

SAPPHIC

JANUARY
2025
VOL1 ISSUE1

BEAUTY
IS
SKIN
DEEP

10

OF WHITNEY'S
FAVORITE
THINGS

&

Featuring
Whitney's
Latest Music

SEXY
Smart

NAVIGATING THE ART
OF LOVE

ALL ABOUT THAT
RLOA

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January 2025



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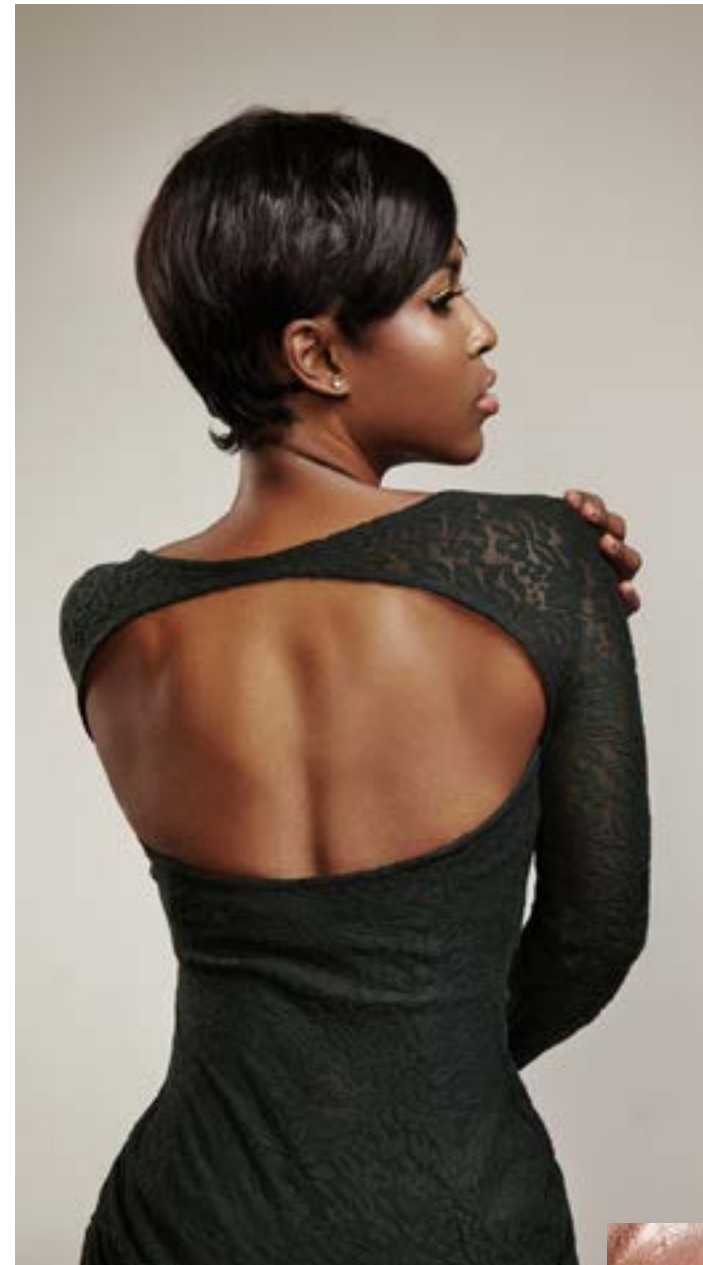
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SAPPHIC

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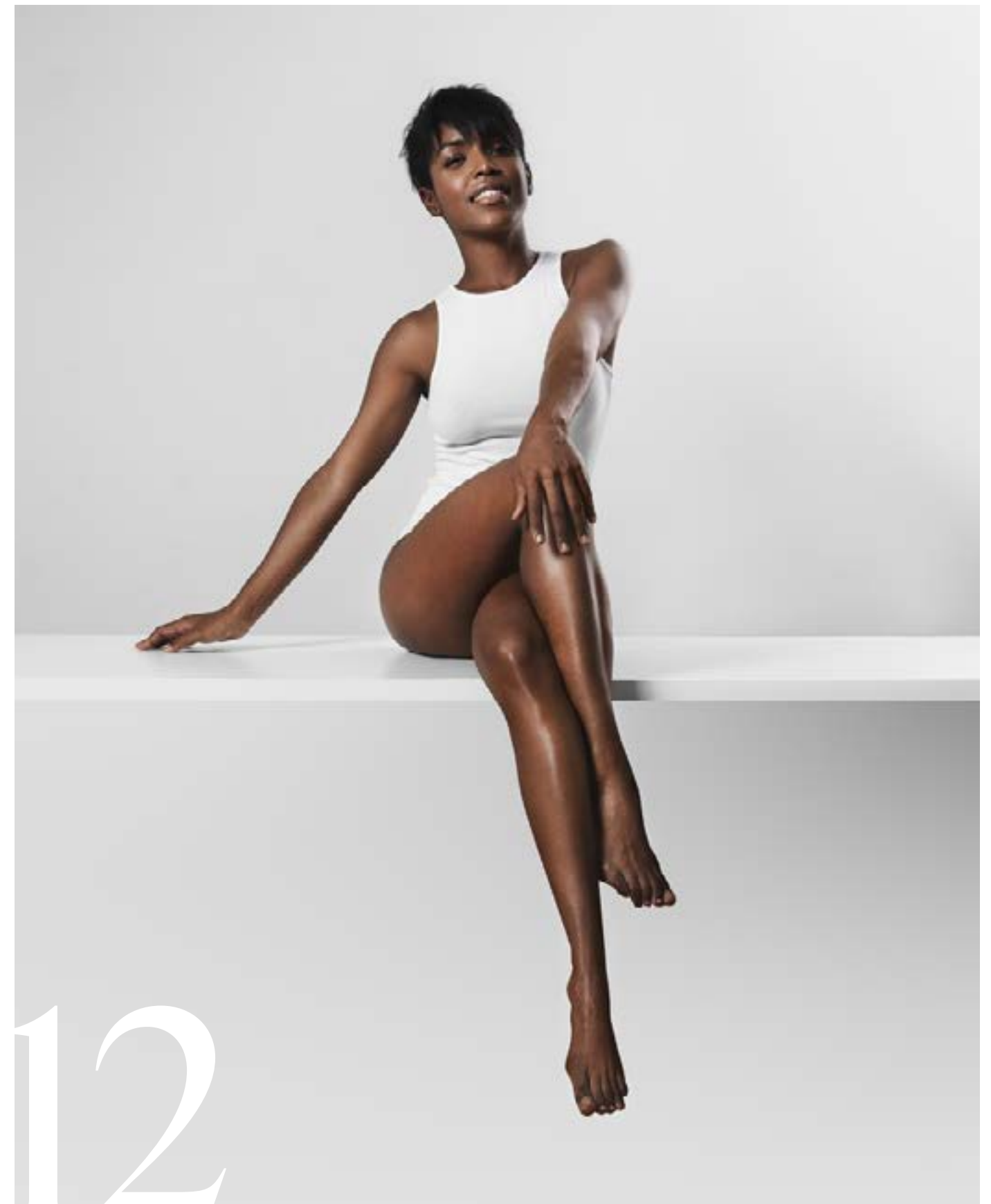
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Sapphic is designed to provide readers with an engaging and insightful look into the fictional world of the *Real Lesbians of Atlanta* series and beloved characters. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

