

FEB /2016

Vol 8 Issue 2

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Real Talk
with Felice

Dru Ealons
*"Dear Good
Cops"*

NiAmbi Speaks!
an Interview
with
Ellis Martin

+

who is
Marlon McCaulsky

Buying
Real Estate
2016

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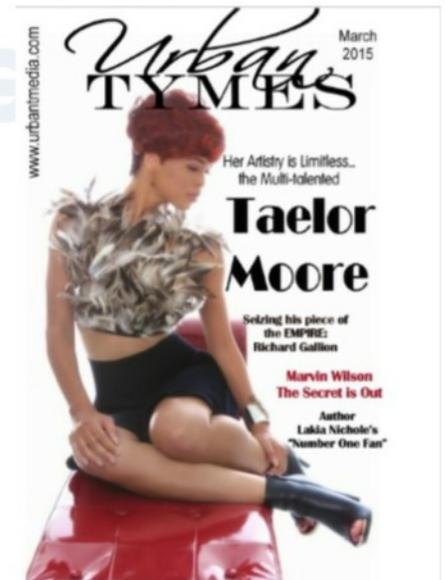
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BIG MIKE

DO IT BIG OR NOT AT ALL

N E W S I N G L E

How Do I Go On

From the Editor

JAN 2016
Vol 8
Issue 1



TY

Terri Avery

Her journey into

2016

Jametta
Chandler M
2016: Year of
Champion!

Did you miss
last month's
issue?

Style & Fashion
Questions Answered
for **Men**

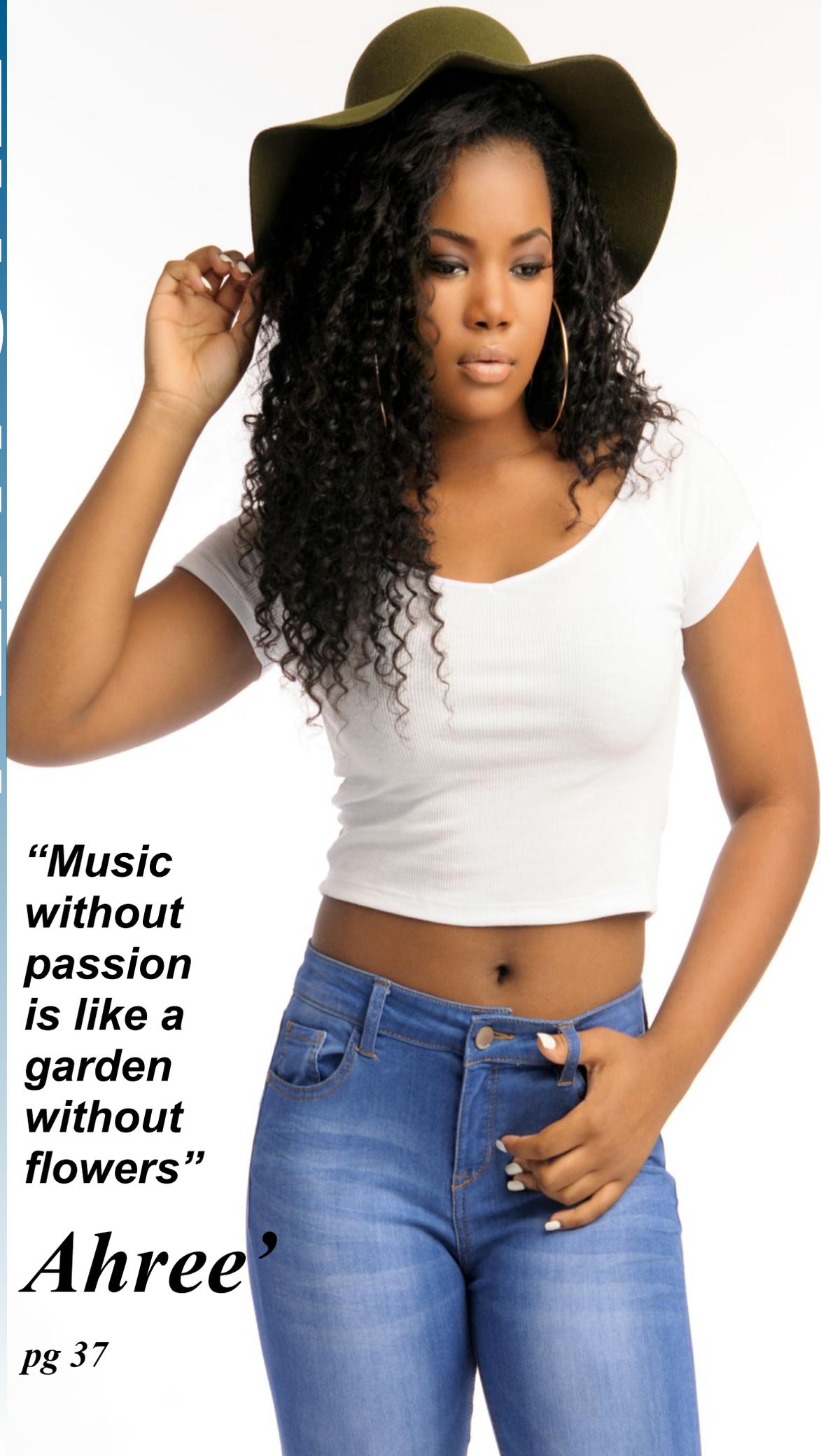
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FEB FEATURE



“Music without passion is like a garden without flowers”

Ahree’

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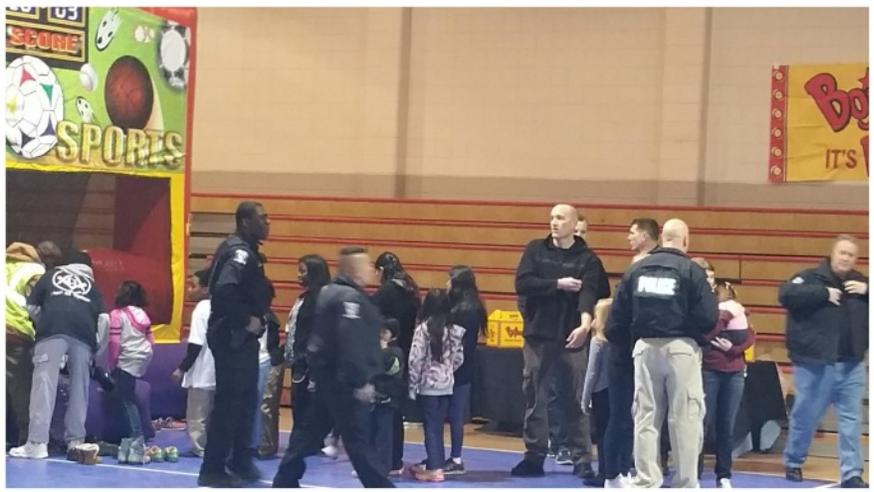
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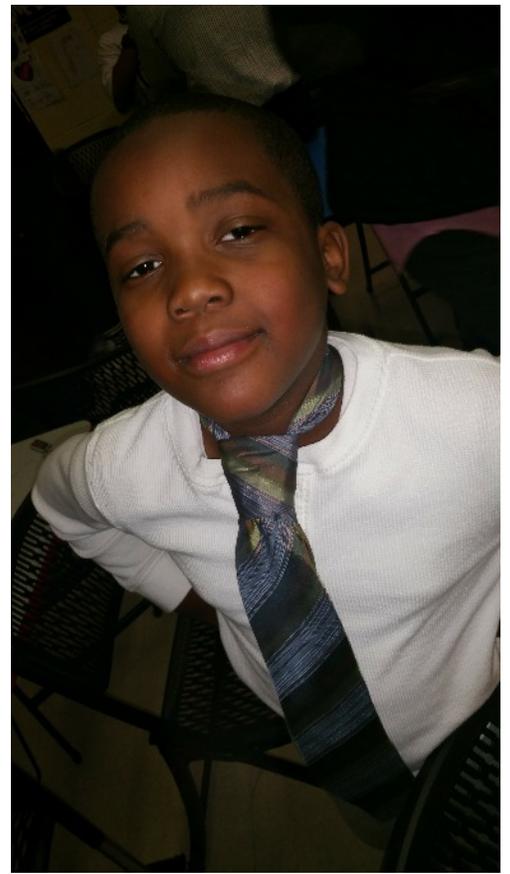
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ESSENTIALS

