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## EDUCATION

- M.F.A.** University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014, Creative Writing, Fiction  
Thesis: *The Talented Tenth* (a novel); thesis advisor Jesse Lee Kercheval
- Ph.D.** University of California-Los Angeles, 2003, Folklore and Mythology  
Dissertation: *Mobility in America: The Myth of the Frontier and the Performance of National Culture at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893*
- M.F.A.** New York University's TISCH School of the Arts, 1995, Dramatic Writing  
Thesis: *Chocolate Royale* (a play); thesis advisor, Venable Herndon
- B.A.** Princeton University, 1993, English with concentrations in Creative Writing and African American Studies; graduated with honors.  
Senior Thesis: *Black Out* (a novella); thesis advisor, Toni Morrison

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Last Suspicious Hold Out* (short story collection), HarperCollins in US and UK, 2022

*The Rib King* (novel), HarperCollins in US and UK, 2021

*The Talented Ribkins* (novel) Melville House in U.S. and U.K. 2017; Belfond in France, 2020; Paralelo 13 in Brazil, 2021

### Short Fiction

"Tupperware" *Fictionable*, Summer 2022 (online)

"Flip Lady," *Electric Literature*, Recommended Reading Series, March 16, 2022 (online)

"Yams" *Berlin Journal*, Fall 2021, no. 35 (reprint)

"Five People Who Crave Sauce," *Oxford American*, Summer 2021, Issue 113

"Camila Pitanga" *Revista Pessoa*, Sept. 26, 2020 (online- Portuguese translation by Katia Santos)

"It's Not Locked Because It Don't Lock," *Tampa Bay Noir*, Akashic Noir Series, Akashic Books, 2020

"Bitch: An Etymology of Family Values," *Transition Magazine*, 2019, Issue 128

"Yams" *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Summer 2018, vol. 92, no. 4

"False Cognates," *Guernica Magazine* March 26, 2018

"Paulie Sparks," *Copper Nickel Journal*, Spring 2018, issue 26

"The Night Nurses," *Callaloo Journal*, Fall, 2016, vol. 39, no. 4

"Camila Pitanga" *Beloit Fiction Journal*, Spring 2016, vol. 29, p. 57-61

"There He Go" *Rosebud Magazine*, Summer 2013, issue 55, p. 116-119

"Trash," *Crab Orchard Review*, Fall 2011 , vol. 16 no. 2, p. 92-100

"Incatrizal," *Kill Author!* August 2011 (online)

"Always More," *Sein Und Werden*, July 2011 (online)

"The Last Woman," *The MacGuffin Magazine*, Winter, 2010 vol. 27, no. 2 p. 111-121

"Flowers"/"To Jenn" *Neon Magazine*, Spring, 2010, vol. 1 no.22 p. 9-10

"Wild Man," *Prick of the Spindle* literary journal, Fall, 2009 (online)

"Flip Lady," *G.U.D. Magazine*, Spring 2009, Issue 4, p.19-36

"Colossus 1953," *Rhino Poetry*, 2009

"There," *Sleeping Fish* issue ZZZ, 2008, p.38-40

### **Selected Nonfiction**

"How the Sauce is Made," *Wildham Field Guides: Gulf Coast*, Wildsam Publishing, June 7, 2021; (reprinted in *Oxford American.com* July 19, 2021)

"Darkness in the City of Light," (book review of *The Stone Face* by William Gardner Smith), *Times Literary Supplement*, October 15, 2021

"Doing the Heavy Lifting," (book review of *Three Mothers* by Anna Malaika Tubbs), *Times Literary Supplement*, March 19, 2021

"Writing the Story of Aunt Jemima's Modern Descendant," *Lit Hub*, January 21, 2021

"Siri, End Racism," (book review of *Race After Technology* by Ruha Benjamin), *Times Literary Supplement*, December 20, 2019

"Toni Morrison: Extraordinary—but not an exception," (film review of *The Pieces of Me*), *Times Literary Supplement*, August 14, 2019

"Daughters of Africa," (book review of *Daughters of Africa* anthology edited by Margaret Busby), *Times Literary Supplement*, May 10, 2019

"Exceptions, Projections, Contradictions," (film review of *Green Book*), *Times Literary Supplement*, February 22, 2019

"Arts of the Year 2018," (film review of *Sorry to Bother You*) *Times Literary Supplement*, December 18, 2018

"Innocence as Crime," (book review of *The Fire This Time* anthology edited by Jessmyn Ward) *Times Literary Supplement*, October 26, 2018

"The Living is Uneasy: Music, Medicine and the Culture of New Orleans," (film review of *One Note at a Time*) *Times Literary Supplement*, October 5, 2018

"Juvenile's 'Ha'," *64 Parishes*, Fall 2018, Issue 1

"Mafolie Hill," *Arkansas International*, Spring 2018, Issue 4, p.51-53

"Why Do We Hide?" (film review of *Black Panther*) *Times Literary Supplement*, March 2, 2018

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

America Library in Paris, Scholar of Note, 2022

Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2022

Berlin Prize Fellowship, American Academy in Berlin, 2021

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship, Harvard University 2021-2022

