



Charmette Jones

Author/Speaker/Educator
2015 Media Kit

Press Release

Houston author tackles the issues of child abuse and unforgiveness in new book

HOUSTON - Author and speaker, Charmette Jones, tackles the issues of child abuse, unforgiveness and an unrepentant heart in her new book, "My Heart and the Holy Spirit—Surrounded by Hell."

The fictional book takes a realistic look at the devastation that unfolds when the buried pain of a father's abandonment leaves the main character, Anita, prey to a pastor who tries to sexually abuse her, and transforms her from victim to abuser.

Inspired to write the book in response to a painful divorce that left her angry and questioning her own faith, Jones speaks through the characters in her eye-opening book to show the consequences of holding onto unforgiveness.

The Texas native raises the curtain on the lives of the book's main characters, Anita and her daughter Hope, and allows the reader to witness the choices each makes and the complications and consequences that ensue.

"As humans we don't value our hearts. We allow pain to become our God and lead us down a pathway to destruction," said Jones. "Pain infiltrates our hearts causing so many spiritual defects. We can't see, we can't hear, we become paralyzed, and we find ourselves enslaved to the very one that inflicted the pain on us."

One reader describes the book as "a phenomenal piece of literature full of controversy that shares a powerful message without being religious or churchy." In no-holds-barred fashion, the author depicts the toll that unforgiveness and anger can have, validating countless studies that have shown the strong link between negative emotions and physical and mental health. Stanford Professor Fred Luskin, Ph.D, Director of the Forgiveness Project conducted a study of 150 participants who responded on the



positive impact letting go of past hurts had on their physical and emotional well-being.

For Jones, writing the book not only gave her an opportunity to encourage readers to deal with unresolved pain in their lives, but also served as a catharsis from the pain of her own past. She hopes the book serves as both a cautionary tale and a call to action to others dealing with emotional wounds and hurts on the value of choosing the path to forgiveness.

"Pain lies dormant for an appointed time; it is important to deal with the pain and not let the pain deal with you," said Jones.

Her 249-page book is a must-read and can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and can be downloaded on Apple iTunes and Google Play.

For more information visit www.shamelesslysaved.com.

About the Author

Charmette Jones is an accomplished author, speaker and teacher with a heart for inspiring youth. Her mission is to see young people delivered from self-destructive behavior. This passion led her to the inner-city school setting where she teaches and inspires youth to push past pain to their full potential. She has written and produced several plays, including *Playground of Love*, *Momma*, *The Day My Daddy Left*, *I Cut Myself*, and *Where Peer Pressure Led Me*. Her productions have been performed in the Downtown Houston Theater District and in venues across the Greater Houston Area. Jones is the author of the books, *Teenage Playground of Love* and *My Heart and the Holy Spirit—Surrounded by Hell*, which is currently in production as a stageplay. She is also the founder of Shamelessly Saved Productions, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to bringing healing through dramatic interpretation. She has been booked to speak at numerous inspirational events and featured on leading media platforms including NBC, FOX and ABC. Jones' compassionate spirit helps her reach greater heights as she follows the call to minister to those in pain.

Charmette's Journey



Charmette Jones is an authoress, motivational speaker, actress, director and producer. Born in Texas and raised in Philadelphia until age 10, her family moved back to Texas to receive specialized care from MD Anderson Cancer Center for her grandmother. After her grandmother tragically lost her battle with the disease, her family remained in Houston. Growing up in a single-parent home with four siblings would prove to be a trying time for Charmette, but despite difficulties, she did not let her situation limit her. Charmette attended Jesse H. Jones High School where she received an award for "Most Outstanding Youth." She went on to attend Texas Southern University majoring in Special Education. After working as a teacher, she decided to obtain her BS in Business Management from the University of Phoenix.

The confusion stemming from her estranged relationship with her father inspired her to become a beacon of hope for youth who share a similar story. In 2003, Charmette was ordained as a minister in Lake Charles, LA. One night in the midst of praying, she had the revelation that education was a part of her destiny. This inspired her to write her first play, "Many Will Be Deceived" and to accept a position as drama director at Outreach Missionary Baptist Church. Her calling expanded beyond the church to the schools where she aligned with the Houston Independent School District after-school programs to teach theatre arts to inner-city youth.

In 2007, Charmette founded Shamelessly Saved Productions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to bringing healing through dramatic interpretation. She has written and produced several stageplays including, *Playground of Love*, *Momma*, *My Heart and Hope*, *Where Peer Pressure Led Me*, *Why They Have to Pick On Me*, *I Cut Myself*, *I Have a Secret* and *The Day My Daddy Left*. Her plays have been performed in the Downtown Houston Theatre District and throughout several venues across the city. She wrote her first novel entitled *Teenage Playground of Love* in 2008. The book features gripping stories depicting real-life issues that teens face. Through her stageplays and books Charmette has touched the hearts of many young people. Her latest novel entitled *My Heart and the Holy Spirit-Surrounded by Hell* was inspired by her traumatic divorce and painful childhood memories. The book can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Google Play and Apple iTunes, and is in production as a stageplay.

