

LOVE

at Second Sight

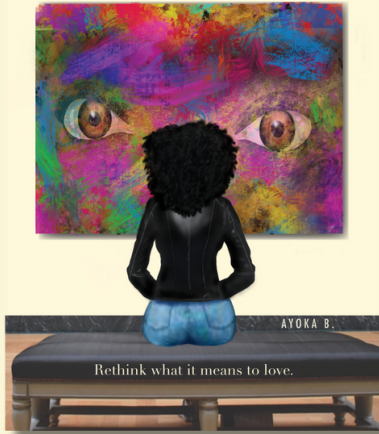


AYOKA B.

Rethink what it means to love.

Press Kit

LOVE *at Second Sight*



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Women's Fiction / Literary Fiction

ONLINE

authorayokab.com

AYOKA
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LOVE *at Second Sight* AYOKA B.

SYNOPSIS

Heartbreak. Resilience. Family. Friendship. Motherhood. *Love At Second Sight* by Ayoka B., delivers on universal themes in descriptive prose, layered with unforgettable characters that we want to get to know!

Meet Shane. Her life is full... of poetry, motherhood and friends. She is a Single Mom who is pensive, passionate and generous and loves her family. Ambitious and hard-working, Shane is carving her path. Enter Mike. He is talented, complicated and guarded. Their undeniable connection changes their hearts and lives. This page-turner is infused with lyrics and poetry. It will make you laugh, cry, and cheer and inspire you to rethink what it means to love.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Explores universal themes of heartbreak, resilience, family, motherhood, career, artistry, passion.
- Centers the journey of a Black female protagonist in a positive and realistic light
- Story of love: self-love, love of friends, family, community as well as romantic
- Written in descriptive prose infused with lyrics and poetry
- Encourages reflection and inspires readers to "rethink what it means to love."

AUDIENCE

- Women
- Black readers (U.S. and global)
- Women's fiction
- Romance



Ayoka B. is a multi-genre author who centers Black love and joy in her writing. With tenderness and ache, she tells the untold stories of Black women. Works in progress include a spin-off of her debut novel; a collection of humorous vignettes for women; two poetry collections; and a YA novel. She is also co-host of a podcast, *Writing While Black*.

A DC native, she lives in Costa Rica with her family. Her intention is for readers to connect with her words and find joy. *Love At Second Sight* is her first novel. Ayoka has also published a series of poetry books.

Book Buzz

"So many reasons to love both Love At Second Sight (LASS) and the main character, Shane, who we meet as a young single mom; LASS and Shane are strong, smart, and stirring. I recommend this book without reservation. I love a love story, especially a multifaceted one because LOVE is multifaceted. I appreciate that LASS explores love as it evolves...."

- angela, Author and Podcast Host

"Love at Second Sight is not just a novel... it is a journey. If the purpose of art is to stir emotions within the beholder, then Love at Second Sight a masterwork. Ayoka B. is one of the most exciting new voices to hit the scene in a long time, I'm looking for big things from this author!"

- lyapo Yapa, Best-selling Author, *Melanin: A Novel, And What of the Cargo?*

"The story unfolds in such a gorgeous way and I love how Shane's healing journey is the central narrative and not the men she love(d). In the end, she finds herself content with the choices she's made and the love she experienced along the way. If you love a great romance story, check this one out and share with a friend who would love it! I wish I could go back to page one and reexperience this story for the first time again! I love when books read this way- how about you?"

- Emely Rumble, LCSW, Bibliotherapist and Author, *Bibliotherapy In The Bronx*

"A compelling story, vivid in description as readers visualize life and love through Shane's experience. Reinforced through Art, Poetry, Song, this book triggers thought, reflection and emotion. I found myself empathizing with several characters in the story including Shane, Mike and Anthony, making the stories told relatable. Moreso, conflicts between career choices, parenting and locale are real life decisions that we all have to balance. Great read! Retrospective, as you ponder throughout the book: where you were and what decisions you made, should you have made or did you make at these crossroads in your life!"

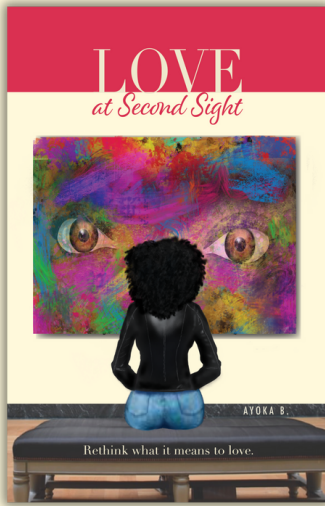
- Gary M., Reader

"What sets "Love at Second Sight" apart is its ability to delve into the intricacies of community, diverse forms of love, and the sheer power of joy. Ayoka B.'s descriptive prose and layered storytelling create an immersive experience that will make readers laugh, cry, and cheer. The integration of lyrics and poetry further enhances the artistry of the narrative, adding a unique depth to the reading experience."

