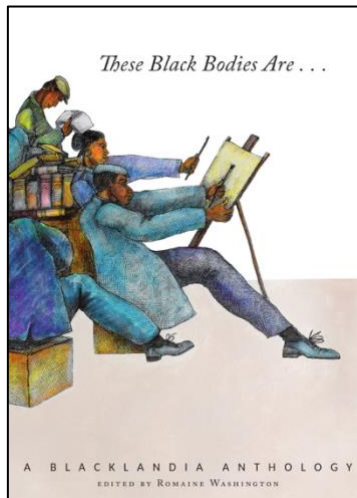


THESE BLACK BODIES ARE... (TBBA)



THE BACK STORY: Presented with the opportunity to create a “Black Lives Matters” anthology is a dream come true. I wanted to provide opportunities for local writers and artists to be published, so I went to the first place that gave my writing and voice a chance to be heard when I was a teenager, New Hope Missionary Baptists Church in San Bernardino. I offered a writing workshop and some of those participants are in the collection.

I curated the anthology by soliciting the work of creative friends, posting on social media, and Submittable. I told contributors that I was looking for poetry about the Black experience and it could be under any topic. I watched the anthology create itself as I gathered, sifted, sorted, and labeled. I was discovering a living, breathing jigsaw puzzle that went from being a “Black Experience” anthology to affirming, *These Black Bodies Are...*

WHY THIS TITLE: *These Black Bodies* lets the reader know that the book is a collection of writing about being “Black,” but “These” is a limiting word and lets the reader know that it is not “the” authoritative voice for “all” Black people. “Bodies” is a more individual concrete autonomous idea than the word “people”, this speaks to the unique voices and experiences that are expressed in the collection. Finally, the verb *Are*, is vibrant and living, and the ellipsis at the end points toward the expectation of actions of the living.

WHY SOMEONE WOULD WANT TO READ IT:

Breadth and depth of content would be one of many reasons to read this collection. There are eight category titles with complimentary themes where we can hear an array of lived experiences. **1. Hopeful**, **2. Mystical:** *Black speculative fiction and poetry*, **3. Mindful:** *Mental health*, **4. Enlightened:** *Education*, **5. Bodacious:** *Beauty*, **6. Bearing Witness:** *Social Justice*, **7. Eclectic:** *The human condition*, and **8. Transforming:** *Lives in transition*. There are varying degrees of writing expertise to appeal to a wide range of people with different degrees of literary and artistic backgrounds. In other words, hopefully, there is a nugget of something to feed anyone looking to be fed.

WHERE TO BUY IT: [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) and [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com) online

PRICE: Between \$27.99 - \$30.00