



#fanfan_coates



The Water Dancer: An Evening with Ta-Nehisi Coates

National Book Award-winning author of *We Were Eight Years in Power* and *Between the World and Me*, and recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Author of the Marvel comics *The Black Panther* and *Captain America*. Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute.

Interviewer: Hanif Abdurraqib

Poet, essayist, cultural critic, and author of *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, *Go Ahead in the Rain*, and *A Fortune For Your Disaster*.

Friday, October 4, 2019, 7:00 PM

Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

No RSVPs required. Seating is first-come, first-served. Overflow seating available.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,
in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Evanston Township High School D202,
Foundation 65, Francis W. Parker School, Roycemore School,
Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.), and Young, Black & Lit.

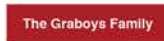
This event is **#freeandopentothepublic** and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+. familyactionnetwork.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TA-NEHISI COATES

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Friday, October 4, 2019, 7:00 PM, The Water Dancer: An Evening with Ta-Nehisi Coates, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. Interviewer: Hanif Abdurraqib.

In only a decade’s time, **Ta-Nehisi Coates** has produced some of our country’s most seminal pieces of non-fiction writing. Whether in personal narratives like *Between the World and Me* or reportage like “The Case for Reparations,” his luminous prose and gift for examining our most urgent struggles through a historical and cultural lens has transformed our notions of what non-fiction can do. Now comes Coates’ breathtaking debut novel, *The Water Dancer*, a boldly imagined work of magic and adventure, love and separation, and the power of resistance. It is the story of America's oldest struggle—the struggle to tell the truth.

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage—and lost his mother and all memory of her when he was a child. Hiram, who is gifted with a mysterious power, almost drowns when he crashes a carriage into a river, but he is saved from the depths by a force he doesn't understand, a blue light that lifts him up and lands him a mile away. So begins an unexpected journey into the covert war on slavery that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia’s proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously utopic movements in the North. Even as he’s enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, all Hiram wants is to return to the Walker Plantation to free the family he left behind—but to do so, he must first master his magical gift and reconstruct the story of his greatest loss.

Just as Mr. Coates’s reportage was built on intensive study of his chosen subjects, so too is *The Water Dancer*. He spent over a decade researching this book, visiting historic sites such as Monticello, Shirley Planation, the Whitney Plantation and combing through primary documents, with an emphasis on the oral histories taken from enslaved people.

Ta-Nehisi Coates is the author of *The Beautiful Struggle*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, and *Between the World and Me*, which won the National Book Award in 2015. He is the author of Marvel comics *The Black Panther* and *Captain America*. He is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at **New York University’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute**, and he is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship.

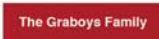
Mr. Coates will be interviewed by poet, essayist, and cultural critic **Hanif Abdurraqib**, author of *The Crown Ain’t Worth Much*, *They Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, *Go Ahead in the Rain*, and *A Fortune For Your Disaster*. He is a co-founder, with **Eve Ewing, Ed.D. (FAN ’18)** of the Echo Hotel poetry collective.

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