Real Estate Buying in 2016 4 Numbers That Determine Your Buying Power

Finances* Business * Politics* * Health

By Jon Reid

Make sure you have a sense of how you measure up in these four key ways before you start the house hunt. When it comes to deciding on a home to purchase, the list of things to consider can be lengthy. But while you might be comparing square footage, finishes, and neighborhoods, mortgage lenders are looking at the specific numbers that make up your financial picture with the same discerning eye.

These numbers will not only impact your ability to buy that home for sale in GA, but they will also measure your buying power.

1. Credit score

Your credit score is one of the most basic ways a lender can determine your creditworthiness, or your ability to pay your loan on time every month. Five key factors impact your score, each varying in importance: payment history (35%), amounts owed (30%), length of credit history (15%), credit mix (10%), and new credit (10%).

While having a low credit score (think below 620) doesn't necessarily mean being approved for a mortgage is outside the realm of possibility, it certainly makes the situation more challenging. In addition, interest rates for scores in the 580 to 699 range could be anywhere from 0.5% to 4% higher than the lowest rate available — and that will make your mortgage more expensive.

On the flip side, a score of 760 to 850 could land you the best possible rate, and a score of 700 to 760 could put you just 0.25% above the lowest rate.

2. Down payment

Times have changed, but cash is still king in the home-buying game. This means the higher the down payment you've managed to put on the table up front, the more overall buying power you are able to bank on in the end.

There are plenty of benefits to adhering to the often-repeated 20% rule of thumb, in which you come up with a down payment that's 20% of the sale price of the home.

3. Debt-to-income ratio

Making a nice, steady income is great, but that's not everything when it comes to determining your mortgage eligibility.

Lenders want the reassurance that you will be able to pay your mortgage in addition to all other financial obligations you currently have. To do this, they will look first at your front-end ratio, or housing ratio — your monthly housing payment (including insurance, interest, taxes, and PMI, if applicable) divided by your monthly income. The general rule of thumb is to keep this at or below 28%.

Next, they will look at your back-end ratio or debt-to-income ratio, a calculation that determines how much of your monthly pay goes to service your existing debt (e.g., car loans, student loans, credit card payments, etc.). This calculation is your total monthly debt payments divided by your total monthly household income. The general rule of thumb for this calculation is to keep it at or below 36%. While landing above the suggested ratios won't necessarily end your journey to home ownership, it can certainly impact your loan terms.

4. Assets

A lender's biggest concern is always whether the borrower will have the income coming in and the financial resources already on hand to stay up to date on payments, regardless of other financial storms they may be weathering. Therefore, you will be required to provide a list of assets showing where money for the down payment is coming from (and whether the money is yours or a gift from elsewhere) and how healthy your savings and investments currently are. The bigger your cushion, the more likely lenders are to think you can pay for not only all necessary

mortgage costs and fees, but also all home-related financial obligations afterward.

The Bottom Line

Paying careful attention to these numbers and making necessary changes before turning your attention to square footage and finishes can do wonders in ensuring your bank account will be ready when the time comes to make a purchase.

To learn more about your ability to purchase



a home, or any questions you may have, contact:

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An Open Letter to Good Cops...

By
Dru Ealons

Dear Good Cops,

Where are you? Will you ever speak up? Will you hold your colleagues, partners, system accountable for the many black lives that die unnecessarily at their hands?

This letter isn't for black cops only. It is for all cops who place themselves in the "good" category. I understand and appreciate that there are good cops, but what I don't understand is their inability to exercise the term **#protectandserve** even when it means the ones you are protecting the black community from may happen to be your fellow police officer. Can you still be considered a good cop if you witness another cop using excessive force, planting evidence, harassing a certain group of people, using racist terms or anything deemed unbecoming of a law enforcement officer, and you do nothing to stop him? How is **that** possible? Your inaction is what leads to murderous cops eventually killing someone. And in most cases that someone is a black person...without cause. What

will it take for you to step up? Obviously, the murder of a 12 year old isn't something that would motivate you to say enough is enough. How can you stomach so many injustices, so many killings, so many beatings and it not bother your conscious? Remind me again, how you are a good cop?

Look, I really need you to stand up and start bringing accountability to a system that we all recognized is stacked against black folks. I know it won't be easy. I know that you will be ostracized and your very job could be put in jeopardy...or worse your life may be threatened. I get that. I wouldn't wish this stress on anyone, but our lives are at stake. And honestly, I really need you because I fear for my son's, my husband's and my life every day. My son is only seven, but in 5 short years, if I'm to take to heart what prosecutor #TimMcGinty says, I'm going to have to prepare my son not to go play in the park at 12, not to look suspicious...and that's hard because the way our society works, the fact that he's black and male he IS suspicious. What kind of life is this?

Tell me, what do you need to get a backbone and stand up? I'm desperate to partner with those good cops that are willing to say enough is enough. I'm not talking about the ease of pointing at other situations

outside of your precinct, I'm talking about that brother or sister cop that works right alongside of you. Let's start with something simple. For example, let's not sign off on false police reports covering up the bad deed. Let's file complaints and/or follow the appropriate protocol to getting these dangerous cops off the street before they kill someone.

As I've stated in previous [blog posts](#), many of these killings could have been prevented if the murderous cops were stopped when they were "only" misbehaving. You know, whenever the city pays out a settlement...maybe, just maybe that cop who caused the lawsuit should be fired and lose their pension.

What I'm asking. What I'm begging of you to do is to step from behind the blue code and step into your true role of protecting and serving all communities...even if it means from your colleagues. When you see something, say something. Your quietness makes you just as guilty. If you ARE a GOOD COP, then ACT LIKE IT! Otherwise, you are no different and the blood of those who are killed or harmed is on your hands.

