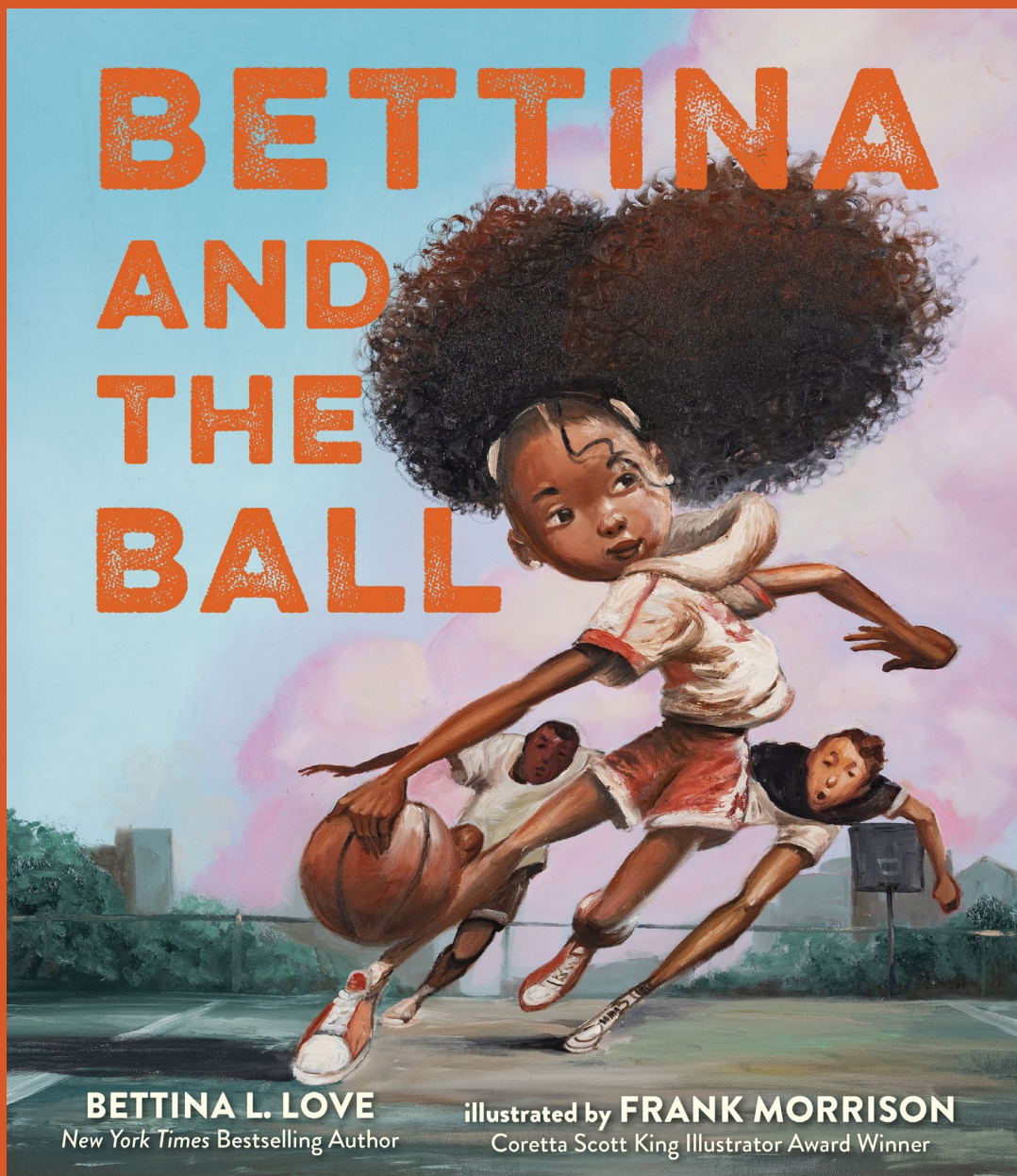


PRESS KIT



Release Date: Jan. 26, 2027

About The Author



Bettina Love

Bettina L. Love is a New York Times best-selling author, award-winning scholar, and the William F. Russell Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. A former college basketball player and Big East Player of the Week, she led her team in blocked shots and, in 2023, received the Atlantic Coast Conference Unite Award for advancing racial progress on and off the court.