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JANUARY 2025
SAPPHIC MAGAZINE
VOLUME 01, ISSUE 01

Beneath the Skin

AUNTIE CHAT

Happy New Year, Onyx Lee Pub Readers!

Welcome to 2025—a year brimming with possibilities, inspiration, and, dare I say, intrigue. As we turn the page on a new chapter, we find ourselves reflecting on the stories we've shared and the ones yet to be told. And what fuels our curiosity and passion more than anything? The answer is twofold: our ever-evolving characters and *you*, our devoted readers. Together, we create a community where sapphic stories are celebrated, explored, and brought to life in ways that inspire and connect us all.

At Onyx Lee Publishing, we've always been about more than just telling stories—we're about creating worlds, sparking conversations, and building relationships. This year, we're excited to take that connection to a whole new level with the launch of *Sapphic*, a magazine devoted to shining a spotlight on the vibrant characters who populate our stories. Through its pages, you'll get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at what makes them tick, where their journeys have taken them after their novels' final chapters, and perhaps even a glimpse of what's to come. And along the way, we hope to gain insight into *you*—your thoughts, your dreams, and the sapphic stories that resonate within your heart.

To mark this exciting new venture, our premiere issue is dedicated entirely to Whitney James, the 34-year-old Contemporary Christian Jazz singer who captured hearts and set sparks flying in the fiery short story *Caught Up and Strapped Up*. Whitney is a woman of passion and conviction, balancing her deep faith with a love life that's anything but conventional. If you've yet to meet her, this is your chance to dive into her world, her music, and her heart. For those already *caught up* in Whitney and her not-so-secret lover, Mikail Rollins, this issue promises even more: intimate insights, untold stories, and an exclusive peek into what life looks like for Whitney after the last page was turned.

But *Sapphic* is more than just a character spotlight—it's a celebration of what it means to love and live authentically. It's a love letter to the readers who support and cherish these stories, and an invitation to journey deeper into the lives of the characters you've come to adore. With each issue, we'll peel back the layers, uncovering the joys, struggles, and complexities that make our characters—and the stories they inhabit—so compelling.

Whitney's story is one of resilience, faith, and unapologetic love—a powerful reminder of the complexities that shape our lives and the courage it takes to embrace them. As you turn the pages of this inaugural issue, you'll discover not just the woman behind the music but also the values, dreams, and challenges that make her a character worth celebrating. *Sapphic* is here to bring you closer to these characters, to share their journeys in vivid detail, and to spark conversations that linger long after you've closed the magazine.

So, grab a cup of something that makes you “feelgoode,” settle into your coziest spot, and get ready to immerse yourself in the soulful, fiery world of Whitney James. We hope this issue brings you as much joy to read as it brought us to create. Here's to a new year of unforgettable stories, dynamic characters, and the ever-growing community that makes it all possible.

Happy Reading!

Editorial Director AUNT GEORGIA LEE

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“THE PERSONAL IS
POLITICAL AND THAT’S ALL
YOU NEED TO KNOW.”

“Beauty
is Skin
Deep”

Whitney James, a celebrated Contemporary Christian Jazz Singer has risen from the flames of persecution like a Phoenix. After falling from Grace when she dared to live her life unapologetically, as a proud lesbian within the Atlanta religious community, Whitney has chosen to bare her soul and set the record straight in this first edition of *Sapphic*.

“Whoever claims to love God but hates his brother or sister is a liar.” - John 4:19

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THE PRICE *of Passion*

Life be lifing. It's a phrase many of us know all too well—when life throws more lemons than even the sweetest lemonade recipe can handle. For Whitney James, this saying perfectly sums up the whirlwind of challenges she faced after deciding to embrace her truth and come out as a lesbian. What follows is Whitney's story in her own words—a candid, heartfelt reflection on the trials, heartbreak, and triumphs she experienced during one of the most pivotal times in her life.

I had no choice but to be my true self after years of keeping it on the down low. Being the daughter of a minister and his First Lady in the Baptist church community was pressure enough, but when my older brother followed somewhat in my father's footsteps to become a presiding minister at just 19 then ultimately a Bishop in a Methodist church (*his only misstep*), the expectations on me to mirror their righteous paths were overwhelming.

But I've always been the opposite of *straight and narrow*. I was the tomboy, the hyperactive kid with a smart mouth. My mother spent countless hours chasing me down, delivering Bible verses and prayers, all in an attempt to 'cure' her rambunctious baby girl. Yet, when I allowed God to use me through ministry—through the lyrics I wrote or performed, inspired by some of the greatest names in Christian music—it felt like all was forgiven, if only for a moment.



My parents encouraged my music career, and by 20, I had a record deal. Life moved at lightning speed. My music soared, and fans adored me, almost as much as they worshipped the Holy Father. But behind the bright lights and adoration, my heart longed for something deeper—something I couldn't ignore any longer: the love of another woman.

I'd had a few flings here and there, but when I met her, everything changed. She stole my heart completely. For the first time, I couldn't think straight, let alone be straight. Coming out felt inevitable—it wasn't just about me; it was about freedom, authenticity, and living life unapologetically.

But what should have been the happiest moment of my life became the gravest decision I ever made. My record contract wasn't renewed. Fans turned their backs on me. And while my lover stayed, she wasn't ready to stand in the light with me. She remained in the shadows, her denial cutting deep. I respected her choice, but it only magnified the sting of the rejection I faced everywhere else.

The stress was overwhelming. My chest felt like it was in a constant vice. I couldn't sleep, and when I did, the nightmares haunted me. My joints ached like I was decades older than my age. I prayed, but I was lost—adrift in a sea of fear and uncertainty.