Signed,

Dru Ealons, wife & mother
Traditionally Modern, That's My Point of View



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Felice Hightower Hearing The Stories Inspiring Others...



My grandmother was the love of my life and I do things today that I saw her do when I was a young child. Her unconditional love and support provided me with an abundant sense of security and confidence. I believed what my grandmother said to me, about me and over me and with the help of God I do all that I can to see those things come into existence. I truly love people and want to help them have the lives they deserve if it is just a word of encouragement or to use my skills to provide direction. These are things I believe I saw in my grandmother and I feel blessed to be able to pass it along.

In your profession, do you see more of that? Acceptance and support lacking in many of those that you counsel? Yes, I do see the lack of acceptance and support lacking in many of the people I counsel. Love, acceptance and support are powerful tools to impart in a person's life especially when they are young because those are the formative years. So, what many of my clients have to do is to find love for and within them and then purposefully go about getting involved in activities that will help them build support systems for themselves.

At a Vision Board party hosted by Motivation Mktg Firm, New Year, New U, I had the pleasure of meeting Felice Hightower. Prior to our chat, she addressed attendees on the mental health and how to deposit into one's life positively and to confront issues that may plague one in everyday life. Truth to tell, she was engaging, informative, and brought a positive perspective. Needless to say, I had questions and wanted to learn so much more about Ms. "Real Talk" herself.

It's noted in your bio that your Grandmother constantly supported you in your dreams and endeavors. How did that support flow into you the person we know now and what you do now for others?

One thing that struck me was how you enjoy listening to others. That in itself is a powerful trait and tool to have. Is that one of the main things that drive us many times, that we want to be heard?

Everyone has a story and that story needs to be told to someone. My personal gift is that I enjoy hearing people's stories. I like hearing where people come from and what their lives were like whether good or bad. Everyone deserves to be heard and to be acknowledged, to know that they are not alone and that someone cares that they exist. So, yes the need to be heard a lot of times does drive many of the choices we make. Taking the time out to truly listen to someone helps validate who they are and encourages them in so many ways.

Tell our readers about your show, “Real Talk with Felice.”

Real Talk With Felice is a show that brings people together to dialogue in real and meaningful ways that not only talks but helps people to leave the conversation with tangible solutions. Things they can take back home and immediately apply to their lives. My show is for people who want to experience real change in their lives and are ready for something different. My show endeavors to help people who are going through real issues by self-awareness, application of knowledge shared and then patience about the process and journey.

From hosting your talk show, to business owner, and licensed counselor, do you feel that you’ve made it to what you’ve always dreamed of, or do you see there’s “greater areas to explore, more hills to climb?”

I will always strive to climb new hills and I don’t think I am where I want to be in all of my endeavors. I really want to fine tune my business, dreams and career. I want to be one of the best at what I do and that is being able to understand someone’s problem and assist them

in arriving at the solution. I don’t want to stop until I am forced to.

Ok, here’s the fun question, if you could sit and talk to that one celebrity, to really get into their mind and spirit and understand them, or even help them, who would it be?

I would love to interview and talk with Oprah because she is someone I have marveled at what she has been able to accomplish with what she was given. She took the lemons of her life and made more than lemonade. That was a fun question. Thanks for asking it.

My pleasure, and thank you for chatting with us and allowing our readers to meet Felice Hightower!

Truly she exudes a realness with those she comes into contact with,. From her talk show, to counseling, and her work in the community. Truly there is greater in store for her!

To follow Felice, visit:

<http://www.realtalkwithfelice.com/>





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Who Is Marlon McCaulsky?



Marlon McCaulsky is an American author and screenplay writer of Urban Fiction, Romance, and Science Fiction. He is known for his novels about contemporary African-American life.

Marlon McCaulsky was born in Brooklyn, New York and was raised in St. Petersburg FL. Marlon is a graduate of the International Academy of Design and Technology Tampa.

His first major publication was in (2008) *The Pink Palace* and has gone on to publish over thirteen novels and anthologies. Marlon is a screenplay writer at Creative Genius Films. Creative Genius Films is an American film and television production company owned by Lamont Gant. It is responsible for the short films ***No Time For Love (2013)***, ***Annulment (2014)*** and the feature length film ***Used To Temporary Happiness (2012)***. A Sci-Fi thriller ***Returned (2015)***. Lamont is Owner/Chief Executive Officer, and Marlon McCaulsky serves as Screenplay writer/Author with the company.

He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Filmography

- Used To Temporary Happiness (2012) (screenplay writer, producer)
- No Time For Love, short film (2013) (screenplay writer)
- Annulment, short film (2014) (screenplay writer)
- Returned (2015) (screenplay writer)

Awards:

2015 GANSPA Award Winner Best Erotica Short Story "Bad Girl"

I always love talking to authors and hearing their literary journey so allow me to introduce you to Marlon McCaulsky...

KG: What is your favorite genre? Why?

MM: I think I lean more toward romance/erotica/drama but I love to blend those elements in street lit and Sci-Fi. I think no matter what the genre or setting of your story it all comes back to the relationships your characters have with each other. Love is a powerful emotion that can be a positive or negative motivation depending on the character.

KG: How many books do you read a month?

MM: Honestly I don't read as much as I used to a few years ago. I'm lucky if I get through one book these days.

KG: How have you handled an unhappy reader regarding a book you wrote?

MM: Lucky I haven't had many LOL... but it mostly comes via a review. I read the review to see if there is any constructive criticism or just non-sense. You're not going to please everybody but as long as more people like your work than dislike it, then you're doing something right.

KG: What are your thoughts on the eBook craze? Do you think paperbacks are becoming extinct?

MM: No I don't believe paperbacks are extinct. I believe over the last two years eBook have gone down. From what I've read a lot of people buy eBook and don't read them. I think paperback.

KG: How important is pricing?

MM: It's important to not under value your work. Especially in this day and age of eBook. Just because a book is .99 and ranked on some Amazon list means that they're making money. Don't sell yourself short.

KG: What do you think about e-books priced \$2.99 and below? Is this a reflection of the authors' worth?

MM: I don't like it. But I have a couple of books priced at .99. That's the publisher's decision. I understand the marketing behind it. But with the sales of eBooks going down I can see a shift coming in the industry. I personally value my books and would never give my work away for pennies if I'm in charge of pricing.

KG: What advice would you give an aspiring author?

MM: Read any contract you're going to sign twice, then have somebody else read it. Also make sure you study the trends in the industry and stay true to you.

KG: What is the name of your publishing company and what does it mean?

MM: I don't have a publishing company but I'm published by Emerald Star Press owned by Destiny Carter and Creative Genius Films owned by Lamont Gant. I'm also a screenplay writer at Creative Genius Films. Creative Genius Films, LLC is an American film and television production company. It is responsible for the short films No Time For Love (2013), Annulment (2014) and the feature length film Used To Temporary Happiness (2012) and the Sci-Fi thriller Returned (2015). I co-wrote the screenplays for all of these projects.

