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Best-selling Authors Wrap Up Successful 2005 U.S. Military Base Tour

When best-selling, African-American authors Lori Bryant-Woolridge (Hitts & Mrs), Nina Foxx (Marrying Up), Carmen Green (Kissed), Marissa Monteilh (Hot Boyz), Victoria Christopher Murray (Grown Folks Business) and Jacquelin Thomas (Saved in the City) decided to bring their unique voices and popular novels to several U.S. military bases in Spring 2005, their rationale was simple—do well by doing good.

“Each of us is connected, whether through personal service or family, with the military. We understand what it’s like to be at home waiting. We thought bringing a little joy and distraction to the loved ones left behind was a perfect way for us to do our part in the war effort,” said author Lori Bryant-Woolridge.

The **Femme Fantastik** tour kicked off at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas on April 2, 2005 and traveled to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, Fort Dix in New Jersey and Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. On August 27 and 28th the authors will conclude the military portion of the 2005 tour at Fort Belvoir, Fort Meade and Andrews Air Force Base, all in the Washington, D.C. area.

“Along the way we have met hundreds of soldiers and their families and have sold thousands of books. It’s been really great,” said Victoria Christopher Murray.

“The key to our success,” said author Carmen Green, “is that each of us brings something different to the **Femme Fantastik** Tour. It’s an excellent mix of genres and styles that has greatly pleased men and women across the country. From Christian to Romance to Chick Lit to Contemporary Women’s Fiction, there is something to interest every booklover and seller.”

“And what started out as a patriotic gesture and promotion tool has turned into a major win-win for all concerned,” added Marissa Monteilh.

Fort Bragg’s Main Store, North Post Manager, Jason Rosenberg agreed.

“The **Femme Fantastik** tour was one of the biggest book signing events we have ever had at Fort Bragg. The ladies of **Femme Fantastik** made a huge impact within our community and our customers, who are active military and family members, truly enjoyed meeting these terrific women in person,” said Rosenberg. “The response to the signing was actually so great that we have now put an entire African-American book section into our book department featuring books written by the **Femme Fantastik** authors and other best-selling African-American authors.”

Fantastic Women Read Fantastik Books!

“Meeting fans and sharing your work for a few hours always feels good, but through this tour we’ve been able to make a lasting impression. It’s great to know that because of our success, we have helped expand the visibility and availability of other African-American writers,” said author Nina Foxx.

The **Femme Fantastik** Military Tour has been so well received that the decision has been made to expand the number of bases in 2006, including a possible trip abroad to Germany. The authors are also organizing a book drop of popular titles from a wide variety of authors to send to the libraries in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“There is no way I can truly say thanks for all they do (the military), so I pray that I bring a smile or two, some laughter and lots of encouragement while entertaining the men and women of the armed services. It’s a small gesture of my gratitude,” said Jacquelin Thomas.

To read about the adventures of the Femme Fantastik authors, log on to www.femmefantastik.blogspot.com or contact them at fantastiktour@yahoo.com

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The Femme Fantastik Authors

MARISSA MONTEILH (MON-TAY) - is a former commercial actress, broadcast journalist and host facilitator of relationship seminars. The masculine-feminine energy principle in every relationship is a focal point of discussion in her first, highly acclaimed novel, *May December Souls*. Originally self-published in 2000 by Ms. Monteilh's company, 4D Publishing, *May December Souls* was re-released by HarperCollins in March 2002. HarperCollins also released her second title, *The Chocolate Ship*, in January 2003, and quickly reached several bestseller lists. In June 2004 HarperCollins published her third novel, *Hot Boyz* to positive reviews and brisk sales.

NINA FOXX Nina is originally from Jamaica, New York and is a retired Captain in the Army Reserve. Her father is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. Her brother is a Vietnam veteran. Having lived all over the U.S., she considers herself a citizen of America. A graduate from Hunter College and Baruch College she earned a graduate literary fiction certificate from the University of Washington. She has authored four books, *Dipping My Spoon*, *Get Some Love*, *Going Buck Wild* and her newest novel, *Marrying Up*, all published by Harpercollins/Avon. She also co-authored a non-fiction book entitled *Do The Write Thing: 7 Steps to Publishing Success*. She has also written columns for BlackWords Online and an occasional review for Black Issues Book Review. Nina helps support the Austin Writer's League and the Girls Scouts, is a member of Jack & Jill of America and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She lives in Austin, Texas with her family.

