

The Write Life for You series
presents...

Developing a Poetry Collection

Advice from Three Authors in the
Poetic Game: Marc Lacy, Archuleta
Chisolm, and Samara King

The Write Life for You is a series of articles and commentaries on writing written by author, editor, and educator Shonell Bacon and published at APOOO Book Club [<http://www.apoobooks.com/>].

I have always been a fan of poetry. When I pursued my MFA in Creative Writing, I often marveled at my poet friends' ability to spin such emotion in so few words. Because of their limited space, poets have to learn to master mining the language to find the perfect words for their works. They must also be well-versed in timing, rhythm, and cadence and allowing all the senses that we can't see just looking at a word to resonate from the poetical page.

But those are not the only things a poet needs in her or his toolbox to become a great poet. If you are looking to develop a poetry collection, whether it's audio or print, there are things you must consider when developing that collection. It's not about simply writing a slew of poems and just putting them all together in one document and voila: a poetic masterpiece.

For this article, I called upon some poetic friends of mine—Marc Lacy, Archuleta Chisolm, and Samara King—to offer sound, *real* advice to those looking to develop a poetry collection. Each of these published authors has a way with the written word that transcends the page and evokes emotions within the reader. They understand the importance of the word, of themselves as poets, as writers, and of the audience to which they write for.

Across the board, despite the varying themes and subject matter that is found within the works of these authors, you'll find that there are factors to developing a poetry collection that all three agree upon. Developing the collection isn't really rocket science if you know these factors... and knowing these factors will only make your collection that much stronger as a piece of literary work.

Shonell

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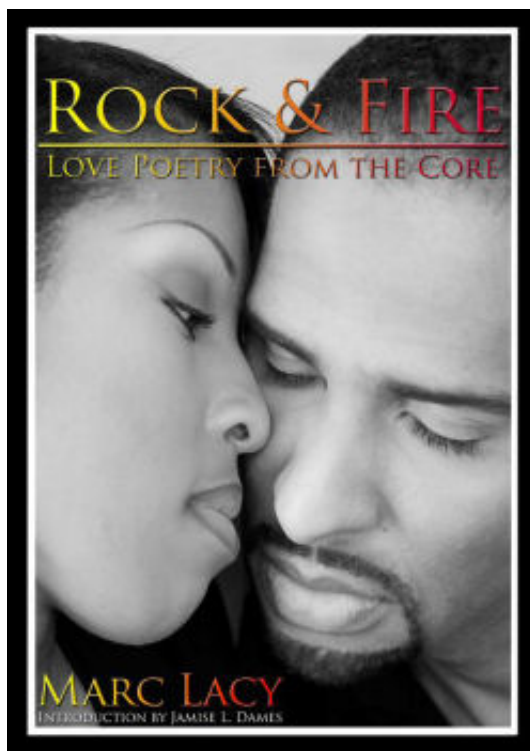
# Marc Lacy



Huntsville's own Marc Lacy, a graduate of Alabama A&M University is a nationally renowned, award winning poet/author and a lecturer. He has performed all over the country at many national literary events and spoken word venues. Marc is a contributing writer to RADAR and The Grove Magazines. He is also a writer for Blogginginblack.com. Along with writing and performance, Marc utilizes his wordsmith talent and poetic flair as he facilitates lectures and conducts workshops concerning writing, communication, love and relationships. Lacy credits his faith in God and love of family for providing energy he needs to succeed.

**Website:** <http://marclacy.com>

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About *Rock & Fire*

Rock and Fire - Love Poetry from the Core offers mature, realistic, fantasy, blunt, and hard-line scribes dealing with love in all shapes, forms, and fashions. This, edgy, comprehensive lyrical package (for grown folks only) covers the spiritual, emotional, romantic, physical, and mental aspects of love. As human beings, during our nonstop effort to evolve towards a higher degree of existing, we all go through several phases where we expose ourselves to different elements. In our valiant attempt to achieve, realize, and deliver this thing called “love”; love itself breaks us down and often has us indirectly touching the outer limits of every facet of the subject as they pertain to happiness, anger, arousal, and despair. Love is real. It sometimes prompts us to engage in real things whether good, bad, or ugly. In order to grow, we have to acknowledge each event as it materializes into its fullest affect. Whether we want to attest to it or not, every situation encountered dealing with love, gives all the signs and/or symbols we need in order to grow. Love, or what we think is love, can enter us into challenging situations in which we have no business being; but we still have to use the experience as a learning tool in order to advance in life.

