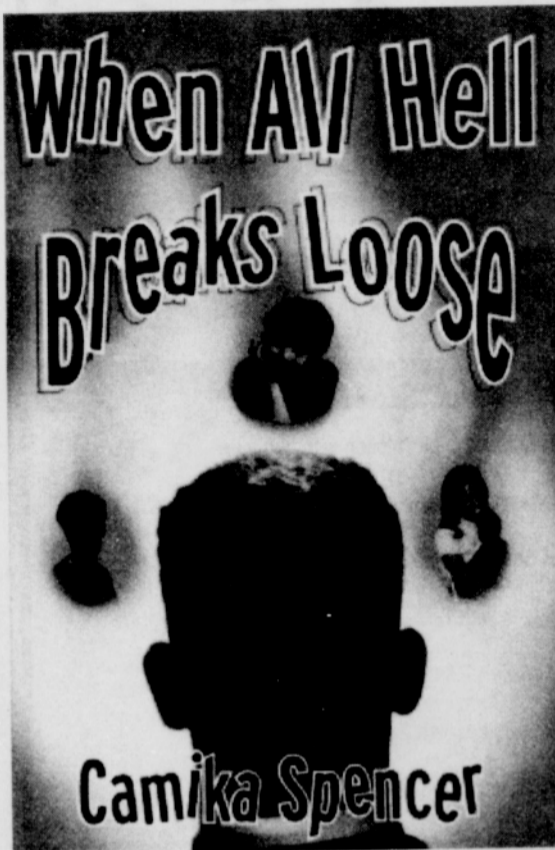


IN PRINT



Akima Publishing, 1999
By Camika Spencer

It's Sunday morning, and while most people are thinking about getting the paper breakfast, Gregory Alston has something other than eggs on his mind. Today he's going to propose to Adrian Jenkins, his girlfriend of three years. But when he actually does, all hell breaks loose and he gets a lot more than he bargained for. His mother returns

from France, where she's been living as a jazz singer since leaving her family in Texas nearly twenty years ago. His Holy Roller sister, Shreese, complains that Adrian is too "worldly" for him, even though she herself is falling for the shady, charismatic pastor of her church. And his boys — who run the gamut from player to buffoon — react to the news of his engagement with grief and disbelief. And if that's not enough, he's got Adrian, who has more skeletons in

her closet than a haunted house. What's a brother to do? *When All Hell Breaks Loose* is a debut novel about black twenty-somethings that is fast and funny. It's also a peek into the minds of young black men. The author, Camika Spencer, won't just have you laughing — she'll have you looking in the mirror to see if she's talking about you. An Excerpt: *My mother, Louise Angelina Alston, became a very popular vocalist*

When All Hell Breaks Loose

who performed with Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus and even Benny Goodman before she was twenty years old. These connections came about when she was in Monaco attending a music festival with some of her singer friends, hoping to pick up a record deal. Pops had a gig playing keys for a small group that Miles Davis and drummer Roy Haynes had put together. Pops had met Miles at a rehearsal one night, and from there he played keys with the group for two and a half years. At the end of the second year they went to Monaco, Pops was looking to start his own band. He formed the Alston Jazz Quartet, and my mother auditioned and was the chosen vocalist. Back then, Sarah Vaughan, Betty Carter, Ella Fitzgerald, and other female sing-

ers were on the rise and my mother never seemed to be able to penetrate the market in the United States as a recognized jazz singer. She had a sound that floated between the operatic soul-filled Sarah and high-spirited Ella. Unfortunately, America was already full

of Sarahs and Ellas. Plus, my mother was young and nobody wanted to deal with a teenage jazz singer. Respect in the jazz scene came with age and experience, neither of which my mother had. I suppose that's why she never could get her big break here.



Gingersnaps

A One World Ballantine Book, 1998
By Delorys Welch-Tyson

You'll never forget them. Six black derby boomers whose paths crisscross and collide in a wickedly funny, emotionally charged roller-coaster ride of love and hate, jealousy and passion, ambition and desire...

Aletha: The reigning queen of the talk shows has a royal snag in her love life.

Desiree: As a sister-friend Sigmund Freud, many women "lie" on her couch.

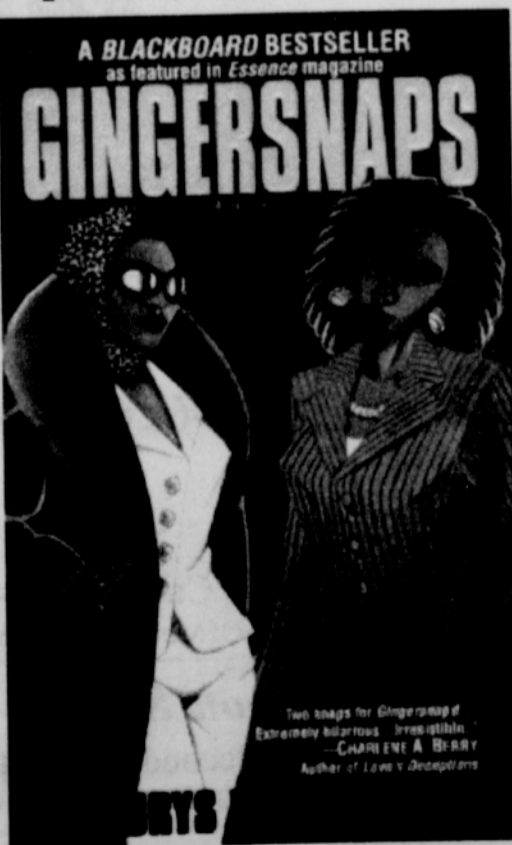
Veronica: This TV producer is a master juggler — until the daddy of her baby takes his act on the road.

Debra: As she pushes forty, her mother's pushing her to find a man — in all the wrong directions.

Janeen: Her dreamboat is about to clash with her romantic fantasies big-time.

Louise: When this controversial best-selling author promotes her book, it's a riot — literally.

They're gingersnaps — spicy and hard, brown and bold — women who refuse to let their cookies crumble when faced with a challenge.



Do you promise to
'love, honor and cherish your body
for the rest of your life?
(It's time to renew your vows.)



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