Yet just when I thought about giving up, God showed up in the form of love and sisterhood. My tribe—Shantal Morgan, Monica Kelly, and Mackenzie Gresham—wrapped me in their unwavering support. And then there was her, the woman who still holds my heart, even if we remain in the shadows. And of course, there's Ayda Kohn, my manager. She's my guardian angel, my lifeline, the one who reminded me that even when you've fallen, you're never beyond redemption.

If you ask me if coming out was worth the drama, the trials, the heartbreak—I'd say yes without hesitation. Being true to yourself, living in your light, is the greatest freedom there is. And yes, it comes with a price. But if I had to pay it again, I'd do so gladly, because passion, purpose, and authenticity are worth everything.”

Want more of the story behind the fall and rise of Whitney James? Then flip the pages and dive deeper into the rebirth of the Christian Contemporary Jazz singer on page 12.



10 of WHITNEY'S FAVORITE THINGS

A New You in 2025 WHITNEY JAMES

Whitney James recommends her 10 favorite self-love secrets to help us jumpstart our new year with the nourishment that will heal all wounds. Or at least, gonna make you feel good in the moment.

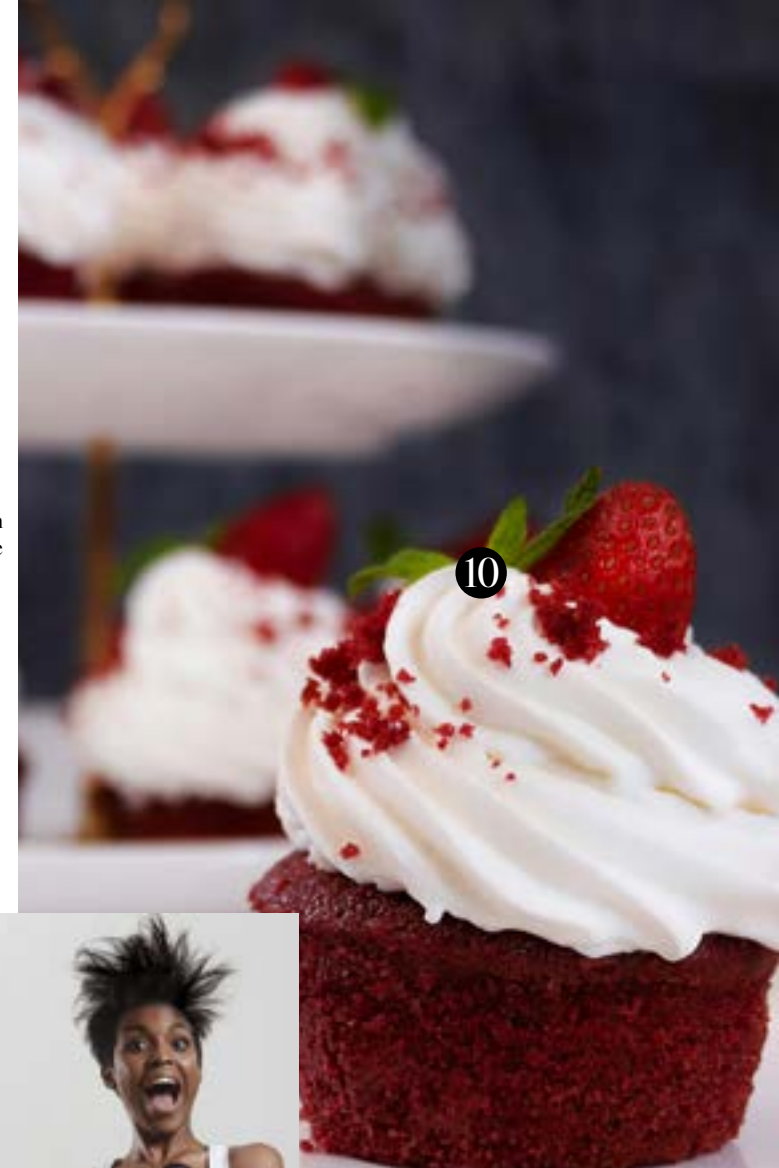


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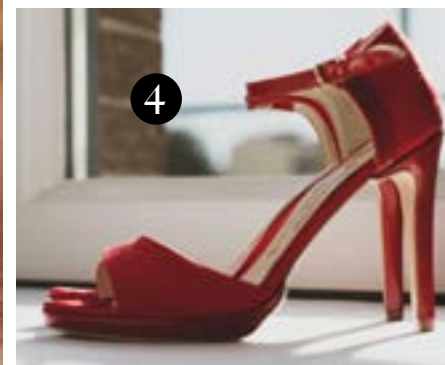
1. Kiss Me Quick
2. Glow Up Goddess
3. Tresses of Temptation
4. Crimson Confidence
5. The Scarlet Temptation
6. Red Haute Set
7. Effervescent Desire
8. Sultry Bloom
9. The Red Temptress
10. Red Velvet Rendezvous



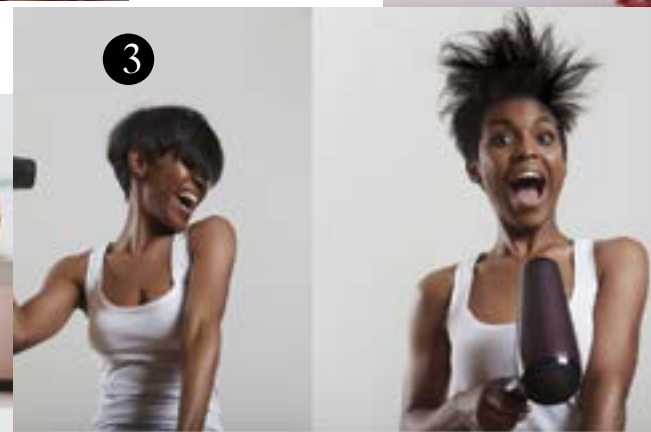
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Encourage Yourself

WHITNEY TAKES US BENEATH THE SKIN

SPECIAL INTERVIEW



When did you know that you were a lesbian? “Oh, diving in deep already? Alright, let’s go there. The first time I realized I had feelings for another girl was during a moment of innocent exploration with a childhood friend under my parents’ house. I didn’t fully understand it at the time, but it awakened something in me—a spark, a sense of joy, and curiosity about who I was.