Order your copy today at http://marclacy.com/product.php?prod_id=11.

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## **Marc's Thoughts on Poetry**

### **What is poetry (to you)?**

Poetry to me is the written, oral, or illustrated creative expression from the heart that bears no beginning or ending as far as the extents of creativity are concerned.

### **What are three important aspects to developing a poetry collection?**

1. Audience
2. Theme
3. Depth

### **How important is having a well-organized collection?**

Having a well-organized collection is monumental in that it takes more to reel the poetry reader in as it does the listener (of performance). Gaining the attention is challenging enough; but keeping it (when it comes to poetry) is a whole different puppy. One has to almost automatically assume that the reader is going to have a short attention span. With such being the case, well-written and well-organized poetry is key in keeping them engaged throughout the book.

### **With new media, have there been other avenues you have used to promote your poetry besides text?**

Facebook and Twitter are excellent mechanisms by which major attention can be brought to your poetry. Random posts with segments of your work, followed by links to websites by which they can purchase the publication have been very helpful. Of course, videos of your performance really add spice to the poetic p/r game. Even those who may not be sold on poetry per se, often have a different take upon actually seeing video footage.

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Archuleta Chisolm



Archuleta Chisolm is a poet, an author and inspirational speaker, and founder of Artfully Speaking. She inspires readers and audiences with her down-to-earth style to become more of themselves and live with purpose. Her online newsletter is read by hundreds each month, and has been featured in The Sun Times, The National Library of Poetry, and the on-line magazine, The Nubian Chronicles. She has performed poetry in numerous events in the Kansas City area, as well as other cities. Archuleta is the former co-host of A Closer Look radio show on KGGN. She is currently working on a spoken word CD and a new collection of poetry both due to release this fall. A native of Kansas City, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from DeVry University and an MBA degree from Baker University.

Website: <http://www.wix.com/archuleta1972/archuletachisolm>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/artfullyspeaking

Twitter: www.twitter.com/cre8tivpoet

Blog: www.archuletaspen.blogspot.com

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### **About *Heaven Knows Your Existence***

God knows who you are, because he created you! In her first book, *Heaven Knows Your Existence*, author Archuleta Chisolm inspires the soul through her poetry and prose collection. Learn to praise God, even in the worst of times. We can depend on his promise that He will take care of us through it all. There is nothing too hard for God! Archuleta examines all the shades of life, love, and self in this eye-opening journal. *Heaven Knows Your Existence* brings real life into focus.

Order your copy at Archuleta's website (<http://www.wix.com/archuleta1972/archuletachisolm>); click on the SHOP button!

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Archuleta's Thoughts on Poetry

What is poetry to you?

Poetry is life. Poetry is truth and freedom. Poetry has always been an outlet for me to express my thoughts, actions, hopes, fears, and realities. There is power in words, and the ability that God has given me to be able to express that power to others is a blessing. Writing poetry is my God-given purpose, so therefore I write because that is what God has tasked me to do this life.

What are three important aspects to developing a poetry collection?

I write on a daily basis and in no particular form or fashion. I just make sure that I put pen to paper on a daily basis. However, I believe three important aspects to develop a collection are a) Understand yourself as a poet/writer. I write based on emotion and pieces that I have put together over the course of several weeks end up being cohesive. At that point, I recognize my "blueprint" and I begin to seek inspiration from that. b) Understand your audience. I do believe my poetry is for every person to read and enjoy, however, my main audience is women. When you understand your audience and stay in that lane, your work will always develop the way that it should. c) Understand your individuality is golden. Write what you like and what you want to say – not what you think others want to hear, or what is working for another poet.

How important is having a well-organized collection?