Cullman Center Fellowship, New York Public Library 2021-2022 (declined)  
Camargo Foundation Core Program Fellowship, 2021  
Djerassi Foundation Fellowship, 2021  
Writer-in-the-Woods Fellowship, Center for the Study of the Gulf South, 2019-2020  
Zora Neale Hurston Fellowship, Jack Jones Literary Arts Retreat, 2019  
Millay Colony residential Fellowship, 2019  
MacDowell residential Fellowship, 2019  
Walter E. Dakin Fellowship, Sewanee Writers Conference, 2018  
Lit-Space Artist-in-Residence, 2018  
Writers at Omi residential Fellowship, 2018  
Rising Voices Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, 2017  
Sustainable Arts Foundation Promise Grant, 2017  
Sacatar Foundation fellowship, 2017  
Hedgebrook Residency Fellowship, 2017  
Hambidge Center Residency, 2015  
Alonzo S. Davis Fellowship, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, 2015  
Summer Literary Seminars Fellowship, 2010  
Napa Valley Writers Conference Fellowship, 2009  
Juniper Institute Fellowship, 2009  
*Callaloo* Creative Writers' Workshop Fellowship, 2008  
Hurston/Wright Foundation Fellowship, 2007

## LITERARY AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Fiction nominee, *The Rib King*, 2022

National Public Radio, "Book of the Day: The Last Suspicious Holdout", March 31, 2022

*Kirkus Review*, "Best Historical Fiction Books of the Year", *The Rib King*

*Book Riot*, "Best Books of 2021", *The Rib King*

*Time Magazine's* "100 Must-Read Books of 2021", *The Rib King*

Hurston/Wright Foundation Legacy Award for Debut Fiction, *The Talented Ribkins*, 2018

Crook's Corner Award for Debut Southern Fiction, *The Talented Ribkins*, (finalist) 2018

VCU-Cabell First Novel Award, *The Talented Ribkins*, (semi-finalist) 2018

*Kirkus Review*, "Best Fiction Books of the Year," *The Talented Ribkins*, 2017

Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, *The Talented Ribkins*, 2017

Indie-Next Pick, *The Talented Ribkins*, 2017

Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, 2016

Jeffrey E. Smith Editor's Prize, *Missouri Review*, for "False Cognates," (finalist) 2016

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, for "Camila Pitanga," (third place), 2015

Faulkner-Wisdom Creative Writing Award for the Novel, for *The Talented Tenth*, (first runner up), 2014

*Copper Nickel* Literary Competition, for "Trash", (finalist) 2010

Fish International Short Story Competition, for "Houston and the Blinking What", (finalist) 2010

Faulkner-Wisdom Creative Writing Award for the Short Story, for "Flip Lady," 2008

*Glimmer Train* Short Story Award for New Writers, for "Flip Lady," (finalist) 2008

## SELECTED READINGS AND APPEARANCES

Featured Speaker, FLIP International Literary Festival Paraty, Brazil, November 27, 2022

Featured Speaker, Schomburg Literary Festival, Schomburg Research Center, New York, NY, June 18, 2022

Featured Speaker, National Black Writer's Conference Roundtable: "Nobody Knows My Name: Race Relations in Black Literature" with Ibram X. Kendi and Kevin Powell, moderated by Karen Hunter, April 2, 2022

Featured Guest, *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, March 22, 2022

Featured Speaker, Literary Women of Long Beach Conference, Long Beach, California

Featured Author, "Lancamento do Livro *A Talentosa Familia Ribkins*", Boto-Cor-de-Rosa event, Salvador, Brazil, November 27, 2021

Featured Author, "Performances of Race and Historical Representation with Ana Paulina Lee," Columbia University Institute for Ideas and Imagination, Paris, France, November 22, 2021

Public Reading, Mary Ellen von Heyden Reading, "The Descendants: A Novel", American Academy in Berlin, Berlin, Germany, October 12, 2021

Public Reading, U.S. Embassy Literature Series, English Theatre, Berlin, Germany, October 7, 2021

Writer-in-Residence, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, March 2021

Featured Author, *Lockdown LitFest*, July 17, 2020

An Evening with the Author, Studio-in-the-Woods, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 22, 2020

Public Reading, American Library of Paris, Paris, France, September 18, 2019

Featured Reader, "Readings from Toni: A Night to Honor Toni Morrison", Southern Repertory Theatre, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 25, 2019

Featured Commentator, BBC Radio 4, *Front Row*, August 6, 2019

Panelist, 2019 National Conference of Black Writers, Center for Black Writers, New York, NY "Playwrights and Screenwriters at the Crossroads", March 23, 2019

Keynote Speaker, Women's Leadership Institute, Florida Atlantic University, March 15, 2019

Panelist, “Language of Racism and Intolerance,” Boxser Diversity Initiative, Sarasota, Florida, February 21, 2019

Public Reading, Lit Space Writer in Residence Reading, St. Petersburg, Florida, June 10, 2018

Public Reading, Table of Contents literary series, Brooklyn, New York, November 11, 2018

Public Reading, Festival of Words, Thibodeaux, Louisiana, October 28, 2018

Public Reading, Hurston-Wright Legacy Award Reading, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington, D.C., October 18, 2018

Public Reading, Sewanee Writers Conference, Sewanee, Tennessee, July 25, 2018

Public Reading, Pirates Alley Faulkner Society, New Orleans, LA, May 20, 2018

Panelist, “The Only Light We’ve Got in all this Darkness,” New Writing from Kimbilio Panel, AWP Conference, Tampa, Florida, February 17, 2018

Featured Guest, *Late Night with Seth Meyers Show*, NBC-TV, October 10, 2017

Public Reading, Boto Cor de Rosa Bookstore, Salvador, Brazil, May 14, 2017