



Straight from the Pad

Monthly e-newsletter from Author K. R. Raye



April 2022 Edition

THIS MONTH'S RECAP

April started with a bang, thrusting me right back into the mix with author events. First, I gave a "Goal Setting Your Way to Publication" presentation to members of the Facebook group, Black Girls Write, Too. What a delightful collection of talented writers and authors. We had so much fun that our Q&A session continued for 1 ½ hours after the presentation ended!

Next up, I tweaked the same presentation for my Harford Writers' Group (HWG). It was another successful event and it's quite fun getting to know everyone better. The following day we continued bonding as some of us teamed up with other local authors for the 1st Annual Book Fair at Brightview Avondell. It's a beautiful place and we enjoyed touring around and mingling with the residents.

Speaking of bonding, the Book Divas On Tour (BDOT) reunited (and it felt so good)! It seemed like no time had passed as we cracked up and reconnected. [Catch our interview on the BSW Show hosted by B. Swangin Webster](#). To close out the month, some of our HWG members set up booths at the Lockhouse Craft Beer and Wine Festival in lovely Havre de Grace, MD for another delightful time!

Here's the latest news on the upcoming book that my son and I wrote together. We got accepted to the NY Pitch Conference in June. Fingers crossed that this event will help us on our path to getting a literary agent. In the meantime, we're slowly writing the sequel. 😊

Finally, in preparation for the marketing push this summer, I'm requesting book reviews. If you would like to **review *The Colors of Friendship* by May 25th**, please click the link for your free copy, <https://booksirens.com/book/SD2K8KR/N2CRB3D>. If you already read it in the past, please leave a quick, honest review on the retail platform of your choice: [Amazon](#), [Goodreads](#), etc. Thank you!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

05/07: Black Writers' Guild (BWG) - Youth Showcase - Moderator

05/13: 18th Annual Cavalcade of Authors Spring Fling - Romance Panelist



04/23: Lockhouse Craft Beer and Wine Festival



The BSW Show- hosted by B. Swangin Webster

04/18: BDOT Reunion Interview



04/08: 1st Annual Avondell Book Fair

BOOK REVIEWS

One of the things that jumpstarted my writing again was reading. I've always been an avid reader since I was three. Well, during my author hiatus, I stopped reading! In January 2021 as soon as I began reading again, the writing bug kicked back in full swing. I wound up reading over 40 books last year. Since I believe in the "sharing is caring" principle, I decided to share what I read with you as a short book review. Hopefully, you can find your next reads. Enjoy!

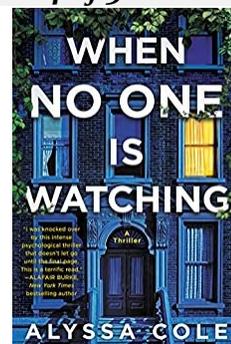
When No One Is Watching by Alyssa Cole



Gripping thriller about gentrification

4 of 5 Stars

I'm so delighted I read this Book Club Pick! Gentrification of a Brooklyn neighborhood takes on a sinister new meaning in this gripping thriller best described as *Rear Window* meets *Get Out*. When Sydney's longtime neighbors start to move away suddenly, she thinks she's going crazy. Is she or is there something really wrong in her neighborhood?



Bridgerton: The Duke & I by Julia Quinn



Light, pithy rom-com

3.5 of 5 Stars

In all honesty, I'm not a fan of historical romances typically because of the limited role of women and the lack of diversity. So, I knew what to expect going into the first of Julia Quinn's Bridgerton novels. Overall, it's a light, pithy rom-com with snappy dialogue and fun chemistry between the main characters, Daphne and Simon. However, throughout the book, I kept thinking that it's cute but it fails to live up to the sizzling, captivating Shonda Rhimes treatment seen on Netflix. An unfair comparison I'm sure, but I hope it urges authors to think bold, push the envelope, and write more inclusively in the future.



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!

Follow K. R. Raye on:

BookBub – <https://www.bookbub.com/profile/k-r-raye>

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/KRRaye13>

Goodreads – https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7160771.K_R_Raye

LibraryThing – <https://www.librarything.com/profile/krraye>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/KRRaye>

Website – <https://krraye.com/>