



Raqiyah Mays pens first fiction novel, 'The Man Curse'

The highly anticipated debut fiction novel, "The Man Curse," (Simon & Schuster) by author, journalist, radio personality, and activist **Raqiyah Mays** went on sale on Monday, November 16, 2015 -- just in time for Christmas gift giving as it makes the perfect stocking stuffer!

On Tuesday, November 17 the author was toasted at a joint birthday celebration and book release party hosted by Karen Hunter, Sil Lai Abrams, Thembisa Mshaka Jineea Butler and Rhonesha Byng with 90s music by DJ Jon Quick and DJ Commish setting the tone for a fun time. As guests gathered at The Attic Rooftop on West 48th Street, New York City, they enjoyed treats by Chef Nadia S. Day and drinks. They were also able to purchase the book and get it autographed by the author.

"The Man Curse," is described as "self-help fiction," exploring the phenomenon of generational curses and family cycles with the objective of leading and inspiring women to break the mentalities and outlooks that attract dysfunctional love generational curses and cycles in the lives of women through the voice of Meena Butler, a professional woman who tries to break The Man Curse that has prevented the women of her family from marrying. "The Man Curse" features Meena, a budding young professional whose life is nearly in order -- with one exception: the family hex. As she works to break the Man Curse and become the first woman in her family to ever marry, Meena's emotional journey to self-love places her on a path of growth, truth and finding the answer: Does she really have the Man Curse. Or is it all in her head?

Mays has been selected by The Limited clothing stores to participate in a nationwide "New Look of Leadership" campaign recognizing female leaders on her birthday in 200 retail stores, direct mail and online. The "New Look of Leadership" redefines what it means to be a leader today, and honors women who stand out, speak up and push boundaries in their everyday lives. Mays has always lived her life out loud. She uses her various platforms to discuss topics that most are afraid to address. Her uninhabited style comes across in her new book. While we know its fiction, the book takes readers on a self-help journey that leaves you no choice but to self-reflect.

Mays is currently on a book reading and style session tour with The Limited to promote her book. The 9-city tour features Mays reading an excerpt from her debut novel "The Man Curse," along with style sessions based on the lead character of the novel. "The Man Curse" features a young professional woman who shops at The Limited, in the '90s, and tries to break "The Man Curse" that has prevented the women of her family from marrying into their lives. The tour kicked off Saturday, November 7, from 1 pm to 3 pm, at The Limited in Edison, NJ's Menlo Park Mall. Stopping at Limited stores in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and South Carolina, dates are planned throughout November and December.

2015 marks Mays' 20th year in the entertainment business as a journalist. She continues her success as a radio personality on New York's 107.5 WBLS. This summer she was named a NY director of Black Lives Matter activist Shaun King's new nonprofit,



Author Raqiyah Mays "Man Curse" Limited "New Look of Leadership" tour schedule

Justice Together, dedicated to fighting police brutality. And now, as an author, with her debut novel "The Man Curse" set to be released this year on November 16, she maintains her leadership role, makes moves and creates characters that break the mold.

"I feel we are all here to make the world better. And my particular purpose in life is to inform, inspire, and motivate through my words, whether spoken or written in books, articles, or on social media," said Mays. "To be among so many amazing, powerful, diverse women The Limited has gathered, dedicated to making the world better, is a beautiful honor. Leading looks like a woman. Leading an unlimited life means to believe that there are no limits on what you can do -- to believe that anything is possible."

Individuals interested in learning more about Raqiyah Mays and her upcoming novel, "The Man Curse," can visit TheManCurse.com along with RaqiyahMays.wordpress.com, facebook.com/RaqiyahMays, or Twitter [@RaqiyahMays](https://twitter.com/RaqiyahMays). For more information on The Limited's "New Look of Leadership" check out TheLimited.com/Leaders.

About Raqiyah Mays

With 2015 marking her 20th year in the media business, Mays has written for everyone from *Ebony* and *Essence* to *The Associated Press* & *Billboard* throughout her career. A radio personality on New York's 107.5 WBLS, in 2009, she was featured in VH1's "Future Leaders of Black History" campaign. Featured in The Limited clothing store's 2015 nationwide "New Look of Leadership" campaign, she's been chosen as a female leader for her passionate work as an author, journalist, radio personality, stepmother, and activist. Mays' influence goes back to Newark, NJ. Born to a teen mother and domestic abuse survivor, her climb from mastering a speech impediment to being bullied in school, led a shy, insecure, girl into becoming the confident, outspoken, success she is today. Featured in The Limited clothing store's 2015 nationwide "New Look of Leadership" campaign, she's been chosen as a female leader for her passionate work as an author, journalist, radio personality, stepmother, and activist.