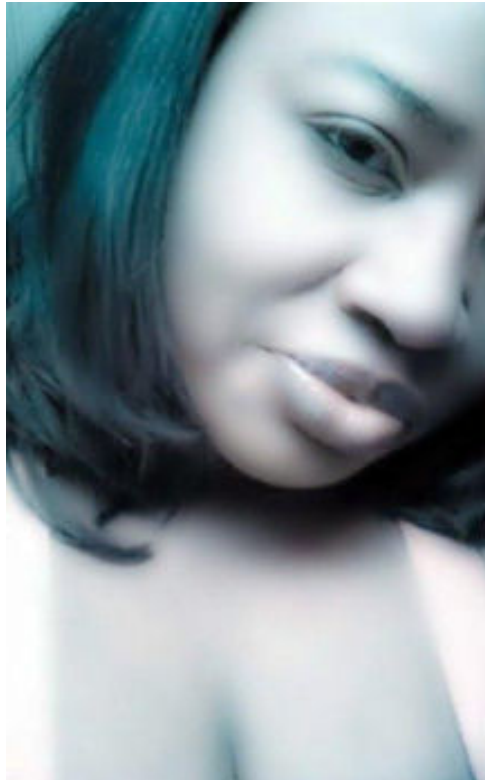
The importance of having a well-organized collection is crucial! Readers want to be absorbed by whatever it is they are reading. When their eyes are going left to right on the page, they want to be pulled in and taken away to that place. Having a well-organized collection assists the reader in doing just that, and they will always come back for more. It makes a statement about you as a writer, and it builds a relationship with your audience.

With new media, have there been other avenues you have used to promote your poetry besides text?

Certainly as new media technology advances, authors must advance as well. Books on tape, videos, radio.... The sky is the limit!

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# Samara King



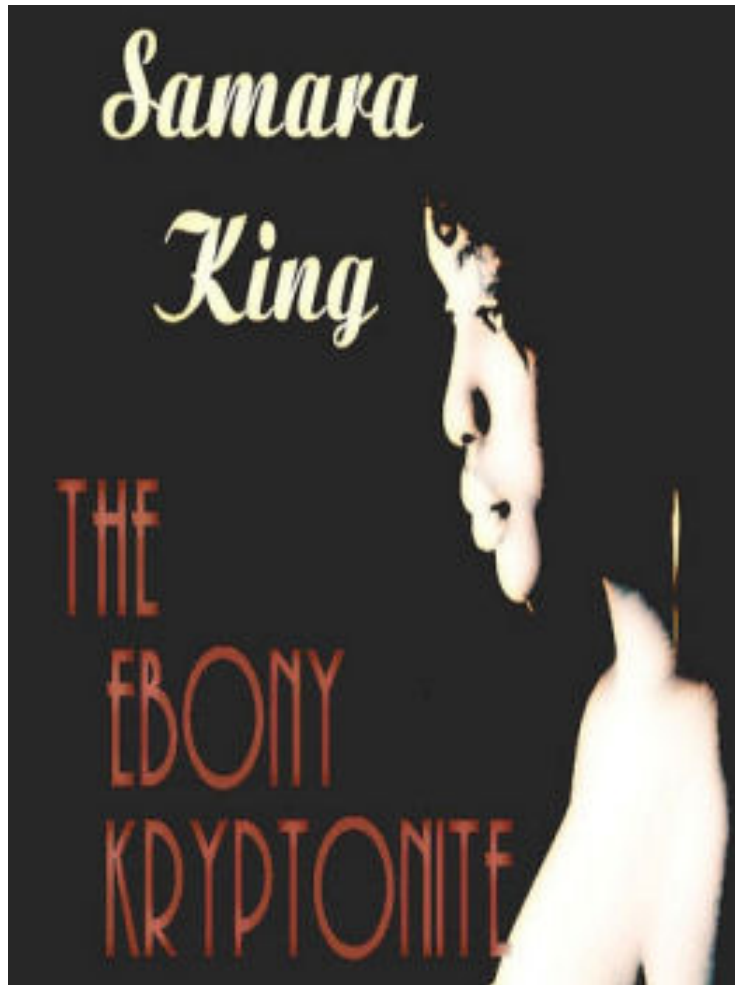
Samara King began her literary journey at the age of twelve years old while sneaking to the back of library indulging in romance novels; soon after she wrote her own! She has penned three novels, 7 novellas all within the multicultural erotic romance and two poetry collections. Her first collection, *The Ebony Kryptonite* will be released in 2010 and to be followed in 2011 with *The Naked The Bare*. She has been published by Cobblestone Press, Changeling Press, Loose Id, and Total-e-Bound to date.

