

AFAM QUARANTINE SURVIVAL GUIDE

A collection of literature, poems, entertainment, recipes, exercises, meditations, and activities that can be enjoyed at home and indoors during the quarantine, curated by the AFAM community.

WHAT BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORIES CAN TEACH US ABOUT PANDEMICS



MUSIC

RECONNECT: OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S PARABLE OF THE SOWER - CONCERT VERSION

ZAMBIA'S 70S PSYCH ROCK SCENE PRODUCED THE CATCHIEST ROCK ANTHEMS

STREAMING NOW

IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

Streaming on: Hulu
Based on the novel by James Baldwin, "If Beale Street Could Talk" is a soulful drama about a young couple fighting for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream.

SOUL FOOD JUNKIES: A FILM ABOUT FAMILY, FOOD AND TRADITION

Streaming on: Kanopy
Award-winning filmmaker Byron Hurt offers a fascinating exploration of the soul food tradition, its relevance to black cultural identity, and its continuing popularity despite the known dangers of high-fat, high-calorie diets; and show how the economics of the food industry have combined with socioeconomic conditions in predominantly black neighborhoods to dramatically limit food choices.

THE COOPER GALLERY

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION:
SOMNYAMA NGONYAMA | HAIL
THE DARK LIONESS



Ntozakhe II, Parktown, 2016



Bester I, Mayotte, 2015

POETRY SELECTION

'Dawn of Darkness' by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

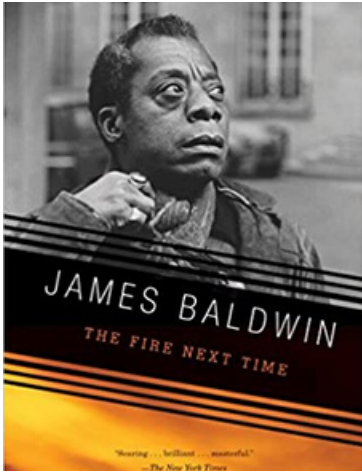
I know, I know,
It threatens the common gestures of human bonding
The handshake,
The hug
The shoulders we give each other to cry on
The Neighborliness we take for granted
So much that we often beat our breasts
Crowing about rugged individualism,
Disdaining nature, pissing poison on it even, while
Claiming that property has all the legal rights of personhood
Murmuring gratitude for our shares in the gods of capital.

Oh how now I wish I could write poetry in English,
Or any and every language you speak
So I can share with you, words that
Wanjikũ, my Gĩkũyũ mother, used to tell me:
Gũtirĩ ũtukũ ũtakĩa:
No night is so Dark that,
It will not end in Dawn,
Or simply put, Every night ends with dawn.
Gũtirĩ ũtukũ ũtakĩa.

This darkness too will pass away
We shall meet again and again
And talk about Darkness and Dawn
Sing and laugh maybe even hug
Nature and nurture locked in a green embrace
Celebrating every pulsation of a common being
Rediscovered and cherished for real
In the light of the Darkness and the new Dawn.

*Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o is a prolific, award-winning
Kenyan writer, poet and academic who writes in
English and Gikuyu.*

INTERESTING READS



***THE FIRE NEXT TIME* BY JAMES BALDWIN**

At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two "letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism. *This text can be found online through Mugar Library.*



CATTLE PRAISE SONG BY SCHOLASTIQUE MUKASONGA

Born in Rwanda in 1956, Scholastique Mukasonga experienced from childhood the violence and humiliation of the ethnic conflicts that shook her country. In 1960, her family was displaced into the under-developed Nyamata. In 1973, she was forced to leave the school of social assistance in Butare and flee to Burundi. She settled in France in 1992. The genocide of the Tutsi swept through Rwanda 2 years later. Her first novel, Notre-Dame du Nil, won the Ahamadou Kourouma prize and the Renaudot prize in 2012.

DEATH CAN'T TAKE THE STORIES OUR ELDER'S PASS ON

THE PANDEMIC DOESN'T JUST THREATEN OUR LOVED ONES, BUT KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PAST — SO ACCLAIMED WRITER AND CRITIC NELSON GEORGE WENT AND FOUND HIS

By Nelson George

A SCENE OF HER OWN: THE INIMITABLE VAGINAL DAVIS

AMIDST A STAGE OF FIERCE FEMMES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES ROCKING BACK AND FORTH IN SLUMBER PARTY ATTIRE, VAGINAL DAVIS HOLDS THE CENTER OF OUR ATTENTION.

By Kirin Watcher-Greene