However, my first real encounter with intimacy was far from a choice or a moment of love. It was taken from me by someone who betrayed the very faith they preached—a man who wore a cross and spoke of saving souls while causing harm.

That experience left lasting scars, but it also shaped my journey. It taught me the importance of reclaiming my story, my body, and my truth. When I finally embraced my identity as a lesbian, it wasn’t just about coming out—it was about finding freedom and healing in my authenticity.”

Do you think people are afraid to come out like you within the African-American community because of cultural and religious condemnation? “Oh, for sure. My parents are loving people and diehard Baptists, so coming out to them wasn’t easy. As crazy as it may sound, it felt easier to tell them about the assault I endured than to share the truth about my sexuality. That’s wild, right? But that’s the fear so many of us live with—we’re raised hearing things like ‘God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve,’ or in my case, ‘not Anna Mae and Genevieve.’ *Laughs.*

And me? I’m a daddy’s girl through and through. The idea of losing favor in my father’s eyes terrified me. But when I finally spoke my truth, I was surprised—relieved, even—by their response. My parents accepted me, and they even showed my first real girlfriend respect, not disapproval.

That acceptance didn’t happen overnight, though. It took years for us to get to a place of complete understanding. Early on, they discouraged me from coming out publicly because they worried it might ruin my career—or worse, bring backlash from their congregation.

So, yes, absolutely. People in our community are afraid of what their family, friends, and church will say. It’s a heavy weight to carry, knowing your truth could cost you everything—from relationships to career opportunities. And in my case, it did cost me my career for a while.

But do I regret it? Not one bit. Speaking my truth was the hardest—and best—decision I’ve ever made.”

What inspires your music—the love of God or the love of a woman? “Oh, you really trying to get into some deep stuff, huh? *Laughs.* You’re making me blush right now. *You really want me to go there?* Okay, how about this: both.

Music for me comes straight from the heart—it’s all about emotion. My deep love for God and the love I’ve shared with the incredible women in my life, including my current partner, move me so deeply that it’s impossible not to weave those experiences into my lyrics and melodies.

While most of my music is Christian-based, there are times when I’ve remade songs or written more secular tracks to honor the intimacy and passion I’ve felt with another woman. *Priority* comes to mind—it’s one of my latest songs. Fun fact, you commissioned me to create it for *They Call Me Dr. Feelgood*, if you recall.

That track was inspired by Neyah and Charley’s love story from the book. I could absolutely resonate with their connection—the kind of love that holds steady, no matter the struggles. It reminded me so much of my own. *My Boo* will always be my *priority*, no matter what.

So, yeah, did that answer your question?”

Who is your musical influence (past or present)? “Oh wow, this is definitely a fangirl moment for me. I have so many musical influences I absolutely adore—some of whom I’ve been blessed to meet and even collaborate with. In fact, I’m currently working on a new project with Cheryl Rose Campbell, Roxanna, and Dymon Stud for a groundbreaking new album. It’s probably one of the most exciting recent events in my career, right up there with my upcoming performance at the Greenbelt Christian Music Festival in the UK this year.

But back to your question. *Laughs.* The soulful vibes of Aretha Franklin, the strong storytelling and ministry of Shirley Caesar, and the harmonious brilliance of BeBe and CeCe Winans have all shaped me. I’ve also been inspired by the hip-hop-infused gospel of Trin-i-tee 5:7. And, of course, Cheryl Rose Campbell and Roxanna—they’re not just collaborators but inspirations in their own right.

When it comes to secular music, I have to bow to the Queen of All Queens, Rachele Ferrell, and the unparalleled talent of Donny Hathaway’s baby girl, Lalah Hathaway. These artists live their truths, pour their souls into their music, and create a space where I can both celebrate and commiserate with a reverence that’s hard to put into words—unless I’m singing their songs or remaking their work on my own albums.

In fact, for my *On The Road to Greenbelt* live album and performance, I’ll be honoring these influences with renditions of songs by CeCe Winans and Trin-i-tee 5:7. Their music reminds me why I started this journey in the first place and how faith, love, and truth can be transformed into melodies that move the soul.”

Do you think you’ll ever marry or have children? “Hmmm, that’s the perfect way to wrap up our time together, isn’t it? Although, I’m sure you’ll find another opportunity to bring me back for more tea, right, Auntie? *Laughs.*

But to answer your question—yes, I do want to marry and have children. It feels even more real now with my current partner, when she’s ready to fully embrace her truth. I know how hard that decision is, especially when so much in your life could be at risk—your career, your relationships, your sense of security. I’ve been there. So, I don’t pressure her...too much.” *Laughs again.*

That said, I won’t lie—I dream of the day we could both wear matching wedding gowns, walk down that aisle together, and seal our love with a ring and a kiss. I love her more than I ever thought I could love another woman. So, as soon as she says yes, you’ll be one of the first to know.

As for children, I don’t see myself as the one bearing them, especially as I grow into a more seasoned woman. My partner is a bit older than me, and her health makes carrying children unsafe for her as well. But one thing I’ve learned from Shantal and Carissa is that children don’t have to come from our wombs—they come from our love.

The Casper-Morgan clan is living proof of that. When Shantal’s brother and sister-in-law tragically passed in a car accident, leaving three young kids behind, Shantal and Carissa didn’t hesitate to step up. They took those babies into their home and made them their own, raising them with the same fierce love and care they give each other. And of course, us RLOA sisters were right there to support them every step of the way.

“**DON’T BE ASHAMED OF NOT HAVING IT ALL TOGETHER. GIVE YOURSELF GRACE. EVERY STEP FORWARD, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IT’S WORTH CELEBRATING.**”

What would you tell your younger self if you could go back in time, knowing what you know now? “Oh, I’d definitely tell little Whit to save her coins if she plans to keep up with my very expensive shopping habits! I mean, as you’ve probably gathered from my *10 Favorite Things* article, this girl loves her accessories. *Laughs.*

But on a serious note, my current partner has taught me so much about financial responsibility and the importance of being solvent. You know, so many talented musicians end up broke later in life because of bad management or their own poor spending habits. I was determined not to let that be my story.

When my partner and I started getting serious, one of the first things we discussed wasn’t just wedding plans or a fabulous honeymoon—it was a budget. Yep, she put me on a spending budget. At first, I was like, ‘Excuse me? I’m Whitney James, bitch!’ *Laughs.* But now, I’m grateful for it. She’s opened my eyes to proper investments, the stock market, and planning for retirement.