- LaKeisha W., Influencer

"This book tug at my heart from the very beginning. I went through so many emotions in every verse. I felt such a familiarity with so many of the characters and it invoked fond memories of my time spent in MD/DC/VA in the 90's. This read is right on time. It came to me as a loving reminder that I need to realize, review and revisit what is important and in alignment with me. Thank You Ayoka B."

- Tara S., Reader



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fan Favorite Indie Novel Centering Black Love Turns One

Author Ayoka B. Celebrates Bookish Milestone

February 13, 2025 – *Love At Second Sight* by indie author Ayoka B., a fan favorite that centers Black Love and Black Joy, celebrates its first birthday on Black Love Day. The author is excited to make some noise and has a special announcement planned.

The novel follows protagonist Shane, a pensive, Single Mother whose passion matches her ambition. Her life is full, her next steps undecided, and then she meets a talented stranger. Their undeniable connection changes their hearts and lives. Infused with lyrics and poetry, there is also a playlist to enjoy. Ayoka B. describes the novel as a “love story” and says it leans more toward Women’s Fiction.

“Instead of centering the female main character’s story around her romantic relationship, it explores all of her relationships and how they challenge and sustain her,” explains the author. “It addresses all types of love: love of self, family, friends, community and, yes, romantic love.”

Although Ayoka B. insists that it is not a romance novel, readers will get their happily ever after, as well as a good amount of spice. The story has resonated with romance readers and those who typically do not read romance.

Undoubtedly because it is a life story with characters whom we feel like we know and want to spend time with. Bibliotherapist and book enthusiast, Em Rumble agrees, “I wish I could go back to page one and re-experience this story for the first time again! I love when books read this way!”

Today, readers are posting about the book and tagging the author, writing those long-awaited reviews and hopefully tuning into live interviews that feature the author: IG Live hosted by @joyinhome_publishing at 6pm ET. Ayoka B. also asks people to share her posts and subscribe via her website. For more information, go to linktr.ee/joyinhome

The author hopes that this milestone will introduce new readers to the novel and her writing. She is currently working on a follow-up project which is a spin-off written from the point of view of one of her debut’s well-loved male characters.

With poetry, fiction and nonfiction, Ayoka B. explores the themes of Womanhood, love, loss and family through her unique lens. The vulnerability and honesty of her writing shines in the untold stories of mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and wives. A DC native, she resides in Costa Rica with her family. Learn more at linktr.ee/joyinhome

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Excerpt

She met him in Walmart of all places.

After being laid off, Shane and Tonya went there regularly to peruse the CD section. There was a great selection and the prices were decent. It had become their shared ritual.

Shane didn't know what she was looking for, but would know it when she found it. Tonya was in the next aisle. New releases, classics, soundtracks, greatest hits, what would she pick today? Shane was lost in the endless choices.

She heard someone coming up the aisle. Shane assumed it was Tonya coming to find her. When she raised her eyes, she saw him. Everything slowed down. His lean, muscular body took long strides in her direction.

He was about 6'1" and the color of brown sugar. His deep set eyes were framed with heavy brows and they locked with hers; the two stood in silence for a moment. Tattoos adorned his forearms and his lips were so....

She shook her head quickly to clear it.

"How you doin'?" He smiled. Why'd he do that?

I'm fine now, she thought. But she only smiled. Just then Tonya walked over and stood beside her. She followed Shane's line of sight and looked from him to her friend then back at him.

"Hey, how are you?" Tonya beamed.

He laughed, nodding his head in acknowledgment.

Shane pushed her cart around the corner to the next aisle. Tonya followed close behind.

"Did you see his lips?" Tonya asked between clenched teeth.

"Yes," Shane whispered, hoping Tonya would take the cue and lower her voice.

"I saw him looking at you." Tonya nudged Shane. "Go talk to him."

"I will not!"

"Whyyyyy?" her friend whined.

Tonya wished Shane would get out of her own way. It was time for her to end this "man sabbatical." And she needed some fun.

Shane was a great Single Mom, but she was also a loner who spent too much time in the house. She knew Shane didn't trip about having a man, but Tonya was in love so she wanted her friend to find love too.

"If you don't go talk to him, then I'll do it for you."

Tonya ran down to the end of the aisle in search of the mystery man. Shane grabbed the cart and hurriedly pushed it, trying to catch her; the right front wheel was slowing her down, dragging across the linoleum.

"Tonya!"

And there she was, smiling up at him two aisles over.

"Oh, so you're a tattoo artist," she nodded her head. "Me and my girl have been talking about getting tattoos."

Tonya spotted Shane in her periphery.

"Shane, you hear that? He can do our tattoos!"

He looked in Shane's direction as Tonya called to her.

"So can we have your number so we can call you when we're ready?"

He smiled revealing even, pearly teeth.

"Sure."

Shane reflexively swallowed and watched as he wrote his number down. Tonya read the slip of paper as she took it.

"Mike. Well it was nice meeting you, Mike! My girl Shane will call when we're ready." Tonya jerked her head toward Shane.

"Aight ladies. Until then." He smiled that smile and began walking to the front of the store.

Shane held her hand up to stop Tonya from saying anything more while he was within earshot. She waited about a minute.

