



# Sean Johnson

Visit [SeanJohnsonArts.net](http://SeanJohnsonArts.net)

Email: [seanjohnsonarts@gmail.com](mailto:seanjohnsonarts@gmail.com)

Stay connected! Follow [@SeanJohnsonArts](https://www.instagram.com/SeanJohnsonArts) on



# Bio



Born and raised on the north side of Houston, Texas, Sean came to know poetry as a child when her mother read to her from Nikki Giovanni's "Cotton Candy on a Rainy Day". She went on to develop an insatiable love for the written and spoken word, and has performed throughout the country.

She has been published in 25 anthologies worldwide, and in 2014 her poem "Rearview Mirror" was nominated for The Pushcart Prize in Poetry. She is the author of the chapbooks *Unpredicted Prophecy* and *My Name Be*. *All My Heroes Were Assassinated* is her first full length collection.

In addition to her poetic endeavors, she is also a painter, teacher, rock star auntie, and humanitarian. She is known for her monthly homeless outreach ministry and has recently begun a disaster relief program. She believes in placing God above all, and her favorite motto is "Don't let your loyalty become your slavery. If they don't appreciate what you bring to the table...let them eat alone."

# Q & A

**Q: Where did you get the idea for this book?**

**A:** *All My Heroes Were Assassinated* was a long time in the making. I've always written poetry, but when my friend, Zin, died suddenly and so young in 2016, I knew it was time to take the stories I had collected and put them out in the world before it was too late. When I told my friend, DJ Il Deep, about what I wanted to do, he gave me the title.

**Q: Did any of your inspiration for this book originate in your real life experiences?**

**A:** ALL of the inspiration for this book originated from real life experiences, some, my own and some the stories of people from my 'hood, people who are marginalized and left with no voice. I decided to be the voice for those people.

**Q: What made you decide to self-publish?**

**A:** I have learned over the past few years that time is not a luxury. I couldn't wait forever for a platform and I wasn't going to give someone else the rights to define my legacy. Self Publishing put the control in my hands.

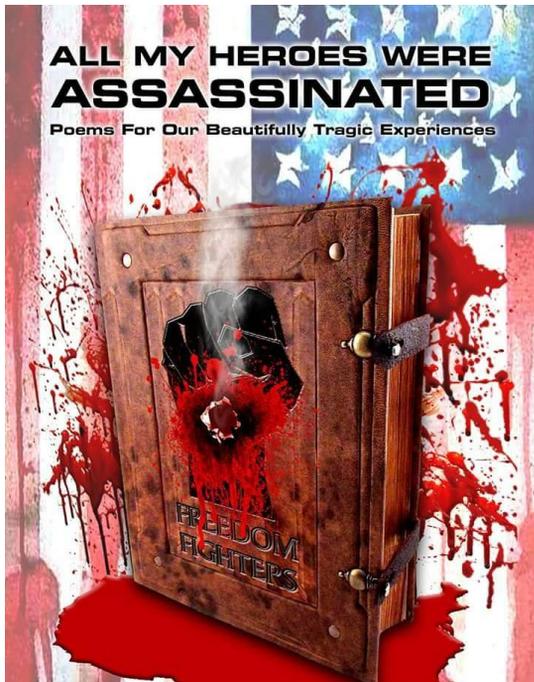
**Q: Are there any specific authors whose writing styles or subject matter inspired your book?**

**A:** Yehuda Amichai, Nikki Giovanni, Sandra Cisneros, *The Fluent One*, *Speak Lee*, are just a few of the authors that inspire me daily!

**Q: Do you have another project in the works? If so, what is it?**

**A:** I am currently working on the stage version of *All My Heroes Were Assassinated!*

# Press Release



## Book Details

Publication Date: June 15,  
2018

Genre: POETRY

Subgenre: American /  
African American

Language: English

Pages:156

ISBN 978-1-54393-271-3

**AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE FOR  
PURCHASE AND DOWNLOAD  
AT:**

[seanjohnsonarts.net](http://seanjohnsonarts.net)

Amazon

Book Baby Bookstore

Barnes & Noble

\*Can be ordered through  
most book retailers\*

## About

All My Heroes Were  
Assassinated

is a poignant and multi-dimensional collection of poems by Sean Johnson. Moving from the beginnings of Black History through Civil Rights, growing pains, heartache and landing at the feet of the emotionally fraught arena of Black America today, this collection is an intimate and personal conversation between a Black woman and all the beautiful and tragic experiences that make us human. As a witness to the pain, plight, and progression of African Americans, Sean has perceptively and poetically managed to chronicle the stories of the Black community while simultaneously delving into and unraveling the labyrinth of self. All My Heroes embodies the fearless determination of a people and the spirit and passion of a Black woman.



## What People Are Saying

*All My Heroes Were Assassinated* liberates and encourages the reader to live courageously despite the injustices one faces because Sean Johnson confronts injustice in such a moving, wondrous, and luminous way.—**Ajali the Poet**

*With this collection of poetry, Sean has done something more than simply tell a story. She has emerged from the shadows as a leader of the new Black Pride Movement. She has emerged as a powerful voice for Black Girl Magic and a shining example of what it means to pull music from the static.* —**Rain the Poet, National Slam Champ**

*Only a poet with a virtuous heart, a genuine love for the human experience can expose and exorcise pain through the application of beauty.*—**Jay Dabney, Destined to Shine Studios**

*Spectacular, absorbing, musical, distinguished ...All My Heroes Were Assassinated is a unique achievement. Sean Johnson manages to beautifully speak as both character and narrator in this collection of poetic truths.* —**DJ II DEEP**

# Excerpt



## Just the mention of your name

and I am broken again  
dialing numbers just to hear  
your breath

gladly stepping into hell  
just to hold the hand of the  
devil

how far will I go to hang on to  
this cherished anguish?

why do I love you?  
certainly not because you're  
stunning

I've gazed upon men  
chiseled from black  
diamonds

and loved them less for  
greater reasons

surely it is not your intellect  
you are not the brightest star  
in sky

I think I love you because you  
damage me

like a pick against the ice  
you carve me beautiful...

## Want to know where we grew up?

Then disregard the tales you  
read  
about tree lined streets and  
shutters;  
the stories in which children  
are met at bus stops  
with fresh baked cookies held  
by apron clad moms.

Instead, swallow the stories  
that shred your esophagus;  
accounts of blood-soaked  
bedrooms,  
pillows stuffed with broken  
dreams,  
blackness that comes before  
night fall,  
and playgrounds littered with  
syringes.

Sit quietly and listen to the  
narratives  
that eat skin and weep mud.  
Tales of little boys who devour  
death  
to stifle the growl of vacancy;  
little girls who drink self-  
sabotage  
to quench the thirst of denial.

Keep reading.  
You haven't gotten to the  
part  
where heartbreak and  
breakfast go hand-in-hand...



## What Sean is Saying

Thank you for supporting *All My Heroes Were Assassinated*. It is a work I am beyond proud of, and I am thankful that God let me be a vessel! This collection of poetry is the voice for anyone who has been marginalized, cast to the outskirts of society, born in the ghetto, experienced racism or sexism but also to anyone wanting to better understand our struggle. It sheds light on history, urban issues, drugs, heart break, love, remorse, aging, and coming to terms with the power in our hurt. As a witness to the pain, plight, and progression of African Americans, I aimed to perceptively and poetically chronicle the stories of Brown people around the world while simultaneously delving into and unraveling the labyrinth of myself. I hope *All My Heroes Were Assassinated* leaves you feeling fearless and determined to uncover your true history and take back all America has stripped from our cultures.