

WELL-READ BLACK GIRL

CITYLIT PROJECT EVENT - AS PART OF LIT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Well-Read Black Girl's **Glory Edim** in Conversation with Baltimore's **Andria Nacina Cole, Jessica Solomon & Elissa Blount Moorhead**: *Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves* as part of **Lit Thursdays** at the Motor House.

Edim writes "*how important it is that we all—regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability—have the opportunity to find ourselves in literature.*"

CityLit Project has an Open Call to ALL attendees to write a 500-word narrative about their own experience finding themselves in literature, how it resonated in their lives, and how and if it affected their literary journeys. Some will be encouraged to share their journey at the event. All will be asked to submit for possible inclusion in a forthcoming chapbook by CityLit Press.

When: Thursday, November 15, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00pm

Where: The Motor House

The Theater

120 W. North Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21201

Tickets: \$5 online or at the door

Event Bookseller: **The Ivy Bookshop**

Books will be sold at a discounted price for attendees.

ABOUT WELL-READ BLACK GIRL



An inspiring collection of essays by black women writers, curated by the founder of the popular book club Well-Read Black Girl, on the importance of recognizing ourselves in literature.

Remember that moment when you first encountered a character who seemed to be written just for you? That feeling of belonging remains with readers the rest of their lives—but not everyone regularly sees themselves on the pages of a book. In this timely anthology, Glory Edim brings together original essays by some of our best black women writers to shine a light on how important it is that we all—regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability—have the opportunity to find ourselves in literature.

Contributors include Jesmyn Ward (*Sing, Unburied, Sing*), Lynn Nottage (*Sweat*), Jacqueline Woodson (*Another Brooklyn*), Gabourey Sidibe (*This Is Just My Face*), Morgan Jerkins (*This Will Be My Undoing*), Tayari Jones (*An American Marriage*), Rebecca Walker (*Black, White and Jewish*), and Barbara Smith (*Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*)

Whether it's learning about the complexities of femalehood from Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison, finding a new type of love in *The Color Purple*, or using mythology to craft an alternative black future, the subjects of each essay reminds us why we turn to books in times of both struggle and relaxation. As she has done with her book club-turned-online community Well-Read Black Girl, Glory Edim has created a space in which black women's writing and knowledge and life experiences are lifted up, to be shared with all readers who value the power of a story to help us understand the world and ourselves.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Glory Edim is the founder of Well-Read Black Girl, a Brooklyn-based book club and digital platform that celebrates the uniqueness of Black literature and sisterhood. In fall 2017 she organized the first-ever Well-Read Black Girl Festival. She has worked as a creative strategist for over ten years at startups and cultural institutions, including The Webby Awards and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Most recently, she was the Publishing Outreach Specialist at Kickstarter. She serves on the board of New York City's Housing Works Bookstore. <https://wellreadblackgirl.com/glory-edim/>

Instagram: @wellreadblackgirl

ABOUT A REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER

A Revolutionary Summer is an intensive critical reading and writing program dedicated to shifting harmful narratives about Black women and girls through both the meaningful study and creation of art and the deliberate application of self-inquiry. We exist to keep Black girls whole, to balance the scales, to offer up a Nobel Laureate, radical painter, love song, and afro picked to perfection for every stupid, shallow representation of her. *A Revolutionary Summer* (ARS) validates Black girl language and Black girl thought, Black girl hair and Black girl thighs. It traces, analyzes, justifies, and celebrates Black girl herstory. It contributes forcefully, unapologetically to a sound and solid Black girl future.



Founder of ARS **Andria Nacina Cole** read *The Color Purple* in 9th grade. There was no one to tell. She read *Beloved* in 11th. Shared the glamour and devastation of it with a chemistry professor. He nodded when her eyes got wide, but also when she cried. She did not read Sonia Sanchez until college, and Gayl Jones? She was 35 before she knew her.

What she has learned by practice and careful study has been supplemented, a wee bit, by degrees in writing from Morgan State and Johns Hopkins. She has also earned a few awards, including five grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, one of which was the organization's top prize. She is the 2010 recipient of the Cohen Award, a Barbara Deming Memorial Fund grantee, and a Rubys Literary Awards artist. In 2017, Baltimore City Paper named her Best Storyteller.

In addition to her writing experience, she is a certified special education teacher. She taught middle and high school for 13 wonderful, difficult years, and still maintains relationships with many of her students. She has also taught a variety of English classes at the college level. Currently, she helps communities resolve conflict and repair harm in her role as program development director at Restorative Response Baltimore. <https://www.arevolutionarysummer.com/>

Twitter: @onecoldsummer

Instagram + Facebook: @arevolutionarysummer



Elissa Blount Moorhead, artist, curator, and producer, has created public art, exhibitions, and cultural programs for the last 25 years. She is currently a principal partner at TNEG film studios, which creates films and time based-installations. She was awarded the USA Artist Fellowship, Saul Zaentz Innovation Fellowship, Ford Foundation /Just Films/Rockwood Fellowship, Ruby Award, She is currently producing a documentary film on Gil Scott Heron and a projection installation called *As of A Now*. She is the author of *P is for Pussy*, an illustrated “children’s” book and is featured in the new anthology *How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black*

Resistance due out in March 2019.

Instagram: ebmoorhead

Jess Solomon is a question-asker, facilitator, and cultural worker. In her role as Senior Program Officer at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, she's sharpening the Foundation's existing grantmaking strategies, developing new programmatic initiatives, and deepening institutional knowledge to ensure maximum impact in Baltimore. Recognized by *Baltimore Magazine* as one of "30 Changemakers Shaping the Future of the City", Jess believes the arts can help shape a culture of empathy, equity, and belonging. She is a proud contributor to *We Inspire Me: Cultivate Your Creative Crew to Work, Play, and Make* by Andrea Pippins.



Instagram: @jesssolomazing