existence. And when those acting under the falsehood of the color of law - that they were just doing their jobs as police officers, prosecutors, etc., etc. - cross that line, and Black people end-up dead, Mustafa and his covert group of professional hitmen dish out their own brand of justice! But, organized, funded, executed, and hidden by-and-through the Dark Web - for years - they suddenly find their whole existence compromised when they discover that one of their secret accounts has been "swiped" of \$32-million by Man-Man and his crew of former street denizens who call themselves The Lick Clique. To protect their existence, Mustafa and his organization, The Outfit, must go to war with people they've sworn to protect. But The Lick Clique is no push-over. They have an unknown advantage - and his name is Black - a true gangster ... Who will come out on top?! Especially, with practically every law enforcement agency known to man hot on their tracks!!



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