KG: What is your biggest obstacle being a self-published author?

MM: Distribution and advertising is always a challenge. You can write the best book in the world but if people never see it then it can go unnoticed. Reaching a bigger audience is a goal of mine.

KG: When did you decide to write professionally?

MM: I think I always wanted to write. I started off writing screenplays in college but it wasn't until I started writing short stories and my wife encouraging me to go further that I saw a future as a writer.

KG: Did you ever consider hiring a literary agent and shopping your manuscript to a major publisher, why or why not?

MM: Yes I have but finding a literary agent has been a challenge. But nowadays I notice that a few major publishers will deal directly with an author. It just takes a lot of work finding them.

KG: What are your thoughts on the current state of literary?

MM: I believe the state of literary is in a funny place. I think it's once again in a transitional phase. The hype behind eBooks is dying down. People are starting to want stories with quality. Doing a dozen sequels isn't going to guarantee sales. I think paperbacks are coming back among the readers.

KG: What is literary success to you?

MM: For me success is being able to create the type stories I want to tell and getting that positive response from my readers. I'm not going to lie and say sales don't matter but it's not the most important thing to me when I write a novel. Success is being able to turn your thoughts into words and delivering it in a way that readers enjoy.

KG: Do you think the industry is over saturated with too many authors?

MM: It doesn't matter those authors delivering quality are going to last the other that rely on gimmicks will be filter out sooner or later.

KG: What is one word to best describe your writing style?

MM: I would say that word would be versatile. I am able to adjust my style to whatever genre I'm writing and still maintain my author's voice. Hopefully I will continue to grow and become a better writer in the future.

Erotic Escapades is a plethora of sensual tales brought to you by some very talented ladies in the literary industry that will be sure to entice as well as entertain.

Can't Let Go tells a steamy story of a sexy woman who hooks up with a handsome hunk of a man, the only problem is that she is married.

Back at One is a classic story of love, romance, and mistrust but more importantly, second chances and forgiveness.

World Wide Web of Deceit is a story of a girl who explores the highs and lows of online dating through various sexual encounters.

Best Friends Forever is a story of three successful ladies who professionally have it all and personally, things are fun and flirty but will there be any man that can tame the insatiable appetite the trio possess?

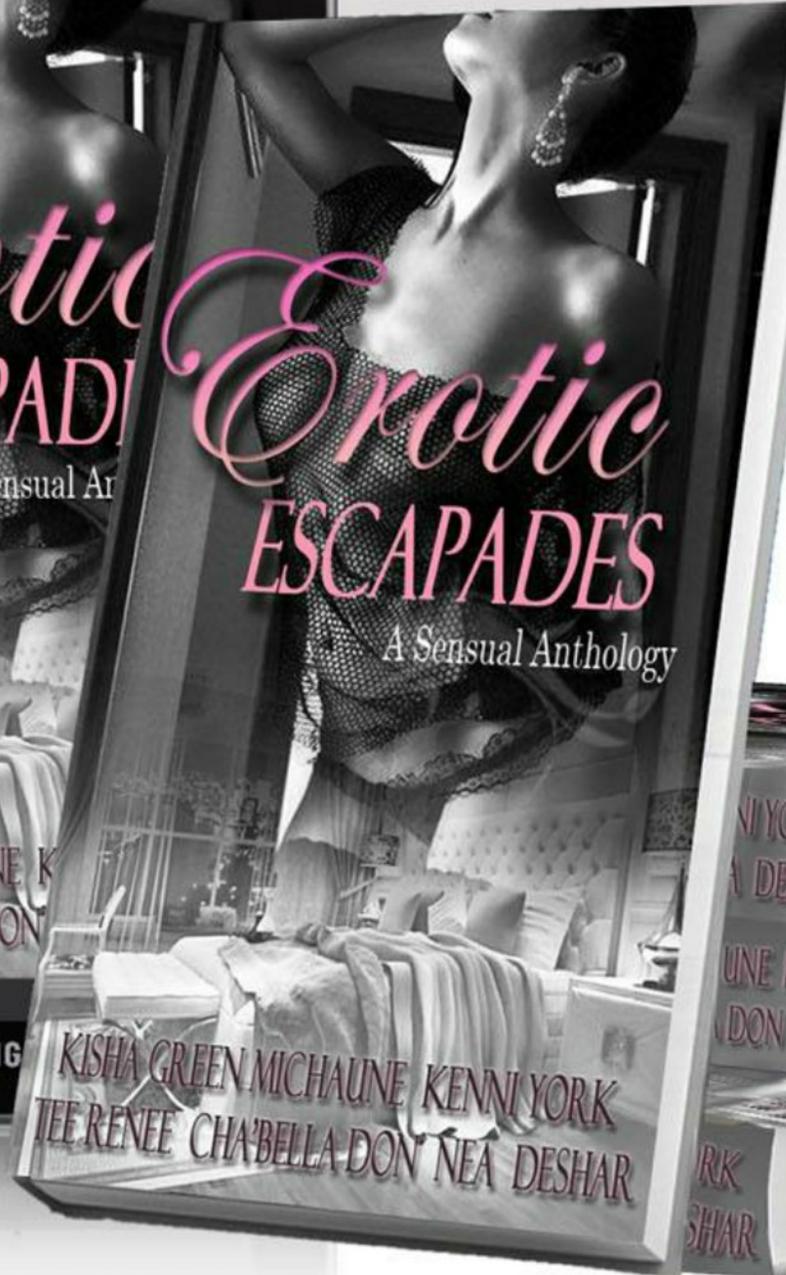
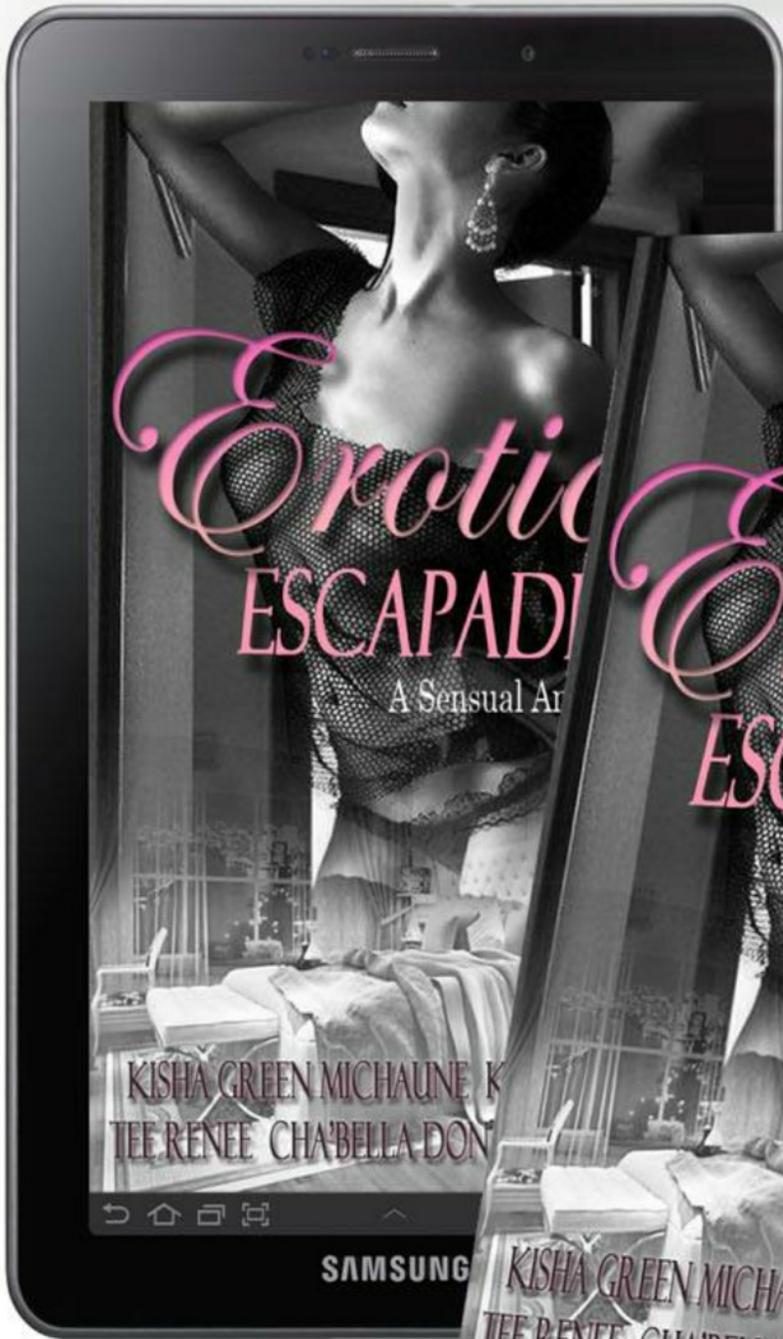
Secret Desires tells the story of what happens when a couple invites an escort into their bedroom.

