



GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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PRESS RELEASE

AUTHOR JACINTA HOWARD VISIT

- WHAT:** Gwinnett County Public Library is hosting author Jacinta Howard to discuss her latest book, *When Forty Blooms*.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM
- WHERE:** Snellville branch
2245 Wisteria Drive, Snellville, GA 30078
- ABOUT:** Jacinta Howard is an Atlanta-based culture journalist and author with more than a decade of experience. She's a senior writer/ associate editor at The Infatuation, and her work has appeared in Eater, Atlanta Magazine, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Shondaland, Denver Westword, BET, and Rock The Bells, LL Cool J's media company, where she also served as an editor. Her 2022 article on Atlanta's Magic City wings was nominated for an American Society of Magazine Editors Award, and her exploration of the Atlanta University Center's impact on hip-hop was honored in The City of Atlanta's Hip Hop 50 Time Capsule. As a lifelong music lover, Jacinta's experiences in culture journalism naturally influences her novels, which explore the complexities of relationships, personal healing, and true intimacy. Named a USA TODAY-recognized author and two-time RONE (Reward of Novel Excellence) Award nominee, her books have been featured in USA Today, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Book Riot, and OkayAfrica.

MODERATOR: Brianna A. Peppins was born in D.C. and raised in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She graduated from Spelman College with a BA in Psychology in 2017, and shortly after began writing her debut novel, Briarcliff Prep. When not writing, Brianna takes special interest in spending time with her loved ones, social justice issues (i.e. Intimate Partner Violence, Racial Injustice, Mental health), yoga, baking, embroidery, and is a self-proclaimed movie aficionado.

BOOK

DESCRIPTION: A rare birthday. A second chance. A woman finally choosing herself. Simone Harris has always known how to hold it down. For her son. For her clients. For the sports agency she built from scratch. She keeps things running, keeps herself moving, and keeps her heart tucked safely out of reach. But this birthday feels different. It falls on a leap year, a date that only circles back every so often. A rare kind of day that feels like it arrives exactly when it's meant to. The kind that makes you pause and ask what you have been pushing through just to keep going. In that stillness, something begins to surface alongside it. Fatigue. Questions. The quiet ache she has learned to ignore.

She is not falling apart. Still, something is shifting. The pressure she has lived under feels heavier than it once did. And as she begins to listen to what her spirit has been trying to say, the past reappears, bringing with it a familiar comfort, unfinished conversations, and a quiet invitation to feel again.

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