



There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce

By Morgan Parker

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- A *TIME Magazine* Best Paperback of 2017
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Poetry Collection of Spring
- A *Paris Review* Staff Pick
- A Most Anticipated Book of 2017 at NPR.org, *BuzzFeed*, *VICE*, *NYLON*, and more

"This is a marvelous book. See for yourself. Morgan Parker is a fearlessly forward and forward-thinking literary star." ?Terrance Hayes

The only thing more beautiful than Beyoncé is God, and God is a black woman sipping rosé and drawing a lavender bath, texting her mom, belly-laughing in the therapist's office, feeling unloved, being on display, daring to survive. Morgan Parker stands at the intersections of vulnerability and performance, of desire and disgust, of tragedy and excellence. Unrelentingly feminist, tender, ruthless, and sequined, these poems are an altar to the complexities of black American womanhood in an age of non-indictments and déjà vu, and a time of wars over bodies and power. These poems celebrate and mourn. They are a chorus chanting: You're gonna give us the love we need.

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There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce By Morgan Parker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"This singular poetry collection is a dynamic meditation on the experience of, and societal narratives surrounding, contemporary black womanhood. . . . Ranging from orderly couplets to an itemized list titled after Jay Z's "99 Problems" to lines interrupted by gaping white space, **these exquisite poems defy categorization.**"

- **The New Yorker**

"**Morgan Parker's bombastic second book profoundly expresses a black millennial consciousness with anger and appetite.** Everywhere Parker looks, she sees a wildly messed-up world ? "There's far too many of me dying"; "The President be like/ we lost a young boy today." She also answers a personal and public mandate to re-envision it through humor and confrontation."

- **NPR.org**

"[A] brash, risqué collection that explores what it means to be a black woman in contemporary American culture. Parker, whose first book won the Gatewood Prize, is as self-assured as the women who appear in these pages, including Queen Latifah, Nikki Giovanni and Michelle Obama. Cultural references, old songs and classic poems spark observations about feminism, sex and desire at a time when "There's far too many of me dying./ The present is not so different." . . . **Each woman in this fierce collection wants to be seen for who she is, not what society wants her to be, and each demands respect.**"

- **The Washington Post**

"Parker's poems brings heat to the art of Mickalene Thomas, the racial politics of Barack Obama's presidency, the body politics of Beyoncé and the danger of moving through America in a black body."

- **TIME Magazine, Best Paperbacks of 2017**

"**Parker's poetry is a sledgehammer covered in silk,** exposing black women's vulnerability and power and underscoring what it means to be magical and in pain. This collection is a must for anyone who recognizes that celebrity is an extension of American culture ? and for those who don't, it will transform their perspective."

- **BuzzFeed**

"Parker's second collection . . . exquisitely examines American values, often summoning its celebrities?Beyoncé, Michelle Obama, Lou Reed?to illuminate society's staggering shortcomings and the intricacies of black womanhood. . . . [T]hese poems are, without a doubt, Parker's as **she encapsulates vulnerability, feminism, and utter fearlessness in rhythmic, glittering verse.**"

- **Booklist**

"Morgan Parker's second book of poetry, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé* (Tin House Books), isn't just **the most ferocious collection to be published this year.** It's also an antidote to the culture of hate and white supremacy . . . part psychic excavation, part historical exorcism. Having watched Nina Simone in concert on YouTube most of my adult life, I've finally found an experience to compare that to."

- **Interview Magazine**

"**Employing fierce language and eschewing fear of unflattering light,** Parker (*Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up at Night*) pays homage to the deep roots and collective wisdom of black womanhood. Parker's

poems are as flame-forged as a chain locked around soft ankles.”

- **Publishers Weekly, Starred Review**

“[A] tremendous new collection.”

- **The Paris Review**

“Parker weaves together Marvin Gaye lyrics, texting slang, and a critical, caring perspective on black womanhood to create **poems that are both radically powerful and laugh-out-loud funny.**”

- **VICE**

“As unbelievable as you may find the title, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé* proves that it is possible to create something greater than Queen Bey. Riddled with pop culture references aimed at exploring what it means to be a black American woman in modern times, this beautiful poetry collection probes the realms of American politics, national and family history, race, and gender with unflinching honesty. **As soulful as it is timely, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé* is a daring collection you'll want to bask in** all year long.”

- **Most Anticipated Feminist Book Releases of 2017, Bustle**

“These words, **brilliant, lovely, and sharp like a diamond**, cut me deeply and left me in awe of Parker’s writing. This book is an exciting contribution to the rich legacy of Black feminist art, literature, poetry, and music that daily adds more complex representations of Black American womanhood.”