Undercover Lover is a story of a stud who has played the field over the years breaking hearts until she meets her match and everything is great except that she isn't the man her mate thinks she is.

Turned Out Widow tells the story of a woman who had it all until one day a stranger knocks at the door and delivers news that will forever change her life; personally and sexually.

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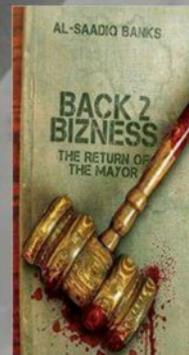
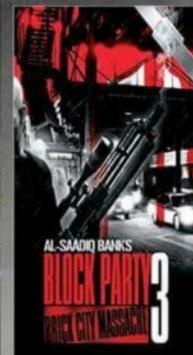
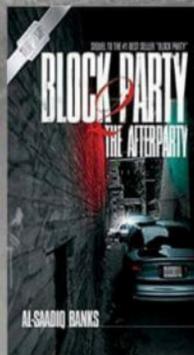
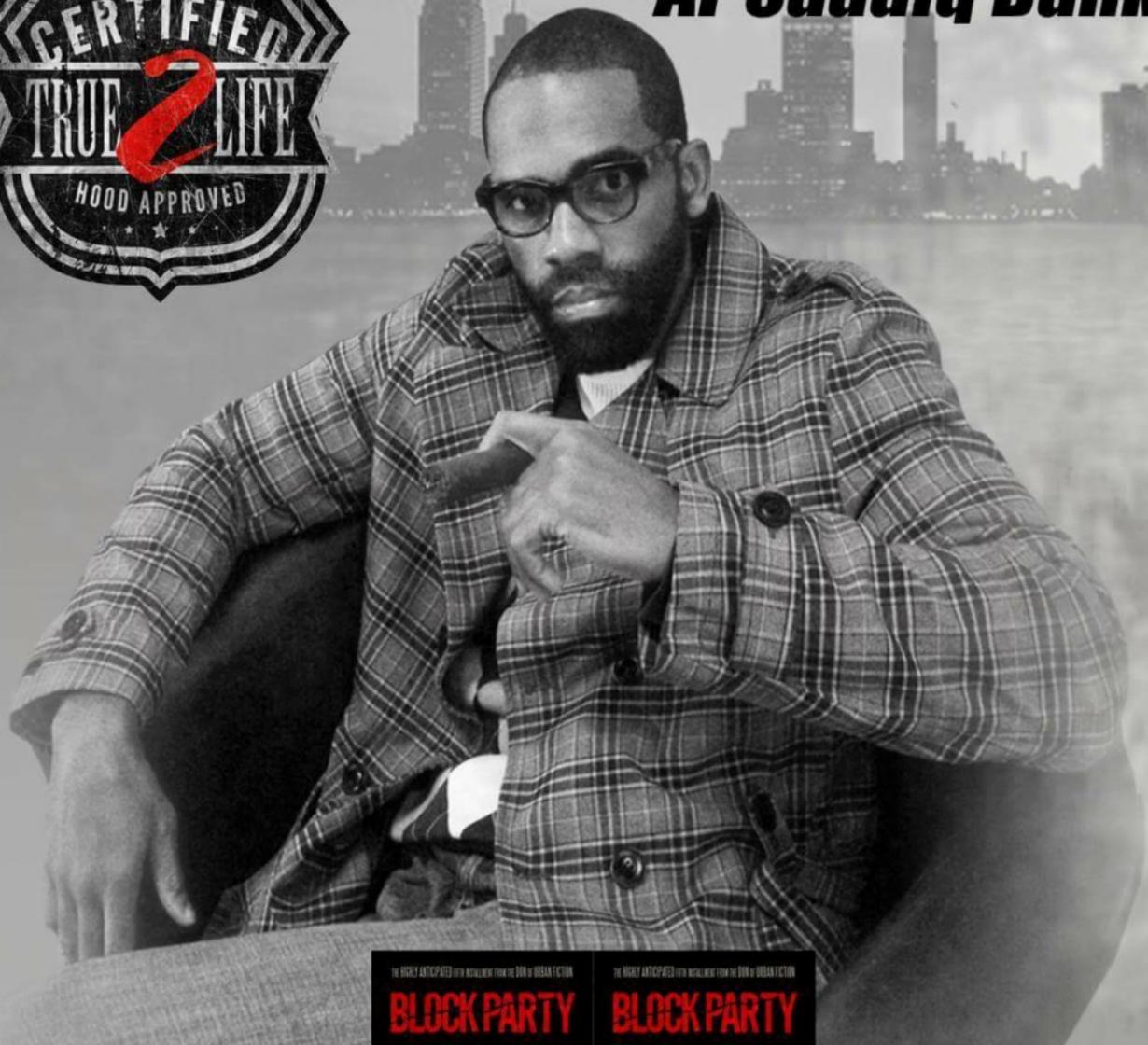


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TERRI AVERY

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style And
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Twistress

Fashion, Style and Creative Expression



Though many of the women in my life covered exclusively, hair covering was not pushed on me as a requirement, but encouraged as a responsibility of me as growing woman in the religion.