So, yeah, little Whit, here’s the lesson: 1+1 equals 2, gurl. If you don’t have the coins,

don’t make the purchase your check can’t cash. Future you will thank you when your closet is full, your bank account is solid, and you can strut into retirement without a care in the world.”

Do you think there is a mental health crisis going on in our world, and how do you handle your own personal struggles with mental health? “Oh, absolutely—there is definitely a mental health crisis happening right now. With instant access to information 24/7, it’s overwhelming. Social media gives me anxiety. As much as I know it’s part of my job as a public figure to stay connected with fans, the doom scrolling and pressure to project a perfect persona can be exhausting.

That’s why, whenever I’m online, what you see is the real Whitney James. *Laughs.* I’m not rude or crude, but I am authentic. My life isn’t perfect—far from it. Sure, I love my makeup, my fits, and my top chef meals, but if you catch me at a restaurant with a few drops of food on my blouse, or I hop on Live in my pajamas with no makeup on, I don’t sweat it.

Here’s why: if we keep pretending to be perfect, how can our young people grow up with self-esteem and strong mental health? They’re already dealing with more than we ever did growing up. They’re constantly inundated with curated perfection, and it’s not real. So, I do my part to keep it honest and relatable.

I even share some tips in my *Sexy Smart* article about how to keep life real, fun, and yes—sexy. One of my favorites? Schedule some sexy time! *Laughs.* Life is so busy with commitments that even I have to carve out time with my ambitious lover. But when we’re together, it’s about us—no phones, no to-do lists, no distractions.

On a deeper level, I’ve dealt with mental health struggles both personally and within my family. My biggest advice? Don’t be ashamed of not having it all together. Give yourself grace. My therapist once told me to take a walk and soak in the sunshine, and while it sounded silly at the time, it truly works. That Vitamin D, a mindful stroll, and some quiet time to yourself can work wonders for your mind and body.

And let me be clear: this *Baptist Baby* believes in both spiritual and modern medicine. They’re all gifts from God, and they all work together to help us heal. Enough said.”

As we close this conversation with Whitney James, one thing becomes abundantly clear: she is as real and multifaceted as her music. From the depths of her struggles to the heights of her triumphs, Whitney’s journey is a testament to the power of authenticity, resilience, and self-love.

She’s not just a voice on the stage or a face on the screen—she’s a woman who has faced life’s toughest challenges with grace and emerged stronger, wiser, and unapologetically herself. Whether she’s embracing love, finding joy in her tribe, or sharing her truth with the world, Whitney James continues to inspire those around her to do the same.

Her story isn’t just about faith, music, or even love—it’s about the freedom that comes with owning your truth and living in your light. And as Whitney herself says, “Give yourself grace.” It’s a simple yet profound reminder that no matter where you are on your journey, every step forward is worth celebrating.

With her upcoming live album *On The Road to Greenbelt* and her unwavering commitment to sharing her heart with the world, Whitney James shows us that even in life’s imperfections, there is beauty, purpose, and above all, hope.

ALL ABOUT THAT RLOA

“If there’s anyone I’d ride for, it would be these warrior women who make up my tribe, and I’d never want to live without them.” - Whitney James

The world often sells us the narrative that women can’t get along, painting them as conniving and backstabbing. Reality TV thrives on these stereotypes. But for me, and the incredible women of my tribe, this couldn’t be further from the truth. We are proof that sisterhood is real, empowering, and unshakable.

Together, we are the *Real Lesbians of Atlanta*—women who stand for each other through every twist, turn, and challenge life throws our way. And if anyone dares to come between us, well, they’d better think twice.

At the heart of our tribe is my best friend, Shantal Morgan, an award-winning indie filmmaker who’s currently working on a film that puts true sisterhood in the spotlight. And, let’s be honest, she doesn’t have to look far for inspiration. Our friendship group is the ultimate example.

The Little Sister Who Connects Us All

Our tribe wouldn’t exist without Mackenzie Gresham—affectionately known as Mack. I met Mack a few years ago while shopping for yet another perfect dress for a Pride gala. She was working in a chic boutique in Midtown, and despite looking like a fish out of water at first glance, her winning personality had me sold. Mack could charm the biggest skeptic into buying anything she had to sell. After an hour of trying on outfits, we were instant friends.

Mack’s true gift is her ability to see the good in people and bring them together. Thanks to her, I found my soul sister, Shantal Morgan.

The Power of Creative Connection

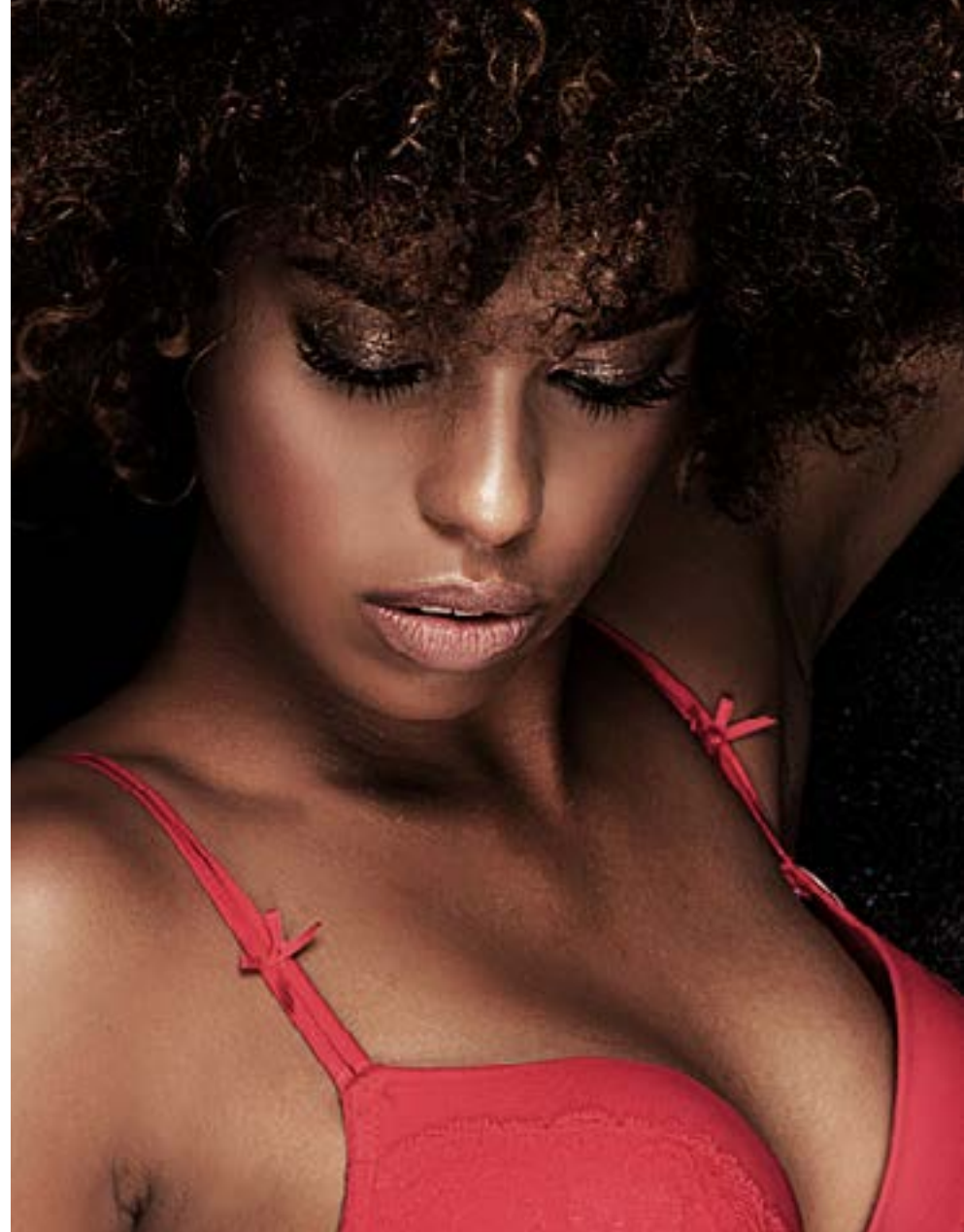
When I first approached Shantal to direct a music video for one of my songs, I thought I was just hiring a collaborator. Instead, I found a lifelong friend and a creative kindred spirit. Shantal and her partner, Carrissa, are a powerhouse duo—steadfast in their love for each other, their family, and our queer community. Their strength and resilience inspire me every day.