- **Bitch Media**

“The first thing you have to understand is that Morgan Parker is one of the most fascinating poets working today. **She writes poems that are clever, beautiful, political, playful, breathtaking.** The second thing is that Beyoncé is one of the most potent icons in contemporary popular culture. Now imagine what happens when those two?poet and icon?meet in verse.”

- **Book Riot**

“For the person who doesn't need their poetry to be "pretty." For the person who needs their poetry to be powerful in its beauty, in its ability to eviscerate them, in its willingness to go places they never knew existed before. For the person who drinks words like others drink water.”

- **NYLON, Best Books of the Year**

““There are more beautiful things than Beyoncé: self-awareness,/Leftover mascara in clumps, recognizing a pattern/This is for all the grown women out there/Whose countries hate them and their brothers/Who carry knives in their purses down the street/Maybe they will not get out alive/Maybe they will turn into air or news or brown flower petals,” writes Morgan Parker in the title poem of her new collection, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*. If that doesn't pique your interest/make you feel something/have you reexamining your negative attitude about poetry (get over it!), check yourself for a pulse.”

- **Portland Mercury**

“Morgan Parker turns Beyoncé and gin-soaked olives into electric poetry.”

- **Portland Monthly**

“Parker's **bold, brilliant and biting poetry** explores race, sex and womanhood in contemporary culture.”

- **Shelf Awareness**

““Art hurts,” wrote poet Gwendolyn Brooks. “Art urges voyages.” Morgan Parker's poems hurt deeply and

voyage widely. They do not let you sit comfortably and idly and safe, but take you on an adventure like no other. Like the "Fantastic Voyage" promised by R&B legends Lakeside, Parker's work is "live, live, all the way live." Get on board this trip; it is like no other."

- **D.A. Powell**

"[Parker's] second collection of poetry is a series of raw, unflinching examinations of race and womanhood."

- **Girlboss, "Five New Books That Will Make You a Better Feminist"**

"Outstanding collection of poems. So much soul. So much intelligence in how Parker folds in cultural references and the experiences of black womanhood. **Every poem will get its hooks into you.** And of course, the poems about Beyoncé are the greatest because Beyoncé is our queen."

- **Roxane Gay**

"There are more beautiful things than Beyonce in these pages because, as Morgan Parker writes in poems channeling the president's wife, the Venus Hottentot and multiple Beyonces, "we're everyone. We have ideas and vaginas, history and clothes and a mother." The kind of verve the late New York school Ted Berrigan would have called "feminine marvelous and tough" is here, as well as the kind of vulnerability that fortifies genuine daring. **This is a marvelous book. See for yourself. Morgan Parker is a fearlessly forward and forward-thinking literary star.**"

- **Terrance Hayes**

"I can and have read Morgan Parker's poems over and over . . . She writes history and pleasure and kitsch and abstraction, then vanishes like a god in about 13 inches."

- **Eileen Myles**

"I love these poems by Morgan Parker. They tell everything exactly like it is, and they don't let us off the hook?about how we run this country, about race, about how we spend our time . . . **They hit you with the authority and moral clarity of Langston Hughes, and have the omnivorous eye of Frank O'Hara.**"

- **Matthew Rohrer**

"[Morgan Parker's] poems are delightful in their playful ability to rake through our contemporary moment in search of all manner of riches, just as they are devastating in their ability to remind us of what we look like when nobody's watching, and of what the many things we don't?or can't?say add up to."

- **Tracy K. Smith**

About the Author

Morgan Parker is the author of *Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up At Night*, selected by Eileen Myles for the 2013 Gatewood Prize. Her work has been featured in numerous publications and anthologies, including *Why I Am Not A Painter*, *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, and *Best American Poetry 2016*. Winner of a 2016 Pushcart Prize and a Cave Canem graduate fellow, Morgan lives in Brooklyn, New York. She works as an editor for Little A and Day One, moonlights as poetry editor of *The Offing*, and co-curates the Poets With Attitude (PWA) reading series with Tommy Pico. With poet and performer Angel Nafis, she is The Other Black Girl Collective.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Fisher:

What do you concerning book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do this. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on guardería until university need this kind of There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce to read.

Gregory Jager:

The reason? Because this There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Lee Parkin:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because all of this time you only find publication that need more time to be examine. There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce can be your answer because it can be read by you actually who have those short extra time problems.

Glenn Bail:

With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list will be There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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