As I have aged and matured in my life, being married for 9 years with two young sons and having a well-developed professional career. Covering my hair had become and part of my personal growth, a symbol of religious maturation. I am no proclaimed fashionista, but I initially felt I imited in my ability to cover fashionably. It was important to be able to wear a hair covering that still expressed deep personal style.

My name is Haneefah Shuaibe

-Peters. I identify myself as Muslim before anything else. Born and raised in Oakland CA, my family has a deep rooted history in the religion dating back to the early 1960s when the Nation of Islam was a prominent organization in the Bay Area. As the daughter of an Imam, faith has always been an undeniable component of my life.

One of the iconic symbols in the religion of Al-Islam is the covering of women's hair. Most commonly referred to as Hijab. I, however, was raised in a family and community that promoted modesty in all forms.

The Twistress brand came out of a desire to fulfill this fashionable need not only for myself, but also for women both young and experienced in the religion. I believe women should feel confident and secure in their ability to fulfill religious duties without shame or discomfort. Twistress is not to be regarded as a scarf. For Muslim women who cover regularly, it's a wardrobe piece that gives unlimited headdress styling ability. It allows us to cover our hair in creative styles and with full personal expression.

The Twistress brand stands on the principle that Al Islam gives us confidence for self-expression and creativity.

Find out more about how to order Twistress by following on Instagram @Twistress . Website www.Twistress.com to launch February

THE RIGHT WAY TO IRON A DRESS SHIRT



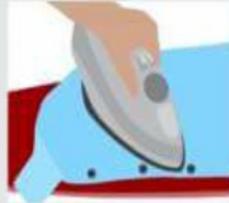
1. PREPARATION

Read the shirt's label to know what fabric it's made of. Cotton and cotton blends can withstand high temperatures, but polyester shirts need less heat. Make sure the shirt is moist but not wet.



2. COLLAR

Pop the collar up and press the iron from one spot of the underside to the next. Then flip the shirt over and repeat on the outside of the collar.



3. FRONT

Start ironing on the side with the buttons. Use the iron point to go right up to the buttons without going over top of them. Focus on the shoulder and collar areas.



4. CUFFS

Unbutton the cuffs and iron the inside first, then the outside, and lastly around the buttons. Make sure not to iron on top of the buttons unless you put a towel over them.



5. BACK

Position one of the sleeve heads into the square edge of the ironing board. This way you can iron half of the back and only have to slide it over to complete the rest.



6. SLEEVES

Make sure the sleeves are flat and smooth. Start at the top and iron down to the cuff. If you don't have a sleeve board you can use a rolled-up towel inside the sleeve to avoid creases.



IRONING ON THE GO:



Make a starch spray by dissolving 1 tablespoon cornstarch in 2 cups water; put the mix in a spray bottle.



You can use a lightly colored towel as an ironing-board pad. Roll it up and stick it inside your shirtsleeves for a makeshift sleeve-board.



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Into the Mind of

Ellis Martin

Opinionated and outspoken with an open mind — Ellis Martin lives this way, and it's evident in his music that he's more than ready for the world to hear. His music, style and his brand as a whole are dope, and the creativity is like no other. He took his time to hone the artistry, musicianship and brand in order for them to become one and what it is now, that is Ellis Martin.

NiAmbi`: One thing I know is that visuals are important; they almost draw you to the core. How did all three of those components evolve into one complete package?

Ellis: Bringing these three separate elements — artist, music and brand — together into a single entity was the most important, and difficult part of becoming an artist. I believe in a single brand, a single message and a single mission. When people hear my name, I want them to think of everything I represent and stand for. Even if someone thinks my music sucks, they will at least be aware of my brand.

MUSIC



I refused to release any of my music until I had this brand set in stone. And so, it took about four years to get it right. In the end, Ellis Martin became exactly who I am, day-in and day-out: A cynical, frustrated, jaded, world-weary troublemaker who has absolutely no hesitation speaking his mind. I've been this way for as long as I can remember. I sometimes feel I belong in a different time and place, with different values and beliefs. And so my music and message reflect this cynicism.

The doo-wop sound of my music harkens back to earlier times, as do my ideas and beliefs. My suits, my photos, my website, my live shows, my music videos, my social media efforts all reflect this hopeful nostalgia and a rejection of modern society. I'm a simple man with clear opinions, and I believe this resonates deeply with my fans. They can sense that I speak directly from the heart.

NiAmbi`: How have your life experiences influenced your music and all that you stand for currently?

Ellis: In terms to what I write about and represent, I don't feel my experiences are any different than the next person. I just respond to them differently. Everyone hears the terrible music on the radio and sees talentless charlatans on TV. Everyone knows politicians are beyond corrupt and that America is losing its positive influence on the world. But for most people, this frustration usually doesn't go beyond a conversation or rant. For me, it shaped my whole being. I can't ignore it even if I wanted to.

NiAmbi`: As we enter into the entitled EP, *Pornotopia*, you're illuminating us with your observations about the world we live in, which is Pornotopia. It's not what some people would believe it to mean. In your own words, could you explain what Pornotopia is?

Ellis: Pornotopia is a world in which everything has a price, but nothing has val-

ue. It is a world in which true beauty is dying, and talent is nowhere to be found. It is a world so devoid of meaning and purpose that money has become the new God. In Pornotopia, Kim Kardashian is on the cover of Rolling Stone, a *music* magazine. In Pornotopia, a candidate named "Deez Nuts" can run for President, and no one riots in the streets. It is hell on earth, but no one can tell because it smells and looks like some oversexualized, hyper-stimulated "heaven". Pornotopia is the world in which we live, and it must be destroyed.

NiAmbi`: What was it like working with the "Classic Man", Jidenna on this EP? Would you say that it was easy working with him in the studio? Were there any creative commonalities?

Ellis: Working together with Jidenna was a true blessing, and I don't say that lightly. The man is a genius in so many ways. His skills as a producer, singer, songwriter and rapper are complete and unparalleled, in my opinion. I knew he would be famous a long time ago, simply because of the power of his personality and the strength of his music.

It was unbelievably easy working with him in the studio. He could adapt to any style and introduce ideas that don't even resemble his own craft. We each had a deep appreciation for each other's music, and we worked tirelessly to make our individual sounds and brands uniquely powerful.

But our music always differed. We listened to different artists and were drawn to different styles, but we used this to our advantage when we worked together. The "Pornotopia" EP has so much of Jidenna's unique production and writing style, that it is difficult to call it an Ellis Martin project entirely. Similarly, his upcoming single "Some Kind of Way", which I wrote and co-produced, has a lot of my style in it, and he wanted to keep it that way for just this reason.



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Ahree



*Loving her
VIBE*

By: CWSpeaks

Ahree'The uniqueness of her

moniker runs parallel with her incredible talent as a singer and writer. She defines her music as RnB/Neo Soul with a dash of jazz., Influences by many in those genres. At the age of three she began singing in the choir at her home church in Charlotte NC. By the age of six she had become a soloist.

