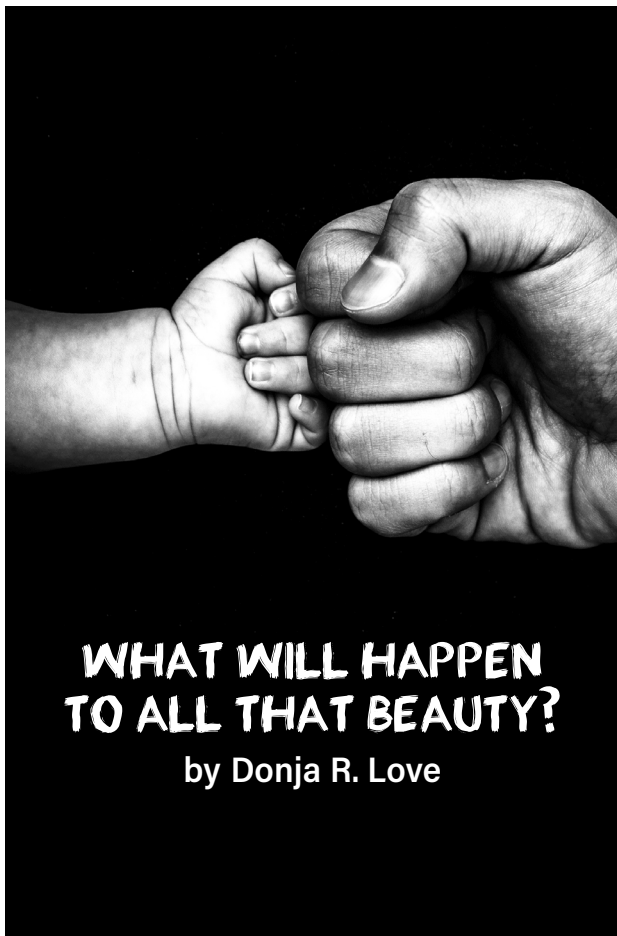


CONTEMPORARY COMPANION

for *What Will Happen to All That Beauty?*

by Donja R. Love



FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I started writing *What Will Happen to All That Beauty?* because I felt invisible. The more I wrote, the more I realized that I wasn't writing a play but an offering. This work is an offering of visibility, community, and love to Black people living with HIV and those who've died of AIDS-related illnesses.

Whenever I think of this offering, I'm struck by the fact that plays about HIV and AIDS have historically centered on affluent, cis, and queer white men. We see this in classic works like *The Normal Heart* and *Angels in America* and contemporary

works like *The Inheritance*. I weep when experiencing these plays because I feel the remembrance and see their beauty; I weep because I don't see myself. These plays have effectively commented on the experience of people living with HIV and those having died from AIDS-related illnesses. Knowing that art and representation are influential, I believe the commentary from these plays also helped shift statistics to where 1 in 11 white gay and bisexual men are now projected to be diagnosed with HIV. Compared to 1 in 2 for Black gay and bisexual men. 1 in 2.

This statistic points to an epidemic. It says the height of the crisis didn't end in the 1980s; for Black people, it's still happening. Yet, it goes unnoticed. How do I not write about this? How do I not write about my friends living with HIV going unnoticed? How my experience go unnoticed? Or, how lonely it feels inside such a massive statistic? How do I find imaginative ways to humanize a study? How do I not use my work to travel inside these statistics to extricate the people? *What Will Happen to All That Beauty?* explores these questions. As Black people living with HIV and AIDS and those who've passed have been rendered invisible within the theatre, understanding that representation can be liberation, this offering challenges this invisibility.

In the anthology *In the Life*, the late AIDS activist Joseph Beam writes, "Visibility is survival." I'd add that community is also survival. *What Will Happen to All That Beauty?* asks us to survive. It asks us to hold space for the ancestors and for the living. It asks us to offer ourselves the beauty we've been waiting for.



Donja R. Love

ORGANIZATIONS SERVING BLACK PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS

CALIFORNIA

TRUEEVOLUTION

<https://www.trueevolution.org/>

The Black AIDS Institute | BAI

<https://blackaids.org/contact/>

BEAM (Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective)

www.beam.org

GEORGIA

THRIVE SS

<https://thrivess.org/>

COUNTER NARRATIVE PROJECT

<https://www.thecounternarrative.org/>

MARYLAND

Aids Action Baltimore

<https://www.aidsactionbaltimore.org>

Hand to Heart

<https://www.hearttohandinc.org/>

World Human Rights and AIDS Foundation

<https://www.whraf.org>

MISSISSIPPI

GRACE HOUSE

<https://www.gracehousems.org/>

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

<https://www.mbkinc.org/>

COMMUNITY HEALTH PIER

<https://www.chpier.org/>

NEW YORK

The Gatekeepers Collective

www.thegatekeeperscollective.com

BRIDGING ACCESS TO CARE

<https://www.bac-ny.org/>

Harlem Pride

www.harlempride.org

NYTAG (New York Transgender Advocacy Group)

www.nytag.org

DBGM

www.dgbm.org

Adodi New York

www.adodi.org

Harlem United

www.harlemunited.org

Callen-Lorde

<https://callen-lorde.org>

Getsomejoy (a creative wellness agency)

www.getsomejoy.com

PENNSYLVANIA

BEBASHI

<https://www.bebashi.org/>

VIRGINIA

FREDERICKSBURG AREA HIV/AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES

<https://www.novaregion.org/864/Fredericksburg-Area-HIVAIDS-Support-Serv>

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

<http://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?NID=252>

HEALTH BRIGADE – RICHMOND

<https://www.healthbrigade.org/>

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

<https://www.novaregion.org/852/AIDS-Response-Effort-Inc>

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WASHINGTON DC

US HELPING US

<https://www.ushelpingus.org/>

THE DC CENTER HIV WORKING GROUP

<http://www.fighthivindc.org/>

HOPE DC

<http://www.hopedc.org>

WHITMAN WALKER CLINIC

<http://www.whitman-walker.org>

CHERRY FUND

<http://www.cherryfund.org/>

NATIONAL

WRITE IT OUT!

<https://www.letswriteitout.com/>

MOBI

<https://mobi-nyc.com/>