The Anchor of the Tribe

Then there’s Monica Kelly, our boss bae sister and legal eagle. She’s our lawyer and our moral compass, always keeping us grounded and out of trouble. Despite being our age, Monica has an old soul, a quick wit, and a heart full of love. She’s the one who holds us up when we need it most.

A Second Mother’s Love

Ayda Kohn, my manager and second mother, is nothing short of a blessing. She doesn’t just work for the money or fame—she gives from her heart. Without Ayda’s unwavering support in both my personal and professional life, I don’t know where I’d be.



1. SHANTAL MORGAN

Award-winning indie filmmaker bringing sisterhood and queer love stories to the big screen.

New Faces, New Energy

Recently, our tribe has grown with the addition of two incredible women: Layla Joy and Yvette-Leigh Dixon. Layla, a rising star in the film world, has beauty, brains, and the talent to back it up. She’s also found love with Dymon Stud, Atlanta’s favorite hip-hop artist and reformed bad boy. Together, they’re the couple everyone admires.

And then there’s Yvette, our 60-year-old dynamo who proves every day that age is just a number. Whether it’s on the pickleball court or at the gym, Yvette keeps us on our toes with her energy, curiosity, and zest for life. She’s a stunning reminder that you’re never too old to get your groove on.

Faith, Love, and Resilience

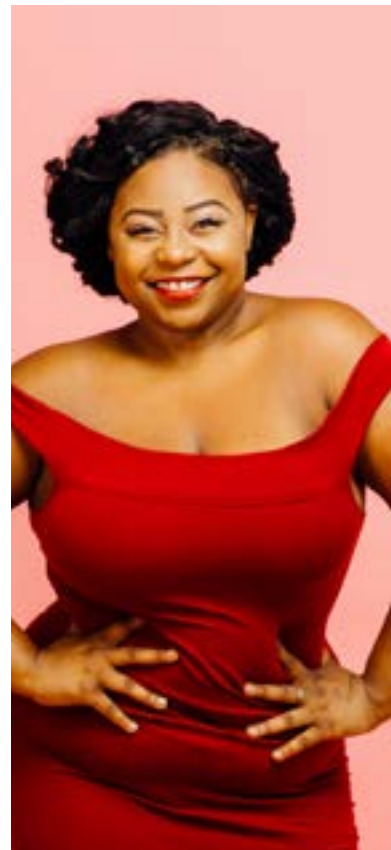
What makes the *RLOA* tribe truly special isn’t just our shared adventures or deep connections. It’s our faith in God, our love for each other, and our resilience to face life’s challenges together. We embrace the joys and pains of life with confidence, knowing we stand side by side.

We will always ride for each other, through thick and thin, to the end of time.



2. MACKENZIE GRESHAM

The ultimate connector with a charm that turns skeptics into believers and strangers into family.



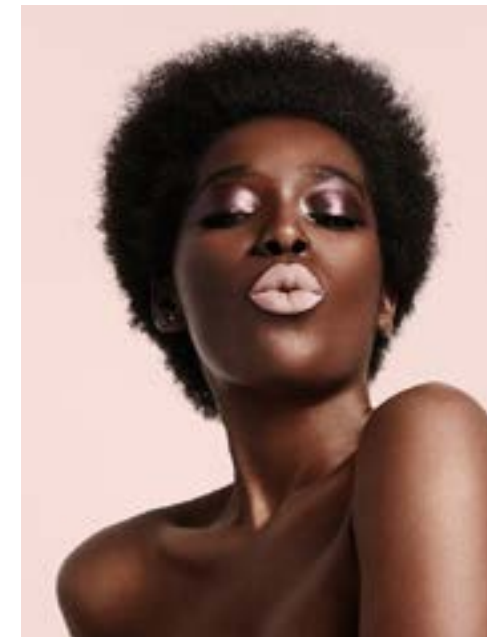
3. MONICA KELLY

Boss bae lawyer with a heart of gold, an old soul, and the wisdom to keep the tribe grounded.



4. AYDA KOHN

The powerhouse manager and second mother who gives from the heart and never lets you fall.



5. LAYLA JOY

Rising movie star with beauty, brains, and the charisma to capture hearts on and off the screen.



6. YVETTE LEIGH-DIXON

Age-defying dynamo with a zest for life, unmatched energy, and a heart as big as her smile.

