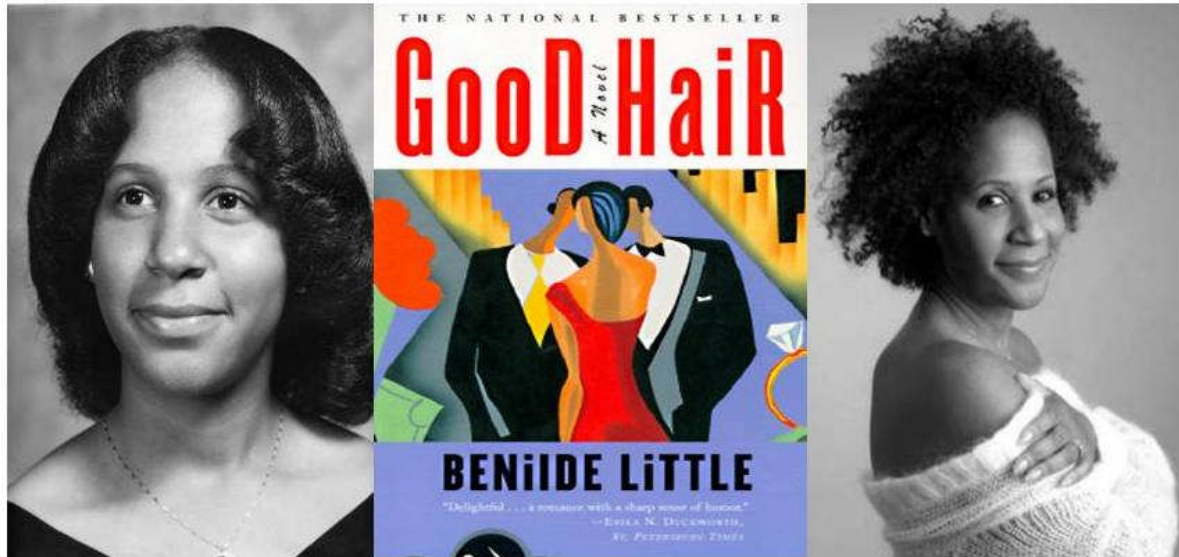


Benilde Little

Class of WHS 1976



Benilde Little is the author of the bestselling novel *Good Hair*, which examined class distinctions among African-Americans through a love relationship between a third-generation Harvard educated surgeon and the book's protagonist, Alice Andrews, a newspaper reporter and the daughter of working-class parents. James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, called it "an important book to read for anyone who has ever been in love...a superb debut."

Selected as one of the ten best books of 1996 by *The Los Angeles Times*, *Good Hair* spent six months at number one on the Blackboard Bestseller list. She was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for her work and was awarded Best New Author by the Go On Girl Book Club, a nationwide reading group.

Little's follow-up novel, *The Itch*, was published in 1998. Set among the world of that W.E.B. DuBois called, "The Talented Tenth," she examined the privileged lives of the black elite in Manhattan and Los Angeles, and their struggle to find a sense of purpose amidst overwhelming material success.

Benilde's critically acclaimed third novel, *Acting Out*, asked the question of how someone maintains their course when their world is turned upside down unexpectedly. Little's heroine, Ina West struggles with how to remain true to herself after becoming to be a wife and mother when her husband announces that he is leaving her. The themes within this powerful novel are universal and are issues that Little admits to coming to terms with personally.

Her fourth novel - *Who Does She Think She Is?* - was published in 2005.

Read more: <http://www.notablebiographies.com/newsmakers2/2006-Le-Ra/Little-Benilde.html#ixzz3QeW71sRn>

Little was formerly a senior editor at *Essence* and a contributing editor at *Heart and Soul*. She has been a reporter for *People*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *The Newark Star Ledger* and has written for *In-Style*, *Allure* and other publications.

Born and raised in Newark, Little graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She also attended graduate school at Northwestern University.

Benilde Little lives with her husband and their two children in Montclair, NJ.