



Straight from the Pad

Monthly e-newsletter from Author K. R. Raye



May 2022 Edition

THIS MONTH'S RECAP

May's always busy with birthdays and US celebrations for Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Add in author events, and you have a chock-full month of activities. As a reminder, if you would still like to **get a free e-book copy of *The Colors of Friendship* to review**, please click the link to receive your copy before time's up, <https://booksirens.com/book/SD2K8KR/N2CRB3D>.

First, I moderated the 8th Annual Youth Writers Showcase for the Black Writers' Guild of Maryland. What a delight seeing the next generation of talented eight- to fifteen-year-olds commanding the written language and beyond!

Next, I joined a powerhouse lineup of African American authors in the 18th Annual Cavalcade of Authors Spring Fling hosted by Naleighna Kai and Stephanie Freeman. The weekend featured *New York Times* Bestselling Authors: Brenda Jackson, Kimberla Lawson Roby, Mary B. Morrison, Victoria Christopher Murray, and a host of other talented writers. I thoroughly enjoyed participating on the Romance panel with Brenda Jackson, Michelle Lindo-Rice, J. L. Campbell, Reese Ryan, Florenza Lee, Kathy Douglass, and Solsire E. Felida. The rest of the panels (Inspirational/Self-

Help, Erotica, Historical, Mystery/Thriller/Suspense, and Paranormal/Sci-Fi, plus Sunday's workshops) were, rip-roaring fun, too! 😊

Then I ended the month with a delightful Write All About It Mondays Instagram interview (my first on IG!) with Teena Elle and fellow author Jade Alexis. I also had a mini-interview published with *Like No Other Greek* where they asked "[What does legacy mean to you as a sorority member?](#)" and I happily represented my wonderful Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's where you can find me next month for book events, speaking presentations, or interviews:

06/02-05: NY Pitch Conference

06/08: Books & Beyond – Interview on Clubhouse

06/16: Brightview Avondell – Speaker

06/18: 4th Annual Great Midwest Book Fest - Interview

05/07: Youth Writer's Showcase – BWG

05/23: Write All About It Mondays

Before I sign off, here's the latest news on the upcoming book that my son and I wrote together. As we mentioned last time, we got accepted to the 4-day NY Pitch Conference which starts Thursday. Please say a prayer and wish us luck as this event can help us get a literary agent (hurdle one in landing a traditional publishing deal).

That's it for this month. Keep scrolling to see my book reviews.

BOOK REVIEWS

One of the things that jumpstarted my writing career was reading. In 2021, I read over 40 books. Since "sharing is caring," I'm sharing short reviews of two books that I read last year in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Hopefully, you can find your next reads. Enjoy!

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee



Moving family epic

4 of 5 Stars

This National Book Award Finalist follows four generations of a Korean family living displaced in Japan but never quite fitting in. This sweeping saga covers the heartaches and triumphs as the family tries to fit in and survive obstacle after crippling obstacle. We're watching it on Apple streaming services now to see how it compares to the beautiful book.



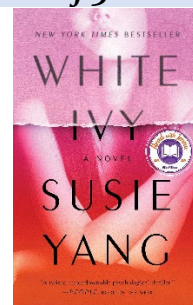
White Ivy by Susie Yang



Chinese Disillusionment

2 of 5 Stars

I know you're not supposed to hate a book solely due to the main character, but I can't help myself. Although it's well written, I hated this book! *White Ivy* follows a detestable young Chinese girl into womanhood as she fails to understand why she does the horrible things she does for "love", acceptance, and family. It's supposed to be an Asian take on the *Talented Mr. Ripley* but I just could not sympathize with Ivy at all. Please feel free to read it and let me know your thoughts as this is a *New York Times* bestseller and "Read with Jenna" book selection.



To ensure you never miss one of my book reviews, [see past reviews on my website](#) and follow me on [BookBub](#), [Goodreads](#), and [LibraryThing](#).

Happy Reading and catch you next month!

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