*Sexy
Smart*
NAVIGATING
THE ART OF LOVE

“LOVE SMART, LIVE SEXY, AND EMBRACE
THE ART OF CONNECTION”



When Whitney James isn't lighting up stages with her soulful voice or inspiring fans through her music, she's connecting with people on a deeply personal level. Known for her authenticity and wisdom, Whitney has often shared stories of love, resilience, and self-discovery, making her a trusted voice in navigating life's complexities.

Now, in this special feature, Whitney steps into the role of an advice columnist, offering her unique perspective on relationships, intimacy, and keeping the spark alive. Drawing from her own experiences in love and life, she's here to answer your questions with a blend of humor, insight, and honesty that only Whitney can deliver.

So sit back, relax, and let Whitney guide you through the art of love, one heartfelt answer at a time.

Q1: Dear Whitney,

My partner and I have been together for six years, and while we love each other deeply, our intimacy has become routine. How do we reignite the spark?

A: Hey there, lovebird!

Six years is no small feat—that's something to celebrate! But I hear you: the day-to-day can sometimes dim the flames. *My advice?* Start small and intentional. Schedule a date night, but make it different. Go somewhere new, or recreate your first date and relive the magic of when you fell in love.

Also, don't underestimate the power of touch. A lingering hug, a playful tap on the shoulder, or a random kiss on the neck can do wonders to bring that spark back. And for the ultimate boost, try planning a surprise. Maybe leave a love note in their work bag or plan a spontaneous weekend getaway.

Lastly, *communicate*. Talk about your desires and fantasies—sometimes, just having that conversation can rekindle a whole new level of intimacy. And remember, it's the little things that make the big difference. Happy rekindling!

Q2: Dear Whitney,

My girlfriend is amazing, but we're both so busy with work and commitments that we barely spend quality time together. How do we find balance?

A: Hi, my fellow busy bee!

I feel you on this one—balancing life and love can be tough. First and foremost, remember that love thrives on connection, and even the busiest schedules can make room for what matters most.

Start by carving out dedicated "us" time. It doesn't have to be extravagant; even an hour of uninterrupted time—no phones, no work talk—can make a world of difference. Cook dinner together, take a walk, or just sit on the couch and binge your favorite show.

Also, embrace the power of small gestures. A quick text during the day to say "I'm thinking about you" or leaving a sticky note on the bathroom mirror can make your partner feel seen and loved, even in the busiest seasons.

And here's a tip from my own playbook: when you are together, make it count. Be fully present, because love deserves your undivided attention, no matter how crazy life gets.

Q3: Dear Whitney,

I want to feel more confident in the bedroom, but I struggle with body image. How can I embrace my sensuality and feel sexy?

A: Oh honey, let me tell you something: sexy starts with you.

Confidence isn't about what you wear or how you look—it's about how you feel. Start by practicing self-love. Look at yourself in the mirror and compliment what you see. I'm serious. It might feel awkward at first, but loving your reflection is the first step toward feeling sexy.

Also, treat yourself to something that makes you feel amazing. Maybe it's that silky lingerie, or maybe it's your favorite playlist blasting while you dance in your living room. Whatever makes you feel good, do more of that.

When it comes to intimacy, remember that confidence grows when you focus on connection. Your partner loves you, not some Photoshopped version of yourself. Let your guard down and embrace the moment—you'd be surprised how magnetic vulnerability can be.

And if all else fails, girl, light some candles, pour a glass of champagne, and remind yourself that you are a whole vibe. Because you are.

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LOVE SMART, LIVE SEXY, AND EMBRACE THE ART OF CONNECTION

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Q4: Dear Whitney,

My partner and I communicate well, but we seem to have different love languages. How do we bridge the gap and make each other feel loved?

A: Hey there, love translator!

First of all, kudos to you and your partner for recognizing the importance of communication—that's a major win already! Now, let's talk love languages. Understanding that you each express and receive love differently is the first step to bridging the gap.

Start by having an open and honest conversation about what makes you both feel cherished. For example, if your partner's love language is physical touch, but yours is acts of service, you might surprise them with a hug while they're making dinner or sit close while watching a movie. Likewise, if your partner knows you light up when they take on chores or errands, they might make the bed or grab your favorite coffee without being asked.

It's not about speaking only your language or theirs—it's about learning to be fluent in both. Small, thoughtful gestures that cater to your partner's love language go a long way in making them feel valued, and when they do the same for you, it builds mutual appreciation.

And don't forget: love languages can evolve over time. Keep checking in with each other as your relationship grows, and never stop learning new ways to love each other better. That's the secret to making love last.

Q5: Dear Whitney,

I've been hurt in the past, and it's hard for me to trust again. How do I open my heart to love without the fear of getting hurt?

A: Oh, sweetheart, let me just say—I hear you.

Trust is a fragile thing, and when it's broken, rebuilding it can feel like climbing a mountain barefoot. But here's the truth: love is a risk worth taking. That doesn't mean throwing caution to the wind, but rather learning to trust yourself first.

Start by asking yourself what you've learned from the past. What boundaries do you need? What patterns do you want to avoid? When you know what feels safe and healthy for you, you're better equipped to recognize it in a partner.

Next, take it slow. There's no rush to dive headfirst into love. Build a connection brick by brick, and don't be afraid to communicate your fears. A good partner will understand that healing takes time and will be willing to walk that journey with you.

And finally, remember this: you are worthy of love. Not just any love, but a love that respects you, supports you, and cherishes every part of who you are. The right person will honor that worth—and when you find them, you'll realize that while love may not erase the hurt, it has an incredible way of helping us heal.

Q6: Dear Whitney,

My partner and I argue often about small things, and it's starting to take a toll on our relationship. How do we break the cycle and find peace?

A: Hey love, first things first—every couple argues.

It's a normal part of being in a relationship, but the key is learning how to argue in a way that strengthens, rather than weakens, your bond.

Start by asking yourself: Are these arguments really about the small things, or is there something deeper going on? Sometimes, it's not the dishes in the sink or the forgotten text that causes tension—it's an underlying need that's not being met, like feeling unseen or unappreciated.

Next, when arguments happen, take a pause. Step away if you need to and revisit the issue when emotions have cooled. During those conversations, focus on the solution, not the blame. Use "I" statements, like "I feel hurt when..." instead of "You always..." Trust me, it makes a world of difference.

And don't forget the power of kindness. A simple "I'm sorry," or a gesture of love after an argument, can go a long way in healing the small cracks that disagreements create. Remember, you're on the same team, not opposing sides.

Peace in a relationship isn't about never arguing—it's about learning how to argue with love and respect.