In 2000, Walk Worthy Press/Warner Books published **VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY'S** debut novel, *Temptation*, which made numerous best sellers list including Emerge and The Dallas Morning News. It remained on the Essence bestsellers list for nine consecutive months and was nominated in 2001 for an NAACP Image Award in Outstanding Literature. *JOY*, Victoria's best-selling second novel was released in October 2001 and won the 2002 Gold Pen Award for Best Inspirational Fiction. *Truth Be Told* is Victoria's third novel and was released in July 2004 and became a #1 best-seller. Her latest novel, *Grown Folks Business*, was released in June 2005 to rave reviews. Victoria is a regional editor with Black Issues Book Review and a contributor to Quarterly Black Review. She lives in Inglewood, California and attends Bible Enrichment Fellowship International Church under the spiritual tutelage of Dr. Beverly "BAM" Crawford. She is also a member of the Long Beach Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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JACQUELIN THOMAS is the prolific, best selling author of 25 titles in print, including her latest release, *Saved in the City*. Other credits include contributions to the Women of Color Devotional Bible and Brides Noir magazine. Other BET Books/New Spirit releases include, *A Change Is Gonna Come*, *Prodigal Husband*, *Undeniably Yours* and *Treasure of the Heart*. She is also the author of the Essence best-selling novel, *Singsation*. Jacquelin contributed to *Blessed Assurance*, an anthology collection published by Literally Speaking Publishing House with contributors Victoria Christopher Murray, Patricia Haley, James Guitard, Terrance Johnson and Maurice Gray. Although Jacquelin initially published in the romance genre, she has decided to follow the call on her heart to write inspirational fiction. She seeks to write books that will touch your heart and uplift your spirits with tales of characters who yearn to have an intimate relationship with God.

Dubbed "a writer to watch" by author E. Lynn Harris, **LORI BRYANT-WOOLRIDGE** is the author of the best-selling novel, *Read Between the Lies*, published by Doubleday (1999) and in paperback by Warner Books (2000). The book was nominated for a Golden Pen Award in 2000. She is a contributing author to several top anthologies including: *Best Black Women's Erotica* (Cleis Press, 2001), the award-winning *Gumbo: A Celebration of African-American Writing*, edited by best-selling authors, E. Lynn Harris and Marita Golden (Harlem Moon, 2002), and *Brown Sugar 3: Opposites Attract* (Washington Square, 2004). Her current novel, *Hitts & Mrs.* was released by HarperCollins/Avon in January 2004 and quickly became a #1 national best seller. The recipient of a 1981 Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Writing, she is the co-founder of the nonprofit organization, Mothers Off Duty, Inc. and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the daughter of Brig. General (R) Albert Bryant Sr. (U.S. Army) and the sister of Brig. General Albert Bryant Jr., currently the Assistant Commandant & Deputy Post Commander, Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

CARMEN GREEN began writing in 1994 and sold her first novel, *Now or Never*, to Kensington Publishing. Since 1994, Carmen has sold more than fourteen books and novellas. Her 1998 release, *Keeping Secrets*, made *Emerge* magazine's bestsellers list. *Commitments* released August 1998, was adapted into a BET TV movie starring Allen Payne, Victoria Dillard and Virginia Capers. The movie was the highest rated movie to air on BET in 2000. She is also a contributor to several anthologies including *Midnight Clear* for Genesis Press, and then in 2001 *Island Bliss* and *Sister, Sister* for St. Martin's Press. She continued to write for BET, expanding her hugely successful family the Crawford's by penning, *Endless Love*, which featured the Arabesque Man, Doctor Harold Jackson, followed in 2002 by *Doctor, Doctor*. Carmen's first Women's Fiction book, *Atlanta Live*, was published in 2003 and hit #4 in the Romance Writer's of America Favorite Book of the Year contest for 2003. Her latest novel, *Date Night*, was released in September 2004 and *Flirt* will arrive bookstores in October.

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Request for Coverage:

Authors Wrap Successful Military Base Tour in Washington, D.C.

WHO: Best-selling authors **Lori Bryant-Woolridge** (Hitts & Mrs), **Nina Foxx** (Marrying Up), **Carmen Green** (Doctor, Doctor), **Marissa Montheil** (Hot Boyz), **Victoria Christopher Murray** (Grown Folks Business) and **Jacquelin Thomas** (Saved in the City) are scheduled to bring their unique voices and popular novels to several U.S. military bases and book stores in the Washington, D.C. area. Each of these six national-best selling authors brings something different to the **Femme Fantastik** Tour. It's an excellent mix of genres and styles. From Christian to Romance to Chick Lit to Contemporary Women's Fiction, there is something to please every booklover.

WHY: Lori Bryant-Woolridge explains, "Each of us is connected, whether through personal service or family, with the military. We understand what it's like to be at home waiting. We thought bringing a little joy and distraction to the loved ones left behind was a perfect way for us to do our part in the war effort."

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Before their weekend visit to the area bases, the authors will appear at Reprint Bookshop in L'Enfant Plaza and B. Dalton Book in Union Station. Bookstore appearances are open to the public.

WHEN:	August 26, 2005 Reprint Books 455 L'Enfant Plaza SW 12:30 -1:30 pm	August 26, 2005 B. Dalton Books Union Station NE 3:30 - 6:30 pm	
	August 27, 2005 Fort Meade, MD Time: 11-1pm Post Exchange	August 27, 2005 Andrews AFB, MD Time: 3-5pm Post Exchange	August 28, 2005 Fort Belvoir, VA Time: 2-4pm Post Exchange

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NOTE: Femme Fantastik Authors are available for interviews

For more information see attached press release or to schedule an interview contact:
Fantastiktour@yahoo.com or 201-805-0309.

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