Charmette currently works as a Senior Gas Distributor in the oil and gas industry and mentors youth on a daily basis. She has been booked to speak at numerous inspirational events and featured on leading media platforms including NBC, FOX and ABC. For more information on her work and upcoming productions, visit www.shamelesslysaved.com.

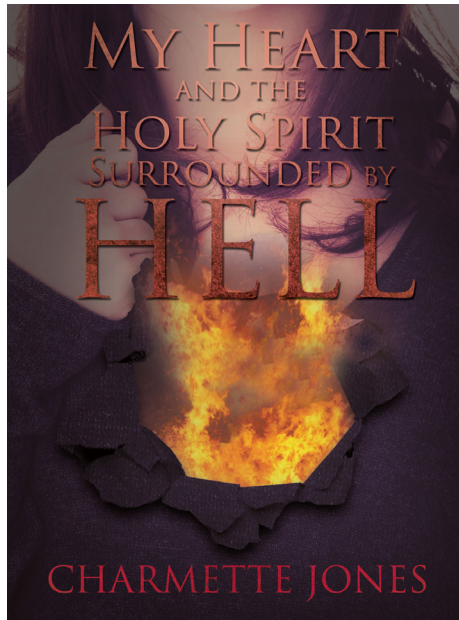
Prolific Author

Charmette has written numerous books and also plays that have been performed in front of diverse audiences. The common thread is the transformative power of the message of each work.

My Heart and the Holy Spirit – Surrounded by Hell

The Heart and the Holy Spirit can be likened to the best-selling Christian novel *The Shack* in its themes and message about the unconditional love of God and the self-imprisonment of pain. In *My Heart and the Holy Spirit*, the pain portrayed by the fictional characters stems from the author's real-life love and loss.

Have you ever been in pain so deep it placed a huge hole in your heart? If you don't receive a heart transplant in time, you will die a slow, agonizing death. Pain infiltrated Hope's heart and left her fighting for her life. She encounters the Holy Spirit who says, "Allow me to exchange your heart for mine." Hope rejects the Holy Spirit's offer and witnesses the terrifying site of Lucifer carrying human hearts in his hand. Lucifer dangles the hearts before El Elyon while making false accusations against the people of God. Hope soon realizes her chest cavity has a gaping



hole where her heart used to be. Lucifer has stolen her heart, leaving her life hanging in the balance between Heaven and Hell. This is a story of pain, a story of love, and ultimately, a story of Hope.

Christian Fiction. Published 2015. Page Publishing. 249 pages (ISBN 1634179749). My Heart and the Holy Spirit can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and can be downloaded on Apple iTunes and Google Play.

BOOK EXCERPT: *Chapter 1: Hope*

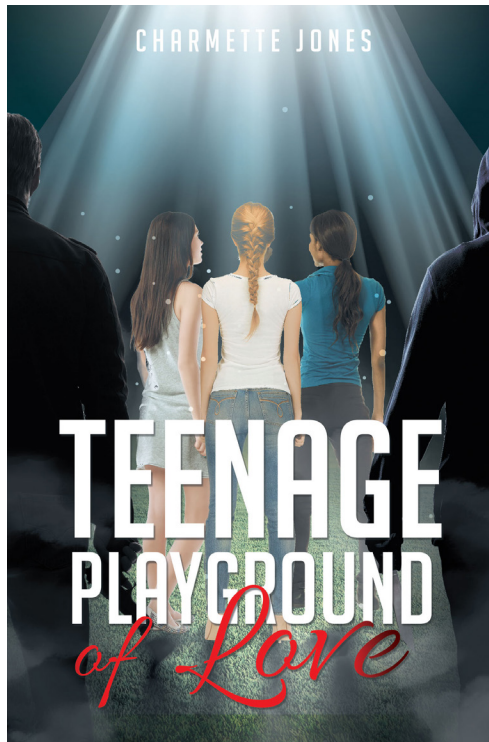
The tube down my throat is gagging me, and I can hear the machine breathing for me. The nurse comes in to check my vitals. She reads my chart then injects me with something. The blood filters through my lifeless body. I lie here thinking all these years how I've taken for granted the value of my heart. Now realizing that El Elyon and Yeshua could speak telling it to stop beating and BAMB! POOF!!! My life on Earth will end. I'm not ready to die I try to express, wrestling with these straps that have me bound to this hospital bed. "TAKE THESE STRAPS OFF ME!" I scream. There are people talking all around me totally ignoring my cry. I now understand what it feels like to be in a crowded room and yet feel so alone. I keep yelling trying desperately to get someone's attention, but I can't. I hear people crying and the prayer of a little girl but can't make out their faces. I try to open my eyes, but I guess they taped those shut too. "What am I going to do? Isn't this a hospital for god's sake why won't someone save me!" Tears stream down the side of my face, but my tears don't matter now. I'm so tired and exhausted from wrestling, trying to get free. I relax my head ... I'm feeling very weak... I fall asleep drifting off into dreamland...