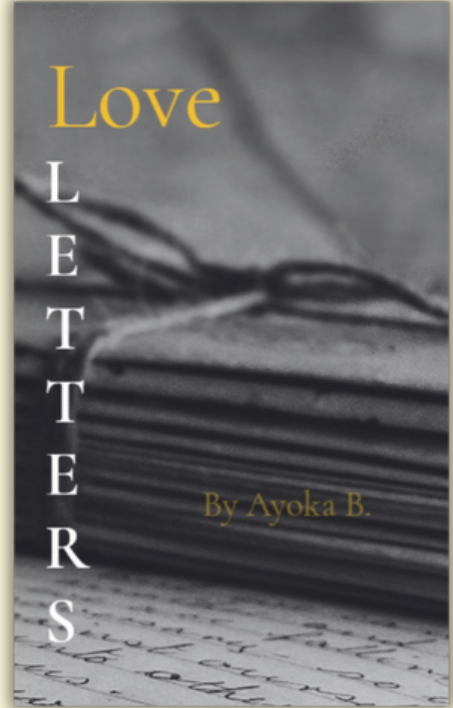
"Dayum! He was delicious."

Shane laughed. She didn't disagree.

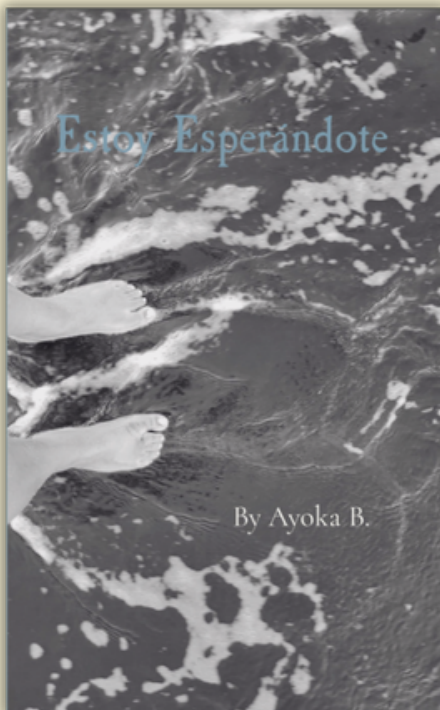
Other Books by Ayoka B.



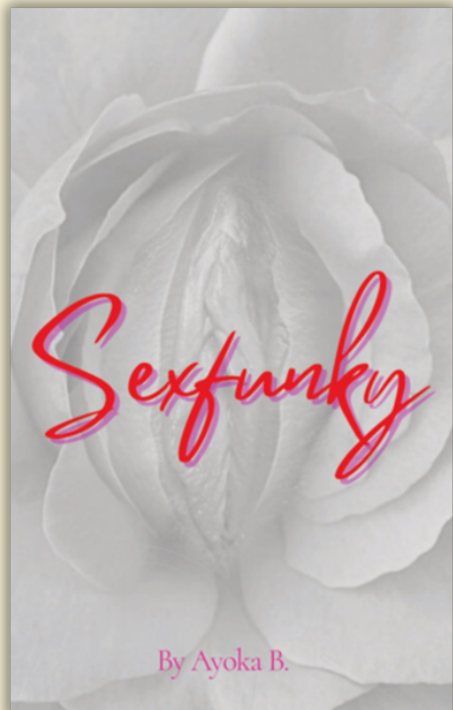
Mule of the World



Love LETTERS



Estoy Esperándote



Sexfunky

Interview Questions

1. What inspired you to write *Love At Second Sight*?
2. What themes do you explore in *Love At Second Sight*?
3. Tell us about Shane, the main character.
4. Do you relate to any of your characters?
5. The novel infuses poetry and lyrics into the prose.
Why did you choose to include it?
6. What did you learn while writing this novel?
7. What do you want readers to take from your novel?
8. How long have you been writing?
9. Why did you choose to self-publish?
10. What advice do you have for aspiring writers?
11. What's next for you?

Author Bio



Word geek. Writer. Mother. Sister. Creative.

Ayoka B. is a multi-genre author who centers Black love and joy in her writing. With tenderness and ache, she tells the untold stories of Black women.

Ayoka began writing short stories in high school to express her feelings. In college, she pivoted to poetry, writing her first poetry collection, *Mule of the World*. It is volume one of a series which includes *Love LETTERS*, *Estoy Esperándote* and *Sexfunky*.

Ayoka's debut novel, *Love At Second Sight*, is a love story which follows the journey of FMC Shane, a Single Mom and poet. Written in descriptive prose, this page-turner features unforgettable characters and is infused with lyrics and poetry. An untitled follow-up featuring fan-favorite character Mike is scheduled for completion in February 2026.

Works in progress include a collection of humorous vignettes for women; two poetry collections; and a paranormal YA novel entitled, *Bluff*. She is also co-host of a podcast in its second season, *Writing While Black*.

A DC native, she lives in Costa Rica with her family. Her intention is for readers to connect with her words and find joy.

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