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Book Review: ‘Between the World and Me’ Takes No Prisoners

Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Spiegel & Grau
Hardcover, \$24.00
168 pages, Illustrated
ISBN: 978-0-8129-9354-7

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

“In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis.

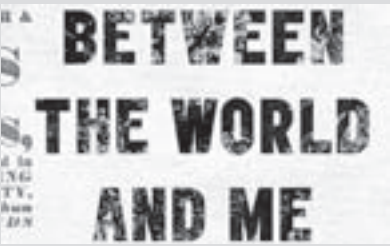
“Americans have built an empire on the idea of ‘race,’ a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion.

“What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught industry, and free ourselves from its burden.

“Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’ attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son.”

-- Excerpted from the book jacket

Ta-Nehisi Coates garnered national attention a year ago when he published “A Case for Reparations” in the Atlantic Monthly magazine. Now, the progressive pundit is back with Between the World and Me, an equal-



Author Ta-Nehisi Coates

ly-incendiary assessment of the state of race relations in the United States.

The book is basically designed as an open letter from Ta-Nehisi to his 15 year-old child, Samori.

The author fears the boy might suffer the same horrific fate as African American youngsters like Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis who were killed on a whim by white men for the “crimes” of walking home while black and listening to loud music, respectively.

Ta-Nehisi writes in a free-flowing stream-of-consciousness style, remi-

but one’s fate in this country, a burden that is almost too much to bear when it comes to being Black.

Taking no prisoners, the fearless firebrand indicts everything from “democracy” to “Whiteness” to “American exceptionalism” for the

Ta-Nehisi invariably views every aspect of his life through the prism of race

niscent of Allen Ginsberg in the epic poem “Howl.” However, this relatively-substantial opus is more of a history lesson than an escapist dirge.

For, whether he’s talking about dating an East Indian beauty, a classmate with Jew dreadlocks or the woman he would eventually marry, Ta-Nehisi invariably views every aspect of his life through the prism of race.

As he sees it, skin color narrowly determines not only one’s treatment

plight of his oppressed people. His hope for Samori is “to have your own life, apart from fear.” But he believes this nation still has a lot of work to do to arrive at a place where black lives indeed matter.

What higher praise could Ta-Nehisi ask for than the blessing of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, who christens him as the long-awaited visionary finally filling the intellectual void left in the wake of the passing of James Baldwin.

NOTICE

King County Department of Transportation
Federal Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017
Proposed Amended Triennial DBE Goal

King County hereby gives notice of its proposed amended Triennial DBE goal for utilizing Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) for the Federal Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017, pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 26, United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Regulations.

FTA Triennial DBE Goal of 10%

The goal will apply to all Federal Transit Administration (FTA) assisted contracts awarded by King County in Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2015, 2016, and 2017. King County is now soliciting comments from the public on its proposed 10% Triennial DBE Goal for FTA assisted projects.

King County’s Triennial DBE Goal for the period FFY 2015 through 2017, and the rationale for the proposed goal percentage are available for inspection at the following location: King County Chinook Building Third Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

These documents are available for review during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.) for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of this notice. The Business Development and Contract Compliance Section will accept public comments on the proposed Triennial 10% Overall DBE Utilization Goal for forty (45) days after the date of this notice.

Address written comments to:

King County Business Development
and Contract Compliance
401 Fifth Avenue, Third Floor
CNK-ES-0350
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

Comments can also be sent to the Regional Civil Rights Officer, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Office, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142, Seattle WA 98174.

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Movies

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rated) Out-of-the-closet cosmopolitan’s (Xavier Dolan) announcing his late lover’s sexual preference to country bumpkin next of kin attending the funeral. With Lise Roy, Manuel Tadros and Evelyne Brochu. (In French with subtitles)

We Come as Friends (Un-rated) Neo-colonialism is the theme of this road documentary chronicling a modern odyssey across Africa featuring everything from Chinese oil workers to UN peacekeepers to Sudanese warlords to American evangelists. (In Arabic, English and Chinese with subtitles)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR AND
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

To apply complete form and attach cover letter and resume at <http://icwashington.org/opportunities.html>.

Response preferred by 8/17/2015

8-12-15

CONVENTION SALES COORDINATOR

This position works closely with Travel Portland’s Convention and Sales Managers to provide support services in the solicitation of meetings and conventions to the city of Portland. The position requires attention to detail, data input, professional communication skills, and the ability to perform consistently in a fast-paced, multi-task environment with frequent interruptions. Knowledge of the tourism and hospitality industry is necessary. The position closes at 5:00 pm 8/12/15. To apply visit www.travel-portland.com/“Jobs”.

8-19-15

RISK SPECIALIST

Salary: \$4,983.00 - \$6,644.00

Monthly The Risk Specialist will report to the Insurance and Loss Prevention Manager. The insurance Risk Specialist will manage the day to day administration of the insurance program. This position works closely with the manager in the procurement of commercial insurance, compiles information from Bureaus to accurately complete underwriting applications. Coordinates with manager to ensure appropriateness and adequacy of insurance program; performs research and consult with broker on day to day management of program; assists with the development and presentation of training materials and programs for City managers, supervisors and employees; coordinates periodic projects to update City structure values; and performs research and coordinates special projects as the need is identified. To apply, see complete announcement for details, please go to www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs.

8-12-15

REQUEST FOR BIDS

METRO
NATIVE HERBACEOUS SEED
RFB 3058

Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting sealed bids from commercial seed producers and distributors to provide Native Herbaceous Seed for the Land, Science and Conservation Division in Metro’s Parks and Nature Center with the goal of purchasing high quality certified seed with proven provenance within the boundaries as defined in the technical specifications.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m. August 27, 2015, in Metro’s business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Sharon Stiffler, RFB 3058.

Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>

Metro may accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned and emerging small businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.oregonmetro.gov.

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Business Directory

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