Samara is also a BlogTalkRadio show host and currently co-hosts with her floetic partner, Chamsil Phillips, SoundNOff, a poetical forum for poets and spoken word artists, which specializes in spotlighting the threaded talents within the Spoken Word genre. Debuting in July 2010, inCHARACTERN10—her second show, will be a character-enriched broadcast fostering the variety of character voices between the pages of author's books.

Samara lives in Chicago with her teenage son, where she encounters new adventures everyday that services her in the creation of each of her stories!

Readers can reach her at: [ms\\_samara\\_king@yahoo.com](mailto:ms_samara_king@yahoo.com).

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About *The Ebony Kryptonite*

The Ebony Kryptonite is the marriage of soul, music, prose, and heart of Samara King.

You can learn updates about the release of *The Ebony Kryptonite* at Samara's website, <http://samaraking.com>.

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## Samara's Thoughts on Poetry

### **What is poetry (to you)?**

Poetry encompasses my heart, soul, experiences, fantasies and dreams. It's the wide spectrum that shifts like a kaleidoscope.

### **What are three important aspects to developing a poetry collection?**

To have a sense of a story. Though poetry and fiction differ, the two venues of creativity also marry, in which a story is being told. Another important aspect is picture painting. Infuse words that will draw a picture to the reader's mind, it brings them closer to the message you are trying to convey. I would say to be true to self is key. Your words reflect you and the moment an artist, a writer or a creator deviates from true self, things tend to fall apart.

### **How important is having a well-organized collection?**

I think poetry can be a wild mix of so many elements that well-organized isn't always necessary, that's where the flavor comes from. A variety of style and words makes everything pop.

### **With new media, have there been other avenues you have used to promote your poetry besides text?**

Well for Ebony Kryptonite, which will be released Fall 2010, I will be utilizing electronic publication as so much of publishing world has embraced this method. I think it's important to do a little bit of everything as the world of publishing and literary is ever changing.

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About Shonell Bacon



Shonell Bacon is an author, editor, and educator – all of which connects with her being a true wordsmith.

As an author, she has published both in the creative and academic arenas. Shonell loves writing about strong yet flawed women who learn to love themselves despite the flaws. And if they're lucky, they learn to love someone else, too. In 2001, Strebtor Books/Simon & Schuster released Shonell's co-authored novel, LuvAlwaysz: The Opposite Sex & Relationships. It was followed with 2003's Draw Me with Your Love. In 2004, Shonell's short story "1-800-Hot-Talk" was featured in the popular anthology, Chocolate Flava. Shonell marks 2005-2007 as her "academic" years as she contributed and co-edited three academic textbooks that are currently being used as the official textbooks for freshman composition at the university where she taught. In 2008, Shonell returned to creative publication with three stories published through Lady Leo Publishing: Connections, Got Til It's Gone, and Under the Mistletoe. In June 2010, Shonell's debut solo novel, Death at the Double Inkwell was released.

In 2007, she moved into a past love – screenwriting. With her very first script, she was a 2007 quarterfinalist of the PAGE International Screenwriting Award Competition for her TV pilot, Running from Miss Right, a miniseries. In 2008, she was a finalist of the WILDsound One-Page Screenplay Competition for her script Burdens, and in 2009, her feature screenplay, The Problem with Being Happy made it through the first round of the PAGE International Screenwriting Award Competition. In 2010, her latest script, Saying No to the Big O has made it through the first round of the same competition. Currently, she's writing several feature-length and short scripts for competitions and seeking representation.

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Not only does Shonell work with her own words, but she's also very dedicated to helping others achieve their literary goals through her editing and columns at various online sites.

As an editor, Shonell edits manuscripts for individual clients and small publishing houses. Through her Writers Boot Camp, she helps new writers move from story idea to story outline in 28 days.

As an educator, Shonell taught freshman composition, developmental writing, Writing for Radio/TV, Introduction to Mass Communication, and Media Writing at McNeese State University in Louisiana. Occasionally, she still teaches fiction writing and fiction workshop through their continuing education department.

Currently, Shonell is in Lubbock, TX, where she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Texas Tech University.

You can learn more about Shonell by visiting her official website [<http://shonbacon.com>] and her editorial website, CLG Entertainment [<http://clg-entertainment.com>].

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