

SIRENS IN HER BELLY



THE BACK STORY: I use this book as a testament to the power of writing workshops. It was in a workshop that someone heard my poetry and suggested that I put together a manuscript and submit it.

WHY THIS TITLE: Sometimes we experience something that hits us deeply in the gut and ripples through our entire body. Those are our sirens – warnings – either from lessons learned or about to be learned. Sometimes we hear them clearly and our actions are incomprehensible to those around us and sometimes they are so subtle we wonder if they were there at all and it is only the aftermath of the experience that lets us know, indeed we had sirens in our belly.

WHY SOMEONE WOULD WANT TO READ IT: *Sirens in Her Belly* gives voice to the marginalized, from the muffled and imprisoned cries of abused women to mothers who are seldom seen and heard, from the intimate yet political experience of a black woman and her hair to the lively celebration of a black girl's name. Victims of police brutality and murdered black boys wail as we stand beside them roused to effect change. Sirens is a rallying cry for us to listen and act.

REVIEW COMMENTS: Washington's book of poetry zeros in on the unique challenges women face in our modern world and does it with unwavering strength.
- [Brit Middleton](#), BET Editor

AUTHOR COMMENTS: Here are two of the many fears I wrestled with in the process of having this collection published. Will anyone read it and if they do, will it be well received? When the BET editor put it on her top-ten must-read books for 2016, it was a great encouragement. When a fellow teacher said she wanted to teach the book in her classroom I was grateful I pushed past my fears.

SAMPLE POEM: (Provide link). [Jazz](#)

LOCAL OUTLETS: Jamii Publishing

WHERE ELSE TO BUY IT: Amazon, Bookshop.org

PRICE: \$15.00