

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

KERN CARTER: WRITING COMMUNITY

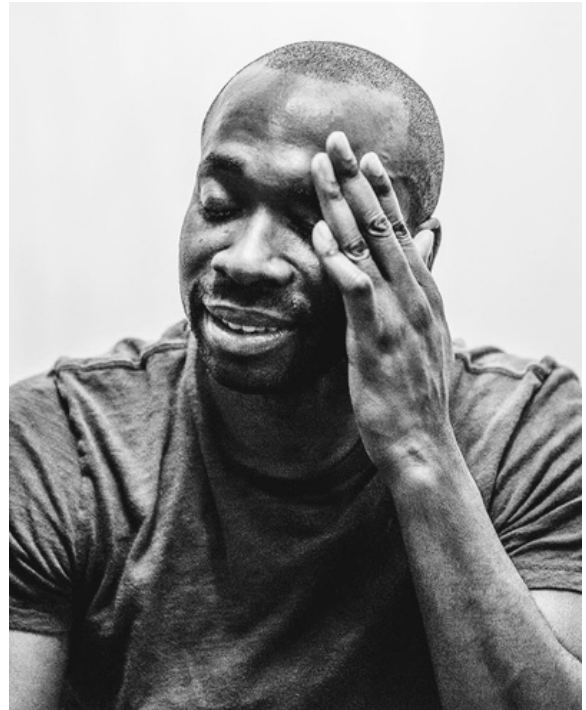
Each year come February, we appreciate and celebrate Black History Month, focusing on the rich heritage and historical achievements of Black Canadians.

While looking back at Black Canadians' contributions in our past is integral to celebrating Black History, it is equally important to recognize and support those who are making their mark right now, like Toronto-based author and educator Kern Carter.

Named by the CBC as one of six Black Canadian Writers to Watch in 2023, Carter is the author of three Young Adult novels--*Thoughts on a Fractured Soul*, *Beauty Scars*, and *Boys and Girls Screaming*. With two more books awaiting publication in 2024, Carter has not only established himself as a talented voice in Canadian literature, but also a dedicated educator and champion for aspiring writers.

Having started his writing career as an indie author, self-publishing his first two novels, Carter understands and empathizes with the challenges new writers face both creatively, and professionally.

From getting ideas onto the page, to pitching manuscripts to potential publishers, to building and engaging a readership, navigating the world of professional writing can be both fraught and rewarding--a duality Carter does not shy away from.



Kern Carter

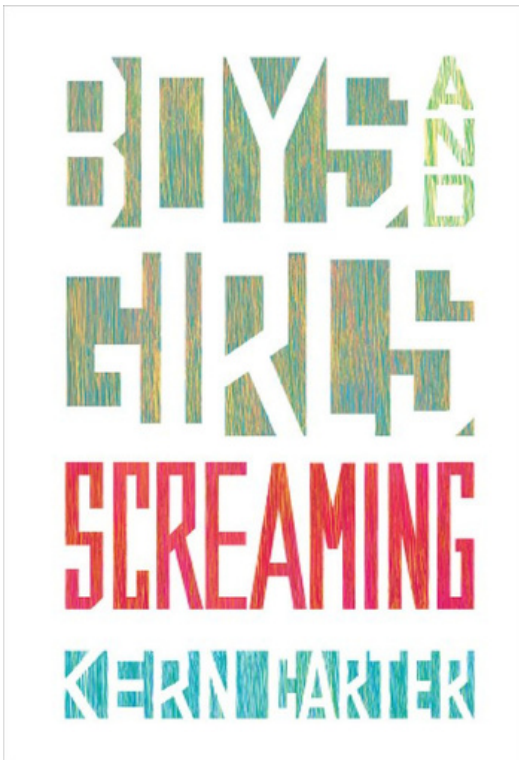
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IN A 2020-2021 SURVEY OF THE WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA, LESS THAN 20% OF CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL WRITERS IDENTIFIED AS BIPOC, A LACK OF DIVERSITY WHICH WAS SIMILARLY NOTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN PUBLISHERS, WHO REPORTED THAT ONLY 25% OF PUBLISHING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS IN 2022 IDENTIFIED AS BIPOC.

Drawing from his own experience, and leaning into his vulnerability, Carter dedicates himself to nurturing and supporting writers at whatever stage in their career they find themselves. Offering workshops and keynotes to secondary and postsecondary students, as well as emerging writers, Carter acknowledges the highs and lows of trying to make a living as a writer, and encourages students to tap into and explore those emotions.

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Boys and Girls Screaming, 2022

Central to Carter's career as an educator and mentor is his commitment to building a sense of community for artists to explore their creativity and vulnerability. With an emphasis on conversation and interaction in his workshops, Carter fosters a supportive environment that allows writers to tap into their emotions, engage fellow writers, and rely on one another.

The importance of community is not only an essential component of Carter's work as an educator, but also his fiction, as his most recently published novel, *Boys and Girls Screaming*, follows a group of teens who join together to deal with their trauma collectively. For Carter, community in every facet of literature is key.

JOIN THE KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY ON **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND FROM 7-8PM FOR A VIRTUAL VISIT WITH CARTER TO HEAR MORE ABOUT *BOYS AND GIRLS SCREAMING*, THE CREATIVE PROCESS, AND HIS CAREER AS A WRITER. SIGN UP AT WWW.KINGLIBRARY.CA TO ATTEND THE FREE VIRTUAL MEETING.**