NAVIGATING THE ART OF LOVE

SEXY Smart



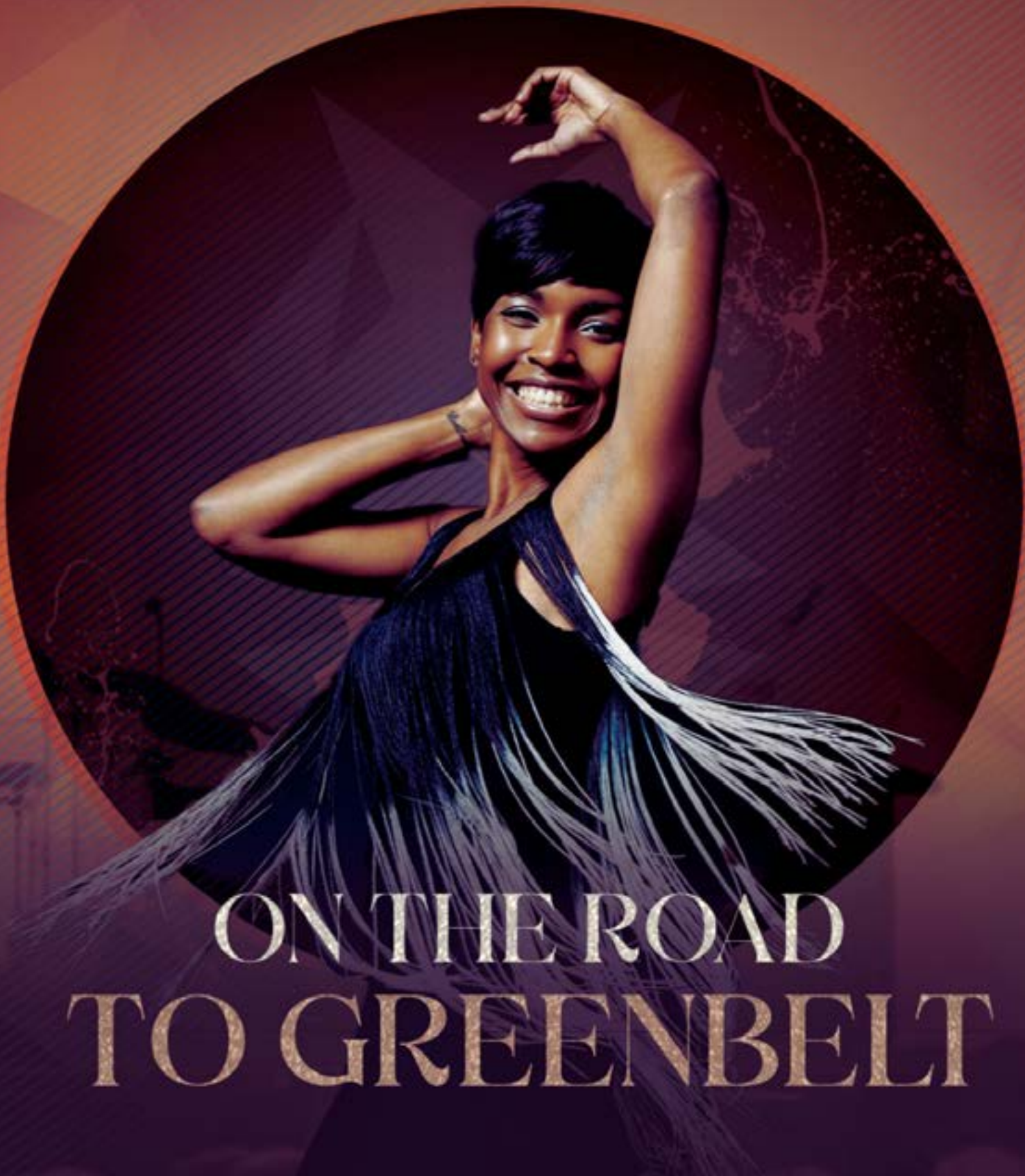
THE YAZMINE WOLFE & LITTLE RED COLLECTION

Whitney James exudes effortless allure in a custom set from the iconic Yazmine Wolfe and Soraya "Little Red" collection, a duo known for their innovative takes on sexy, versatile fashion. The look features a pure white, cropped wife-beater-style tank, reimagined with a feminine twist. The ribbed fabric hugs her frame in all the right places, while the scooped neckline and racerback design bring a casual yet flattering silhouette.

Paired with the tank is a matching set of high-waisted white panties, crafted from a silky stretch fabric that offers both support and allure. Intricate lace panels along the sides add sophistication, while the embroidered "W+L" monogram sewn on the label—representing Wolfe and Little Red's collaboration—speaks to their meticulous attention to detail.

Designed for the modern woman who values confidence and comfort, this ensemble is the perfect marriage of casual chic and undeniable sensuality.

Whitney James is a celebrated Christian Jazz singer-songwriter, known for her soulful voice and heartfelt lyrics that explore themes of love, faith, and resilience. With a career spanning over a decade, Whitney has captivated audiences around the globe, sharing her story through music and inspiring fans to live authentically. As a proud queer woman, Whitney has navigated the complexities of love, identity, and self-acceptance, making her a compassionate advocate for healthy relationships. Her journey of embracing her truth, rebuilding her career, and finding lasting love with her partner has given her a deep understanding of the challenges and triumphs that come with intimacy and connection. Drawing from her personal experiences and the wisdom gained through years of self-discovery, Whitney empowers others to embrace their sensuality, communicate openly, and build relationships that thrive. Whether through her music or her advice, Whitney James proves that love—when nurtured with honesty and care—is the ultimate art form.



ON THE ROAD TO GREENBELT

WHITNEY JAMES LIVE: A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

Step into the soulful world of Whitney James with her electrifying new live album, *On the Road to Greenbelt*. Recorded at the iconic Greenbelt Christian Music Festival in the UK, this collection showcases Whitney's unmatched talent and her signature blend of jazz and gospel. Featuring powerful original tracks that reflect her personal journey of faith and resilience, alongside stunning reimaginings of beloved Christian gospel classics, this album is a harmonious fusion of heartfelt worship and sultry jazz vibes. Whitney's voice will move your spirit, stir your soul, and have you hitting repeat.

Exclusively for *Sapphic* readers, get a sneak peek to this groundbreaking album before its official release. Scan the QR code to the right to access a special preview and experience the music that's already taking the world by storm. Whitney James is back, and this time, she's taking you on a journey—one note, one song, one unforgettable moment at a time.




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