

**GOOD FOR THE SOUL
STORIES ABOUT THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE**

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU

Virginia DeBerry, Donna Grant **Fic DeBe**

Straight-talking and witty, Tee is a fly forty-something. Divorced since her daughter was young, Tee has been "handling her business," and she's done all right. But then everything changes and for the first time in 25 years, Tee doesn't know who she is or what she's going to do. She spent her life investing her hopes and dreams in someone else's. Now it's her chance to invest in herself. Can she step out on faith and a dream?

JERICHO'S FALL

Stephen L. Carter **Fic Cart**

In an imposing house in the Colorado Rockies, Jericho Ainsley, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency and a Wall Street titan, lies dying. He summons to his bedside Beck DeForde, the younger woman for whom he threw away his career years ago, mirroring them both in scandal. Beck believes she is visiting to say farewell. Instead, she is drawn into a battle over an explosive secret that foreign governments and powerful corporations alike want to wrest from Jericho before he dies.

BLACK WATER RISING

Attica Locke **Fic Lock**

Lawyer Jay Porter believes he's carefully tucked away his darkest sins: the guns, the FBI file, the trial that nearly destroyed him and that he can make a fresh start in Houston. That is, until the night he impulsively saves a woman from drowning in the bayou—and opens a Pandora's box. Her secrets put Jay in danger, ensnaring him in a murder investigation that could cost him his practice, his family, and even his life.

SISTERS AND HUSBANDS

Connie Brisco **Fic Bris**

For Beverly and Julian, nothing could be better than being in love and planning their wedding. That is until Beverly's oldest sister's marriage falls apart and dampens the mood of what should have been the happiest time in Beverly's life. Now, second-guessing her impending nuptials, Beverly is forced to wonder if marriage really works. Will she stick it out? Or will her fears cloud her judgment once again?

BIG MACHINE

Victor Lavalle **Fic Lava**

Ricky Rice was as good as invisible: a middling hustler, recovering dope fiend, and traumatized suicide cult survivor running out the string of his life as a porter at a bus depot in Utica, New York. One day a letter appears, summoning him to the frozen woods of Vermont. There, Ricky is inducted into a band of paranormal investigators comprised of former addicts and petty criminals, all of whom had at some point in their wasted lives heard "The Voice"

LIFE IS SHORT BUT WIDE

J. California Cooper **Fic Coop**

In the early twentieth century, Irene and Val build a life for themselves in Wideland while also allowing neighbors Bertha and Joseph to live on their land, and the two families cope with changing times and fortunes.

ORANGE MINT AND HONEY

Carleen Brice **Fic Bric**

Broke and burned-out from grad school, Shay Dixon does the unthinkable after receiving a "vision" from her de facto spiritual adviser, blues singer Nina Simone. She phones her mother, whom she had all but written off, asking if she can come home for a while. Shay soon finds herself facing exciting possibilities and her first real romantic relationship. But when an unexpected crisis hits, even the wise words and soulful melodies of Nina Simone may not be enough for solace. Shay begins to realize that, like orange mint and honey, sometimes life tastes better when bitter is followed by sweet.

INCOGNEGRO

Mat Johnson **Fic John**

This is a fearless graphic novel that is both a page-turning mystery and a disturbing exploration of race and self-image in America, masterfully illustrated with rich period detail. Zane Pinchback, a reporter for the New York-based *New Holland Herald* barely escapes with his life after his latest investigative report goes bad. But when he returns to the sanctuary of Harlem, he's sent to investigate the arrest of his own brother, charged with the brutal murder of a white woman in Mississippi. With a lynch mob already swarming, Zane must stay "incognegro" long enough to uncover the truth behind the murder in order to save his brother—and himself.

SEEN IT ALL AND DONE THE REST

Pearl Cleage **Fic Clea**

Josephine lived above and beyond the reach of conventional definitions of whom and what an African American theater diva could be, and her legions of loyal fans loved her for it. She had a perfect life and enough sense to live it to the hilt, but then a war she didn't fully understand turned everything upside down, thrusting her into a role she never wanted and was not prepared to play. Suddenly the target of angry protests aimed at the country she had never really felt was her own, Josephine is forced to return to America to see if she can create a new definition of home.

NOWHERE IS A PLACE

Bernice L. McFadden **Fic McFa**

Sherry has struggled all her life to understand who she is, where she comes from, and most important, why her mother slapped her cheek one summer afternoon. The incident has haunted Sherry, and it causes her to dig into her family's past. Like many family histories, it is fractured and stubbornly reluctant to reveal its secrets; but Sherry is determined to know the full story.

SAG HARBOR

Colson Whitehead **Fic Whit**

Every summer, Benji escapes to the Hamptons, to Sag Harbor, where a small community of African American professionals have built a world of their own. Because their parents come out only on weekends, he and his friends are left to their own devices for three glorious months. And although he's just as confused about this all-black refuge as he is about the white world he negotiates the rest of the year, he thinks that maybe this summer things will be different. If all goes according to plan, that is.

KISS THE SKY

Farai Chideya **Fic Chid**

Washed-up rock star Sophie Lee has coasted along as a B-level TV celebrity since the breakup of her indie rock band, Sky, and her divorce from Ari Klein, the alluring but drug-abusing lead guitarist and fellow Harvard classmate. But when the band reunites for a one-night charity event, she realizes her dreams of stardom might not be over. Her new producer and lover, Leo Masters, pushes her into recording and touring again, throwing Sophie in over her head, as she is torn between her old love and her new one in the pressure cooker of fame.

OCL Logo

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G. Hayes