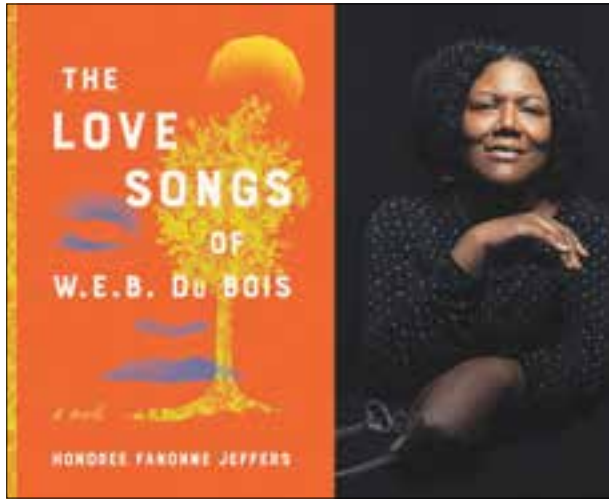


# Author's Debut Novel Lauded

Now an Oprah Winfrey book club pick



Honorée Fanonne Jeffers and the cover for her debut novel "The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois," an Oprah Winfrey book club pick.

One of the year's most anticipated debut novels, Honorée Fanonne Jeffers' "The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois," is now an Oprah Winfrey book club pick.

Published this month, Jeffers' novel traces centuries of Black history through a family in the American South and its contemporary narrator, young Ailey Paul Garfield. "The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois,"

is named for the canonical Black scholar and activist.

"I was so enraptured by the story of this modern Black family, and how author Honorée Fanonne Jeffers wove the larger fabric of historical trauma through the family's silence through generations," Winfrey said in a statement. "It's a combination of historical and modern and it consumed me. I look forward to discussing with our community of readers and speaking with Honorée herself to discuss the themes that run throughout this special novel."

Jeffers, 54, is already an acclaimed poet whose "The Age of Phillis" was on the long list in 2020 for a National Book Award. A professor of English at the University of

Oklahoma, she has championed the stories and achievements of Black women, including Winfrey.

"I first encountered the beauty, brilliance, and empathy of Ms. Oprah Winfrey from afar, by watching her talk show on my television in the 1980's," Jeffers said in a statement. "She made me believe that so many great things were possible for a young, African American woman like me. That I could do anything if I just set my hands, mind, and spirit to the task. As a creative writer, it was my secret dream that I would one day write a book that this 'phenomenal woman' — to quote from the great poet, Dr. Maya Angelou — would read, enjoy, and present to the members of her book club."



# Openness and Advocacy Lauded

Rapper's message resonates with youth



Rapper Lil Nas X

(AP) — Lil Nas X has been awarded the inaugural Suicide Prevention Advocate of the Year Award from the advocacy group The Trevor Project, a nonprofit dedicated to suicide prevention and crisis intervention for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people.

The group cited Lil Nas X's "openness about struggling with his sexuality and suicidal ideation, his continued advocacy around mental health issues, and his unapologetic celebration of his queer identity."

"He has done it in a way that has resonated and impacted communities where these conversations are often taboo, but where they are so needed," said Amit Paley, Trevor Project executive director. "The fact that he has been so open, so vulnerable about his mental health journey, his thoughts of suicide, he is really helping to destigmatize conversations that are too often shrouded in shame."

In February, Lil Nas X shared a series of intimate TikTok videos documenting his life story, including his battle with depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation during

his rise to fame. In May, he released a music video which depicts Lil Nas X uplifting a younger version of himself in high school when he was contemplating suicide and struggling to come to terms with his sexuality.

"It's particularly inspiring to see someone who is Black and LGBTQ and proud and unapologetic," said Paley. "And to see someone talk about their experiences with depression and anxiety and suicidal ideation and to talk about those as part of their art and part of their platform to make other people comfortable talking about the challenges that they are going through."

**THIS YEAR, A LITTLE NERVOUS IS NORMAL.**



After so long away, bells, hallways, clubs and quizzes aren't second nature anymore. That's why Oregon schools are kicking off with a focus on restoring the care, connection and community that come with in-person learning. Visit [Oregon.gov/readyschools](https://Oregon.gov/readyschools) to learn more.

