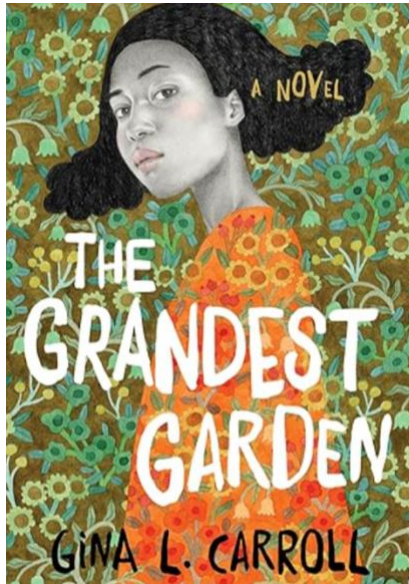


For Immediate Release:
June 4, 2024



For More Information:
Grace Fell, Senior Publicist
BookSparks
grace.fell@sparkpointstudio.com



THE GRANDEST GARDEN A NOVEL

In this coming-of-age story about the cycle of life in and out of the garden, Bella Fontaine comes to understand as a young woman trying to make her way in the world, that when it's time to leave home, it's time whether you feel ready or not.

Bella Fontaine is on her own. Fresh out of college and with the winnings from her first international photography competition, she decides to leave Los Angeles to forge a new life in New York City. But will she be able to overcome the trauma of her childhood and her break from home to make it as a successful artist and professional photographer in a new city? Or will her secrets catch up with her and keep her from developing the relationships she needs to make her dreams come true?

We meet young Bella just after her tenth birthday, and her grandmothers, Olivette and Miriam, each with a beautiful, mature garden as different from each other as the two gardeners who tend them. As Bella's home life begins to unravel, she relies on her grandmother's gardens as her refuge for stability and belonging. But when Miriam moves in with Olivette in search of healing, the grandmother bonds in a way that makes Bella feel excluded. What happens next sends Bella out into the world before she is ready.

The Grandest Garden is a poignant coming-of-age story about the ties that bind us to our people and how to survive when they break.

The Grandest Garden: A Novel

By Gina L. Carroll

SparkPress

On Sale June 4, 2024

Paperback | \$17.95 | ISBN-13: 978-1684632367

~over~

Overview:

- For readers interested in BIPOC-centered narratives and black women who have experienced generational mental illness. Depression, anxiety, and dementia are the leading mental health challenges of the time, especially post-pandemic and in the Black community. *The Grandest Garden* grapples with the family impact of these three mental health challenges on three generations.
- Centering a young black woman as its protagonist and grappling with subjects salient to Black women, and her battle of mental health from generational affects. Has themes of the coming age, artists, gardening, female familial relationships, and intergenerational mental health.
- Those who read Carroll's *A Story That Matters: A Gratifying Way to Write About Your Life*, or enjoyed *What the Fireflies Knew* by Kai Harris will enjoy this novel.

Advance Praise:

- "What a wonderful experience it is to tumble into the glorious gardens, as well as the extraordinary lives, of Bella Fontaine's family. The author's smooth prose brings to vivid life, the smells, sights, and wondrous textures of an astonishing array of flowers and herbs as she weaves Bella's tale of love, devotion to her grandmothers, and her commitment to the fragile task of loving, supporting, and embracing the important people in her life. Gina Carroll deftly weaves a story of beauty, heartbreak, survival, and ultimately, enduring love." —**Anita Bunkley, author of *The Twisted Crown***
- "*The Grandest Garden* is a beautiful and delicate knitting together of intertwined stories with various colors and patterns from different generations, religions, racial backgrounds, and lifestyles, creating a magnificent quilt that gently wraps itself around you, tenderly holding you in a magical and mystical world from the first sentence to the last." —**Menah Pratt, Ph.D., nationally recognized and award-winning author of four books on race, gender, and diversity, and the much anticipated, *Blackwildgirl: A Writer's Journey To Take Back Her Superpower***
- "...Overall, reading *The Grandest Garden* was an emotionally resonant experience that I'll not forget in a hurry. I would certainly recommend this enigmatic and highly accomplished novel..." —**K.C. Finn for Readers' Favorite**
- "...Gina L. Carroll has created a piece of heaven" and "...truly crafted *The Grandest Garden* in this warm and inspiring novel." —**Ronél Steyn for Readers' Favorite**

About the Author:



Gina L. Carroll is the author of *A Story That Matters: A Gratifying Way to Write About Your Life* and editor of *Stories Are Medicine: Writing to Heal, An Anthology*. A self-pro-fessed story wrangler, Gina founded StoryHouse Texas, a creative space dedicated to cultivating and amplifying the diversity of vision and voice in story. *The Grandest Garden* is her debut novel. She currently lives in Houston, Texas.



www.ginacarroll.com



@MaDonnaNegra



@astorythatmatters