About The Limited

Building on its 50 years of leadership in American shopping centers, The Limited is an iconic fashion retailer that offers high-quality, private-label apparel designed to help our clients succeed. Design-driven, fashionable styles include suiting, sweaters, dresses, denim, outerwear, and accessories—to suit her lifestyle demands, from workday to weekend. A Sun Capital Partners portfolio company, The Limited has approximately 250 store locations throughout the United States. For more information, please visit: www.thelimited.com. "Like" us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest @TheLimited.

About "The Man Curse"

A writer at heart, Mays' debut fiction novel, "The Man Curse," was released by Simon & Schuster on November 16, 2015. "The Man Curse" chronicles the world of Meena, a young woman who spends her life trying to break The Man Curse and become the first woman in her family to marry. No stranger to the book world, Mays contributed a chapter to Gil Robertson's anthology "Where Did Our Love Go: Love & Relationships in the African American community" (Bolden/Agate). She was a featured profile in Thembisa Mshaka's book of entertainment industry professionals, "Put Your Dreams First: Handle your entertainment business" (Hachette). She was reporter at large for Cheo Hodari Coker's VIBE book "Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of The Notorious B.I.G." (Three Rivers Press) which was turned into the critically acclaimed feature film, *Notorious*.

Journalist

Mays' work in journalism goes back to the Quincy Jones owned days of *Vibe Magazine*. As an intern in the mid-90s, she became Executive Assistant to then Editor in Chief, Danyel Smith. And later, editorial coordinator assisting the managing editor. Moving on to pursue an early career as a freelance hip hop journalist, her bylines graced cover stories for publications like *XXL*, *The Source*, and *Billboard*. Expanding her beat to report on everything from women and R&B to politics and radio, she scored covers for *Black Elegance* magazine, profiles, and features for *The Associated Press*, *VIBE*, *Essence*, and *Complex*. She later became a founder and executive editor of "The Ave" Magazine, dedicated to coverage combining social issues with the intellect and outlook of the hip hop world. Today she writes for *Ebony*, using her journalism and Hollywood interviews to humanize celebrities through open discussions on real life and the world.

Radio Personality

Before joining New York's #1 station, 107.5 WBLS, Mays' radio experience goes back 20 years to her days at Hampton University on WHOV FM hosting the late night hip hop show "The Underground Review." Her move to New York to pursue a journalism career with *Vibe Magazine*, led to the weekly show, "High Vision" on City College's WHCR FM, where she brought her passion for combining social issues with hip hop music

to the airwaves over five years. She left WHCR for Sirius Satellite Radio, where as a feature content producer she created content and wrote for Rock, pop, hip hop, reggae, and alternative channels along with producing a show hosted by DJ Grandmaster Flash. She also hosted shows on Top 40 Channel US 1, and R&B channel Hot Jamz. In a few short months, Raqiyah was hired as a weekend host on NY's Power 105. And after a year, she joined NY's Hot 97, where over five years she held a #1 weekly Sunday afternoon show before transitioning to become morning show entertainment reporter on 98.7 Kiss FM's the "Wake Up Club." Featuring radio veterans Jeff Foxx, Shaila, Bob Slade, and comedian Talent, The Wake Up Club drew top NYC ratings before being replaced by "The DL Hughley Morning Show." Mays moved on to also join Hughley, handpicked by DL to provide entertainment and colorful peanut crew commentary during her run on the now syndicated show.

TV Personality

In 2009, named one of VH1's "Future Leaders of Black History," Mays was featured in their black history month TV commercial campaign. A trained actress, she performed off-Broadway for five years, touring the country and appearing on stages nationwide as a cast member with the hit play "Platanos & Collard Greens." Her numerous TV appearances have included correspondent work on Black Enterprise's TVOne/ABC news show "Our World," being a regular guest co-host on Arise TV's film review show "On Screen" and MTV, BET, VH1, the Fuse Network, and Fox News have all had her as a guest.

Activist

A passionate activist for issues affecting women, children, and African Americans, Mays is one of the New York directors for Justice Together, a fledgling national organization founded by Black Lives Matter activist Shaun King, dedicated to fighting police brutality. As a child, she was a girl scout who became president of Edison, NJ's NAACP Youth Council. In college, she helped create the Diversity Union on Penn State University's Altoona campus after acts of racism toward black classmates. Participating in student politics, she regularly represented the campus during Penn State's gathering of student government officers. After moving to New York, Mays organized community and youth events in Brooklyn. While spending time in Los Angeles, she coordinated fundraising events for non-profits along with training canvassers and managing outreach campaigns in both LA and NY for organizations like The Southern Poverty Law Center, Planned Parenthood, and the ACLU. Today, she continues her penchant for activism. From marching in Ferguson, MO to Baltimore and attending protests in NYC, Mays' activism spans from events to social media with regular updates on nationwide cases of injustice on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. She uses her journalism and celebrity interviews to humanize the entertainment world with shared superstar views on real life, social issues, and outlooks on making change today.