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LOCAL AUTHOR DEBUTS A COMING OF AGE NOVEL SET IN BALTIMORE

Stella Adams's novel deals with hope, health and healing in the life of Billie Cunningham

Baltimore, MD (October 14, 2015) – Set against the backdrop of Baltimore and South Carolina and highlighting themes of physical, sexual and emotional trauma, local author Stella Adams' novel *Heavy Is The Rain* tells the story of Billie Cunningham, a precocious seven-year-old whose mother moves her to Baltimore in the 1940s to secure a better life. The story follows Billie's life to adulthood as she learns to navigate the uncertainties of life, to overcome its tragedies and discover the power of love and forgiveness.

Adams' novel begins in the 1940s with Billie's move from rural South Carolina to Baltimore with her mother, Lilly Ann, in search of a better life. Their new life, secured through Lilly Ann's marriage to Herbert Brown, a man twelve years her senior, quickly begins to show that it comes with a heavy price. For Lilly Ann, it means turning a blind eye to her husband's hedonism and passion for forbidden fruit, and, for Billie, it means harboring a dark and shameful secret. Despite her secret, Billie grows and matures in her new world, and she develops a close bond with Thomas McNeal, Jr., a neighborhood boy struggling to fight his own demons.

"I wrote this book for those who have journeyed from victim to victory," says Adams.

This haunting, coming-of-age story serves as the base for an upcoming theater production by the same name in Spring 2016 in Baltimore. An open casting call for the play will be held on January 23. Dr. Gregory Branch, Executive Director of Unified Voices, (a choir whose members are employees at Johns Hopkins Hospital) will serve as the play's producer/director.

"After reading Adams' novel, I knew right away that it was a great fit for a Unified Voices production," says Branch. "This play takes place in Baltimore and showcases themes of child sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional trauma, things that I see in my position as Director of Health and Human Services of Baltimore County. I hope it will stimulate more conversation about these topics."

The production of "Heavy is the Rain" will host an open casting call in January

HEAVY IS THE RAIN by Stella Adams
Available in Trade Paperback (\$15.00) and eBook (\$3.99)
August 13, 2013 • ISBN: 978-09827779-9-2
Visit Ms. Adams' website at www.stellaadams.net

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Winnsboro, South Carolina, Stella Adams grew up in Baltimore Maryland. She graduated from Morgan State University with a degree in history and received a master's degree from Towson State University. She worked for the government in a number of analytical, human resources, and managerial positions for over thirty years. *Heavy is the Rain* is her first novel.