

THE THROUGH

a novel

"GRIPPING, LYRICAL,
AND FIERCELY ORIGINAL"
- ALYSSA NUTTING
AUTHOR OF MADE FOR LOVE



A. Rafael Johnson

The Through
by A. Rafael Johnson

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Book contact: Elizabeth Earley
Elizabeth@jadedibispres.com
(602) 284-4688
Web: jadedibispres.com

"...lyrical prose that blends
the vernacular voice with
crisp images and an ear for
music..."

- Kirkus Reviews

Media Contacts

For all inquiries, please contact
the author directly at
arafaeljohnson@gmail.com
(512) 589-1760



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Socially engaged literature with an emphasis on the voices of people of color.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

DEBUT NOVEL EXPLORES BLACK GIRL MAGIC AND THE TRAUMA OF SURVIVAL

I am my haint. I haunt my own body.

In a lyrical style reminiscent of Edward P. Jones and Rion Amlicar Scott, debut author A. Rafael Johnson navigates the strange and dangerous magic of Okahika, a black ghost town that exists somewhere between Alabama and the other-world of flying slave ships and mothers back from the dead. This narrative interrogates blackness in the New South, including the ways in which it is haunted and revisited by the old. It also engages with love and trauma, exploring how we keep ourselves hidden and allow ourselves to know each other in our most intimate relationships.

She struggled to speak and even massaged her jaw, but only produced a humiliating stutter for her uncle drowned dead, for her house and her street and her people, for her sister, for blood red grooves dug into her palm, for drowned mothers who could not find their children even from Heaven, for thirst.

"Here is a novel about the hidden universes of being, a richly rewarding book that shows us how history is just above our heads, and the future is just under our feet, if we know how to look." - Jeffrey Renard Allen, author of Song of the Shank and Rails Under My Back.

"Gripping, lyrical, and fiercely original, The Through is an affecting thriller that defies categorization. Johnson's prose is spellbinding in this essential book." - Alissa Nutting, author of Tampa and Made for Love.



About the Author: A. Rafael Johnson grew up in New York and Texas. He holds a BA from the University of Texas, an MFA from The University of Alabama. His work has been seen in Callaloo, African American Review, Kweli, and other publications. Johnson and his family currently live in Minneapolis. Visit arafaeljohnson.com for more information.