JDS Certified introduced our magazine to this blossoming star and we got a wonderful understanding of how music was not only her lifeline while struggling with childhood illnesses, but evolved to become the fiber

of her being.**Upon learning more about the artist, the person Ahreéwe found out that you have a strong church background where your talent was**

honed by 6 yrs of age? Yes that's true, I actually started singing in the youth choir at the age of 3, I remember the choir director giving me my first lead song and I just grabbed the mic, I don't ever remember being afraid. I guess it was just second nature for me. By the age of six I was singing on the adult choir as well. Every time there was an opportunity to sing a solo, I was always given a song along with the direction to "girl bless the church with your voice". Gospel music will always be a part of me, I first understood the power of music via the delivering of music in church, I always felt so accomplished and warmed when watching people moved while I sang. I actually first thought about being an exclusive gospel artist, but decided my true desire was to venture out as an RnB artist, but do know my music will always be grounded by my gospel roots.

Influenced by Jill Scott, Erykah Badu, Alicia Keys, Adele, Aaliyah, John Legend

and the jazz great Nina Simone. Wow.

Explain how that has attributed to your style.

I love music that clearly gives a message, you know you hear the song and you say to yourself "I know what you're talking about", The artists that have influenced me the most, are the type of artists delivering a type of groove that makes you think your sitting back listening to a story being told by a close friend or family member. You know the kind of message that says this is life....be it my world or your world, life is still the same... a cycle of laughter and tears. Jill Scott and Erykah Badu I love because they have this crazy ability to turn poetry into music that gives energy to the mind and spirit. The same goes for Keys, Aaliyah, Adele, and Legend, they all have their own signature sound and style and yet a similar uniqueness in the ability to make you chill out, lay back and just breathe in their music. That's my dream, I want my listeners to escape through my songs and be able to not just "hear" a great beat, but also "feel" the message of the lyrics. My style of music has no boundaries, sometimes I'm in a jazzy mood and like Nina Simone, would prefer to tell you a story from a low pitch sultry angle of pure emotions, I can also switch it up on the mood and give you a light airy vibe that is pure upbeat and fun. One thing for sure, my style is pretty versatile, but my music will always have a continuous message....Life is living and Living is Life!

What is your upcoming project, titled VIBE is about, in your own words?

VIBE is all about taking time to relax and reflect. I'm young, but trust I know what being stretched beyond your emotional and physical limits feel like. I'm still in school and often feel stressed when trying to keep good grades while simultaneously being on a musical grind.

When I wrote VIBE, I was in a burnt out mood, and was feeling some type of way...so I picked up the pen and the words started to flow. I'm finding out quickly, that when emotions run high, words flow fast. I got to the hook which is "can I vibe for a minute", and said that's the message. Let's VIBE for a minute everybody and take time to bathe in the beauty of living despite our struggles. Pure and simple, sometimes we need to chill and take a vacation, and if we can't take a cruise, why not escape with the positive images we create in our minds.

I want my listeners to hear VIBE and know that they have some control over the chaos that sometimes comes with everyday problems. VIBE a song simply encouraging relaxation and inner peace. **You used three powerful words when it comes to describing music: Freedom, Passion, and Expression. Share with our readers why you feel that way about this amazing gift that you have.**

First and foremost, we have to remember music is an art form. My personal belief for any art form is that the individual creating the art has to do so with Freedom, Passion and Expression.

Freedom, means you don't hold back or limit yourself. When I create my music I always want the element of freedom to shine through. I write and sing what I feel on the inside, I never want my music to be based on the limitations that the world may want to box a 16 year old in. So with that being said, freedom is definitely a key element when it comes to music.

Passion means you put your whole heart in your art form. Music without passion is like a garden without flowers. My passion for music came early due to my church back ground,

singing in church really helped me to see how strong music can be. I've always been passionate when it comes to my music, music is such a big part of me, the passion in my songs has always been about my desire to surface emotions in self and others.

Expression is your uniqueness to your craft. My voice and self-written lyrics are the instruments of my expression. The two control or

better stated drive and secure the Ahree brand. Though I have been influenced by many artists, I have a sound and style that is all of my own. I'm not trying to sound like, or look like anyone other than myself. The industry is always going to compare and contrast me to other artists, and that's okay, as long as I remember to stay true to self and above all believe in self.

What is your thoughts on the state of R&B today?

Anyone that you consider a fav?

I believe that R&B today is extremely versatile, which is actually a great thing to see happen as music evolves. I'm also starting to see new artists coming from everywhere and it amazes me to see everyone's individuality and creativity showing through their artistry. Also, I love that the 90's feel of music is starting to come back into style which is exciting to me since I am a big fan of 90's music. One of my favorite new artists today is Alessia Cara, she is a young new artist with a jazzy Urban-Pop type of vibe that reminds me of my own style.

Several years from now, Ahree will be..... Still singing, still creating great music, still singing about life, still making people "feel" music But hopefully a household name and contender in the industry

“sometimes we need to chill and take a vacation, and if we can't take a cruise, why not escape with the positive images we create in our minds.”

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Curly's

Shkethia Young

Located next to Junkanoo Beach in

Nassau Bahamas is every seafood lover's heaven, the "Fish Fry Strip". The Fish Fry Strip is a collection of shabby restaurants all with the common theme of fried seafood. One particular fish fry eatery that stood out amongst the many was Curly's Restaurant and Bar. Curly's serves not only as a fish fry eatery but also as a local internet café. The two story building houses a bar downstairs where locals gather to watch the latest sports and enjoy popular Bahamian drinks such as gin and coconut water. Upstairs the restaurant is sectioned off into two rooms designated for eating and web browsing. The restaurant is plagued with colorful beach memorabilia and local alcohol advertisements. Upon arriving to my table I was greeted with the aroma of fresh fish frying, a complimentary ice cold Bahama Mama and a cheerful waiter. After reviewing the colorful menu I timidly opted for the grouper snack due to the waiter assuring me my hunger pains would be silenced by the bountiful meal. While anticipating my grouper snack pack I satisfied my social media addiction by taking advantage of the free wifi provided for restaurant customers. My eyes gleamed with ex-



citement as the waiter approached my table with a large dish of piping hot crispy grouper strips. The aroma of fresh fish surrounded the table as I admired the wonderful meal. The flavorful fish was accompanied by a mound of sweet tasting plantains and a block of cheesy macaroni. The sweet Bahama punch complimented the savory meal to the max. Curly's definitely offers an all-around Bahamian experience full of flavor for a great price.



