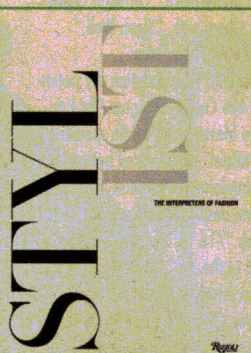


Stylist: The Interpreters of Fashion

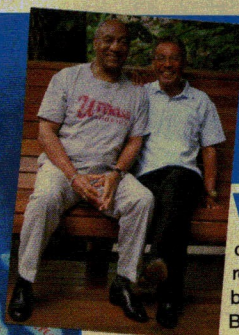
By: Style.com; Foreword by Anna Wintour;
Text by Sarah Mower
Rizzoli New York
\$75



Underground pop sensation Beth Ditto once said, "Fashion is a product, but style is a way of life. You can't buy style, it's an instinct." Perhaps she couldn't foresee that the creative thinkers of Style.com would soon tap into their fashionable instincts to release the highly anticipated must-have book of the New Year—*Stylist: The Interpreters of Fashion*. In the world of style, there are the "faces" that represent the fashion, followed by a crop of pioneering luminaries who interpret the fashion—the stylists. These behind-the-scenes visionaries are responsible for bringing all things "vogue" to fruition. Organized by Art director Raul Martinez, 16 of these diverse "visual provocateurs" are showcased and celebrated in this ginormous, glossy hardcover book. You'll overdose on these 200 pages of unabridged, uncut and unadulterated style.

Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors

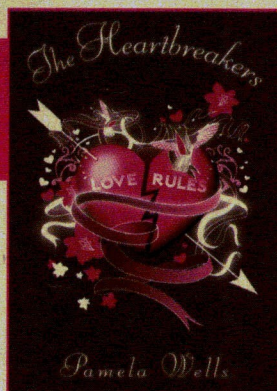
By: Bill Cosby, Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D.
Thomas Nelson
\$25.99



What do you get when you take one of the best-selling comedian's of all time and place him alongside one of the world's most renowned psychiatrists? The making of a novel concept that is bound to help families and children all over the world, that's what! Bill Cosby teams up with Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint for the inspirational and innovative book, *Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors*. Offering real-life examples, and key messages for everyone from parents to children, *Come On People* explores the root problems of broken family homes. The book also addresses the accompanying socially hindering emotions including low self-esteem, anger, fearfulness, and others. Come on people, it's only right you take a step in the right direction and add this book to your self-help collection!

The Heartbreakers

By: Pamela Wells
Scholastic
\$16.99



Mariah Carey said it best in *Heartbreaker*, "...Heartbreaker you've got the best of me...I should have known right from the start, you'd go and break my heart." Like Mariah's determination to get over her ex, Raven, Kelly, Sydney and Alexia are equally unwavering in their mission to go from heartbroken to actual heartbreakers. Though Raven, Kelly and Sydney, have all recently ended ties with their beaus at Birch Falls High Alexia, the fourth BFF has never even had a boyfriend, so she's ecstatic that her friends have all gone solo. In the midst of the post-breakup drama, Alexia takes on the role of head BFF in charge as she leads the girls in compiling a list of do's and don'ts, and various ways to get over a break-up. In the end, the girls prove that yes, sometimes love sucks, but getting over a break-up doesn't have to!

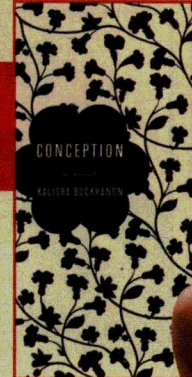
Race: A History Beyond Black And White

By: Marc Aronson
Atheneum/Simon & Schuster
\$18.99

"I think that young people are cheated out of getting the best, most interesting, thinking about our world because adults either talk over them or under them," says Marc Aronson, noted speaker, historian and author of the new book *Race: A History Beyond Black And White*. In an effort to talk directly with young readers, Marc explores the various historical themes of racism and racial prejudice throughout history. From detailing the racial motivations behind slavery in ancient civilization and the Holocaust to bringing his own personal life experiences about dealing with prejudice to the forefront, Marc delivers a fact-based account of race and racism. Readers, young and old, will open up to discover a world beyond fiction.

Conception

By: Kalisha Buckhanon
St. Martin's Press
\$21.95



Teen pregnancy is a hard pill to swallow. And it's even harder when you're the one experiencing it. Unfortunately, for 15-year-old Shivana, it's a reality that she's come to unwillingly accept. In Shivana's world, history is definitely repeating itself. Her mother gave birth to her as a teen, and now she's pregnant by a married man. Fearful of ending up a single "bitter, lonely woman," Shivana dreams of leaving Chicago, and breaking the miserable cycle of the past. After meeting Rasul, the new kid on the block, Shivana remains hopeful that teen motherhood will not define the rest of her life and decides to take charge and get a hold of her "unraveling world." Author Kalisha Buckhanon delves into the inspirations behind the new read, and takes us back on a journey through time dishing on the making of her first young adult novel, *Upstate*.



Q&A

Q. Teen pregnancy is one of the main topics explored in your second novel, *Conception*. What was the inspiration behind bringing the story of 15-year-old Shivana to life?

A. My own mother had me when she was 15. It was interesting to examine life from a perspective that was close to hers, which is not something daughters are very good at. I think of the wonderful life I've been given and it's hard to know that I may not have had it if my mother had made a different, difficult decision. I wanted to explore the idea of the potential inside every Black child.

Q. What are your overall thoughts on real life teen pregnancy among girls who come from broken homes, such as Shivana?

A. Every life is valuable, and a young woman should be given the proper support and resources so that the child does not suffer. Why should the child be disadvantaged because its parents were not prepared? Not that we should stop trying to prevent this among young women until they are in a position to start a family, [but] this is about suspending judgment and acknowledging that we all have a right to be here.

Q. In *Upstate* and *Conception*, you captured the voice of inner-city youth. How do you manage to achieve such an authentic tone?

A. I love to write Black English because I grew up hearing it. It was the only language I knew for a very long time. I love conversation, talking to people and really listening. When I am writing a person talking, that's really when I see them as most alive in my head. I appreciate the subtle nuances in how we all speak. I love to really show that with my characters, and not care if everyone doesn't understand it or thinks it's dumb. I just call it as I hear it.

Q. You also focus on young relationships in both novels. What's the appeal of telling a story through a young person's eyes as opposed to telling it from an adult's perspective?

A. There really wasn't much appeal for that from me, especially after *Upstate*, but it's just how it played out. The story is about a young girl, sexuality, coming of age, pregnancy, love, maturity [and] a mother-daughter relationship. Those are very intimate topics and it would have been hard to tell it from a distance, or through anyone's voice but the main subject who was experiencing it all. I don't want to spoil anything, but you actually might want to reconsider whether the perspective is adult or not! —Aishah Alassan

COME ON PEOPLE
ON THE PATH FROM VICTIMS TO VICTORS
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