A nationally recognized voice in education, Dr. Love's work has transformed conversations about educational justice, inspiring educators, school leaders, students, and communities across the nation. She is the author of *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom*. She lives in New York City—and still loves playing basketball.



Shoot...

SWISH!

About The Book

From the moment she woke up—ba-dum!—to the time she went to bed—ba-dum!—Bettina and her basketball were together. It was like they shared a heartbeat. Ba-dum ba-dum! And swish! had to be the sweetest sound in the world. Then SLAP! The boys at the court knocked the ball away, told her to get lost, said, “Girls can’t play.”

This is the story of how Bettina, with her father’s love and guidance, regained her heartbeat, her pride, and her passion for the game. *Bettina and the Ball* is a moment in the life of young Bettina, but it’s a universal lesson in the power of dedication, patience, and love.

Combined with the kinetic energy of Frank Morrison’s award-winning art, *Bettina and the Ball* nimbly captures the grace of the game of basketball and the unconquerable power of finding your joy.

Bettina and the Ball is important because roughly 1 in 8 children’s books feature a Black main character. This book celebrates the love and joy of Black girls, sports, and Black fathers, showing Black families thriving, playing, and creating beautiful memories together. Every child deserves to see that kind of joy reflected in their stories.

Praise for Bettina And The Ball

“*Bettina and the Ball* is more than a story about sport, hard work, and family. It’s also a tale about what it’s like to find the thing that makes you feel most like yourself—love. And I love this book, because just like Bettina’s basketball, every time you put it down, it bounces right back into your hands, over and over again. Absolutely stunning.”



Jason Reynolds

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author and former National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature

“Prepare to be enthralled with this exhilarating story that follows a young girl with a bold, audacious heart who shows incredible courage on the basketball court. With powerful words and mesmerizing illustrations of dribbling, dancing, and dreaming, *Bettina and the Ball* helps children learn what it means to be free and to love. A must-have for every home, classroom, and library, this book proves to all children that they belong wherever their dreams take them.”



Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

author of *Cultivating Genius* and *Unearthing Joy*

“Powerful and inspiring! At the heart of this moving ode to basketball is the kind of love that propels readers to rise above any obstacle and soar.”



Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul

coauthor of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Stamped* (for Kids)

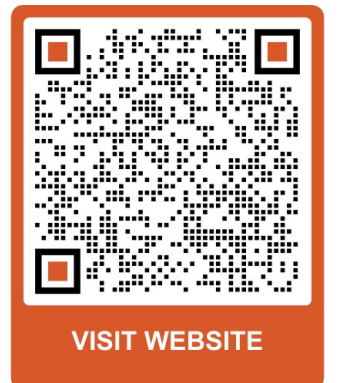
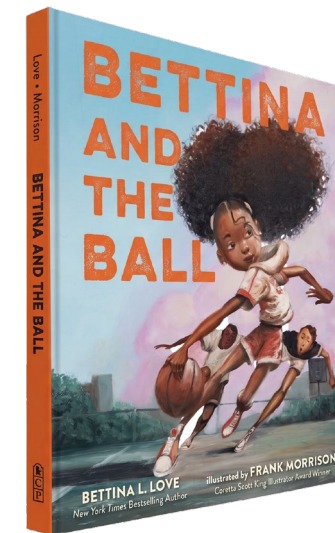
Book Bettina

Make *Bettina and the Ball* more than a story—make it an experience. Bettina brings her love of basketball, storytelling, and inspiring young people together in memorable visits designed to help children dream bigger, embrace what brings them joy, and believe in what's possible.

For Booking
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