

NOW IN DC

BOOK REPORT

# Write of PASSAGE

DC novelist and poet **Jason Reynolds** ([jasonwritesbooks.com](http://jasonwritesbooks.com)) credits music by acts like Tupac Shakur for the spare, searing words in his award-winning books. "It's about acrobatics of language and irreverence," says the author, who was born in the District and lives in Kingman Park. "I feel like I can do whatever I want on the page, and that moxie comes from hip-hop." In his 13 books for young readers, Reynolds chronicles kids dealing with real-life issues. His latest novel, *Look Both Ways* (\$18, Simon & Schuster), is out this month and composed of linked short stories. "Young people need to be met where they are, and I think short pieces can give this macro view of a whole world." Reynolds moved back from Brooklyn a few years ago to be near family. He's immersed himself here. "DC is changing so rapidly. It feels rampant in an interesting way." He's inspired by the arts, go-go music and libraries. "I love going to the Library of Congress. That library card... is like a chocolate factory gold gift card!" And he'll turn these pages this fall. —*Jennifer Barger*



Jason Reynolds says his new book will be easy for teachers to use in school. "plucking out stories and doing close readings that teach tone, setting, plot and character in 10 pages."

**The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

"I'm curious to read his fiction. I think he's a brilliant mind, and I can't wait to see how he, and I say this reluctantly, spins slavery into something fresh."

**Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson**

"First of all, Jacqueline Woodson can do no wrong in my eyes. But, beyond that, any story that explores black intergenerational relationships excites me. There's something about familial continuum that always reads deliciously."

**Pet by Akwaeke Emezi**

"Emezi is one of the most inventive writers I've read in a long time. Her adult work and essays have been nothing short of brilliant, and I'm expecting the same kind of courageous writing in the young adult space."



Geo print medium trinket case, \$270, by Smythson at Saks Fifth Avenue, Tysons Galleria

JEWEL BOX

**DOMESTIC BLISS** A notebook from **Smythson** has long been a staple for the cosmopolitan professional. The internationally renowned British house is famous for its classically understated but always recognizable leather goods. With its recently expanded home goods offerings, the company capitalizes on its celebrated name, adding an artistic touch to signature products. "Since the 1880s, home for Smythson has meant pieces that enhance life—whether on a journey or settling into a new environment," says Creative Director Luc Goidadin. "The fun comes from mixing our rich legacy with a modern sense of function and color." For the first time, Smythson introduces cashmere throws, which are produced in Scotland and feature artwork inspired by the brand's archives. If you're craving something unique yet timeless, the tiered jewelry boxes, now adorned with handpainted surrealist bird imagery, deliver. The aesthetic continues with geo print variations of leather picture frames, trinket boxes and cro-embossed playing card cases. Consider a piece from this home range the new conversation starter at your next dinner party. —*Julie DiAlessandro*

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