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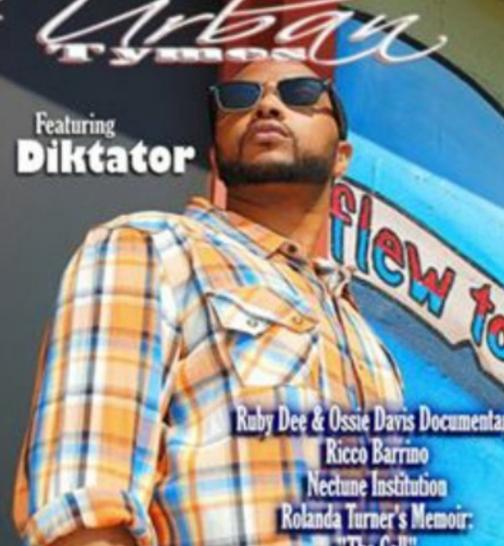
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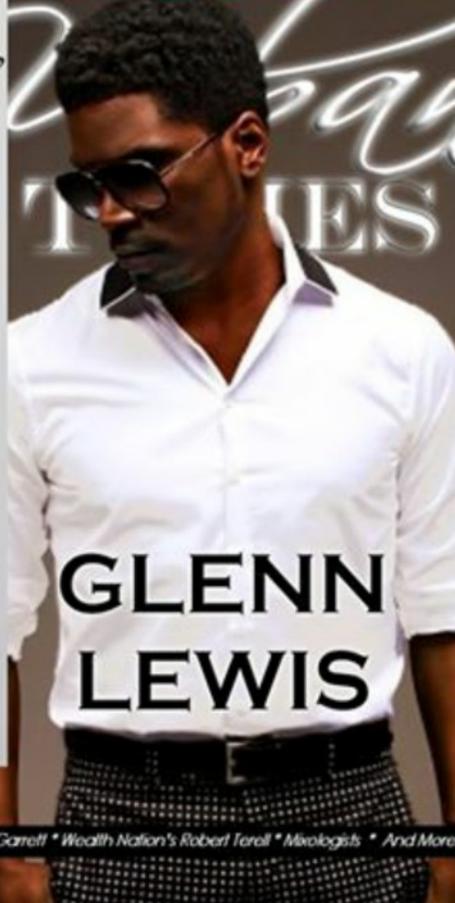
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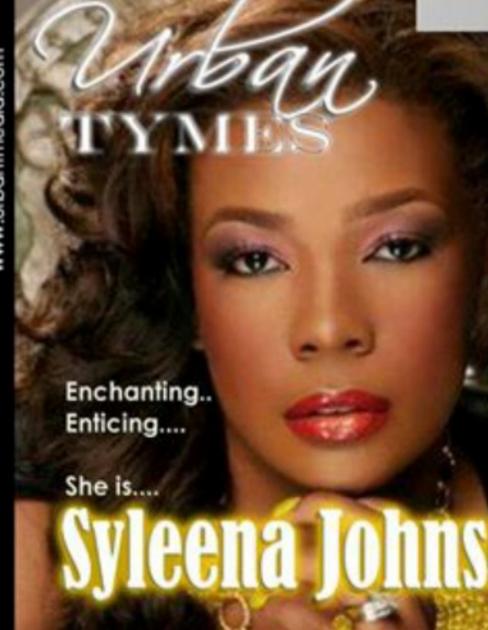
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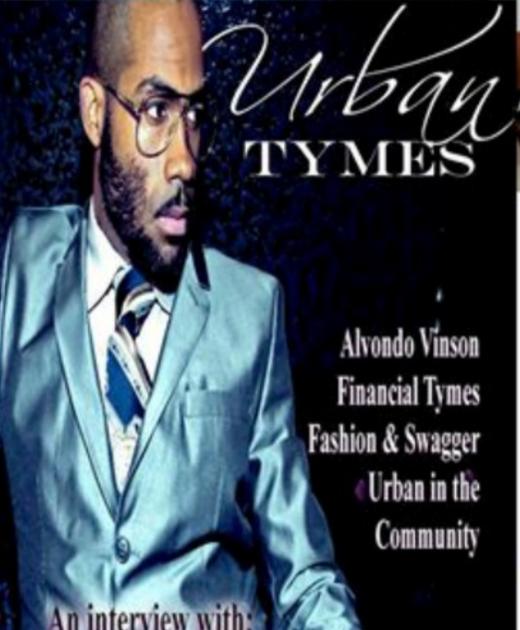
Enchanting..
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She is....
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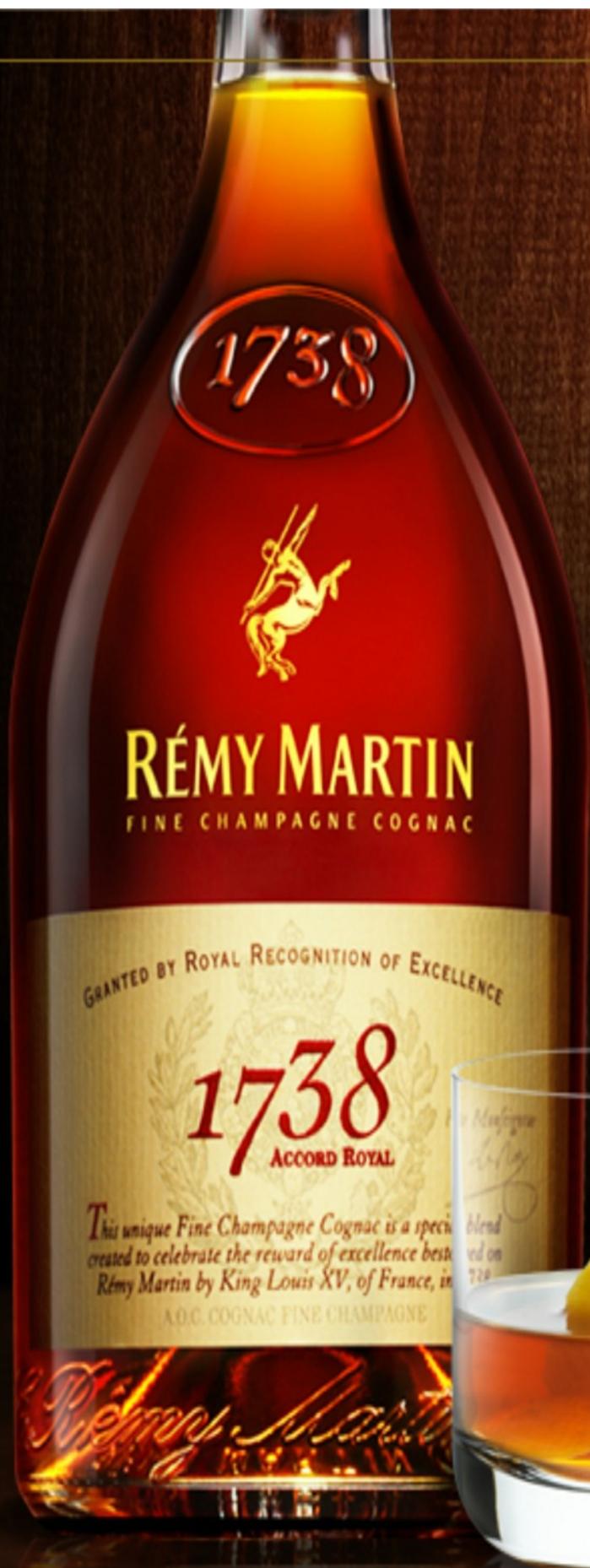
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