



Straight from the Pad

Monthly e-newsletter from Author K. R. Raye



Welcome to the August 2014 issue of Straight from the Pad

What a wonderful whirlwind year since the release of my first novel, *The Colors of Friendship* on August 13, 2013! As usual, it's been a busy month, so let's catch you up on the latest.

We started the month in Atlanta. First we attended Ella Curry's Chocolate Social, an award ceremony and dinner that celebrated the best in the African-American, literary world. As some of you already heard, the next three days were spent enjoying the National Book Club Conference...meeting book club members, connecting with Facebook friends, and learning about new authors and books. One of the most hilarious moments started with Hill Harper bounding off the stage to scour the crowd of NBCC attendees for a physicist. When he couldn't find one, he asked us who had taken a physics class.

Now, I figured I'd taken AP Physics in high school and Physics I, II, and III during my mechanical engineering studies in college, so I confidently raised my hand along with a smattering of other folks. At first, when he picked me out of the crowd, all went well. He asked, "e equals?" and I quickly answered, "mc squared" along with a chorus of others. Then he asked my name which I replied, "K. R.," but he didn't quite hear me clearly, so he glanced over to look at my name tag.

Now, having this intense, ball of energy that close scrutinizing me unnerved me a bit, but I was still fine. Once he ascertained my name, he stepped back and asked, "Now K. R., can you explain what $e=mc^2$ means, starting with the e?" As I prepared my response, Hill leaned in close to hear my answer, placed his hand on my shoulder, and...my mind just blanked.

In the speed of light, my mass lost every bit of energy! In my defense, many others admitted that if Hill Harper's intense, ballroom-filling vivacity were laser focused all on them, they would have lost it, too! However, I managed to mutter, "energy, mass, and Einstein," before confessing that I couldn't link together a coherent thought because of his overwhelming presence. Luckily, he helped a sister out by demonstrating Einstein's Theory of Relativity on the chair behind me. And we were all able to respond that it takes energy to force a mass to move. Well, needless to say, once Hill bounded his intelligent, intense, charismatic, fine self back up on stage, I immediately remembered that e =energy, m =mass, and c =speed of light. And hopefully, you'll recall it now, too!

Next, [The Book Divas On Tour](#), B.Swangin Webster, Dee Lawrence, and I, shared the stage with guest Diva, Puja Guha at Sharon Harper's The Barber Lounge for Men in Waldorf, MD. What a fun-filled night of sharing, laughs, and wine! Speaking of wine, by the time you read this, FLOfest will be over, but stay tuned for September's newsletter to learn more. In the meantime, [view the photos](#).

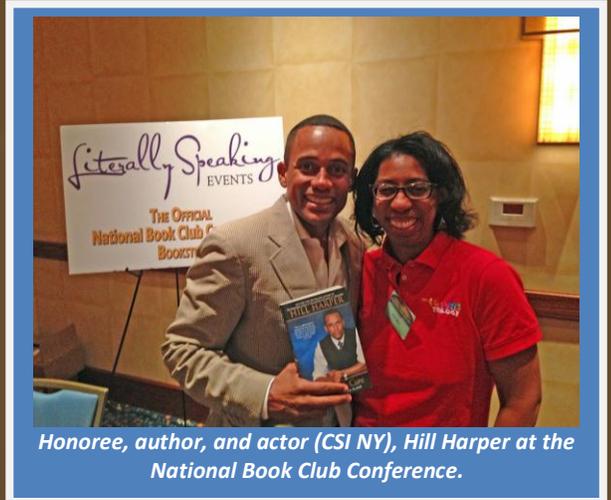
Thanks again for your strong support. It's been an amazing year. Until next month, Happy Reading!

K. R. Raye

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Honoree, author, and actor (CSI NY), Hill Harper at the National Book Club Conference.

Upcoming Events

September 1:	FLO Fest	Washington , DC	September 26-28:	Baltimore Book Festival	Baltimore , MD
September 4:	Interview with Dr. Afshan Hashmi	Online	October 10-12:	Creatures, Crimes & Creativity (C3)	Hunt Valley, MD
September 16:	Perryville Library Presentation	Perryville , MD	October 18-19:	Black Authors and Readers Rock	New Carrollton, MD