I couldn't put this book down! It is a book that will appeal to those who like suspense, drama, or inspiration. It transcends traditions and dismantles denominational dogma. It will shake you up and set you free from traditional thinking and will appeal to those who've never thought about reading a 'spiritual' or 'inspirational' book."
— Marilyn Thompson.

Teenage Playground of Love

Teenage Playground of Love is a series of stories about what teenagers encounter on the Devil's playground of his so-called love for them. Fifteen-year-old Darlene longs to hear the words "I love you" and finds herself in the wrong bed, which nearly destroys her. Miracle is a 13-year-old in love with Luc, her cyber-space boyfriend. He enchants her into an unexpected playground of lust that leaves her heartbroken. Finally, Amber and Bryce's obsessed passion leads them to a playground of teen pregnancy, betrayal, and unforgiveness. *Teenage Playground of Love* addresses real life choices and situations that teens face every day. It is an intriguing page-turner and a must-read for teenagers as well as parents.

Young Adult Fiction. Published 2009 paperback; 2011 Kindle. Teenage Playground of Love can be purchased online at Amazon.



This book talks about a topic that is very common yet rarely talked about. Girls need their daddies! Thank you for expressing this in such a way that it delivers different view points and life situations. As a young female, I saw these very situations play out right in front of my eyes with female friends who had absent fathers (emotionally, physically, and spiritually). This book sums it all up. Finally someone spoke the truth in a way that is entertaining and so easy to read and understand!"
—Channon R. Dade

BOOK EXCERPT: *Chapter 1: Enchantment of Loving You*

It's dusk dawn and Jennifer is out watering her lawn when she looks and sees the porch light on at the home of her best friend, Darlene. Darlene and her mother, Linda, reside together in a beautiful two-story, red brick home that is built on one acre in their middle-class neighborhood. However, they don't reside there alone. Unbeknownst to Linda and Darlene, they have some unexpected demonic guests named Conceit, Luv, and Loneliness who have been secretly following them for over fifteen years. Conceit, Luv, and Loneliness are waiting on their boss, the Head Demon, to come and give them instructions for one of their favorite playmates. In the meantime Linda has arrived home, exhausted after pulling a double. She places her purse on the cherry wood couch table behind their black leather sectional before plopping down to pull off her shoes and wiggle her tired feet for a moment. She wants to take a little breather before dinner so she puts her head back and

closes her eyes. Darlene is upstairs in her plush pink and white bedroom outfitted in true diva style, listening to her favorite tune by Usher as she gets dressed to go out for the evening. The demons stand nestled in the four corners of Darlene's room, signaling each other as they watch her get dressed.

"She needs love," Luv hisses to the others, "and it is our job to give it to her."

"We will invite her to play on our Playground of Love. She's sure to find what she is looking for there," Loneliness responds.

Suddenly, the Head Demon appears before them and motions for the demon called Luv.

"Now Luv, I am assigning you to play with Darlene. Invite her to come on our playground. I have selected a special game just for her called Treasure Hunt. It will keep her hopping from bed to bed," he snarls, glaring menacingly at Darlene. "She is in search of love and it is our duty to help her find it—our way."

Stageplay Producer

Charmette's plays have been performed in the highly esteemed Downtown Theatre District and across the Houston Metro Area. She writes, directs and acts. Many of her productions have drawn sold-out crowds and demands for repeat performances. Combining a potent mix of the emotional roller coaster all humans face she takes us on a journey through pain, pleasure and love.

Theatre Teacher

Youth who don't have an outlet for healthy expression develop chronic problems over time. Theatre helps to provide a creative release leading to healthier and more well-adjusted children.

Charmette is qualified to facilitate programs in youth-centered environments. She is contracted with the Houston Independent School District after-school programs to teach theatre arts to inner-city youth. She has worked with Bruce Elementary, Marshall Middle School, Macgregor Elementary, Cornelius Elementary, Booker T. Washington High School, Sugar Grove Academy, and Austin High School. She has also developed district-approved school programs and plays such as *I Have a Secret* and *Where Peer Pressure Led Me*.



Shamelessly Saved

“BRINGING HEALING THROUGH THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS!”

Shamelessly Saved Productions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to meet the needs of hurting children. Every child deserves a chance to live a life full of greatness regardless of race, social status, abuse or any other factor. We aim to break the cycle of self-destructive behaviors that pervade into adulthood as a result of painful memories.



A study in the American Journal of Public Health cited that “creative engagement can decrease anxiety, stress, and mood disturbances.”



Mentoring

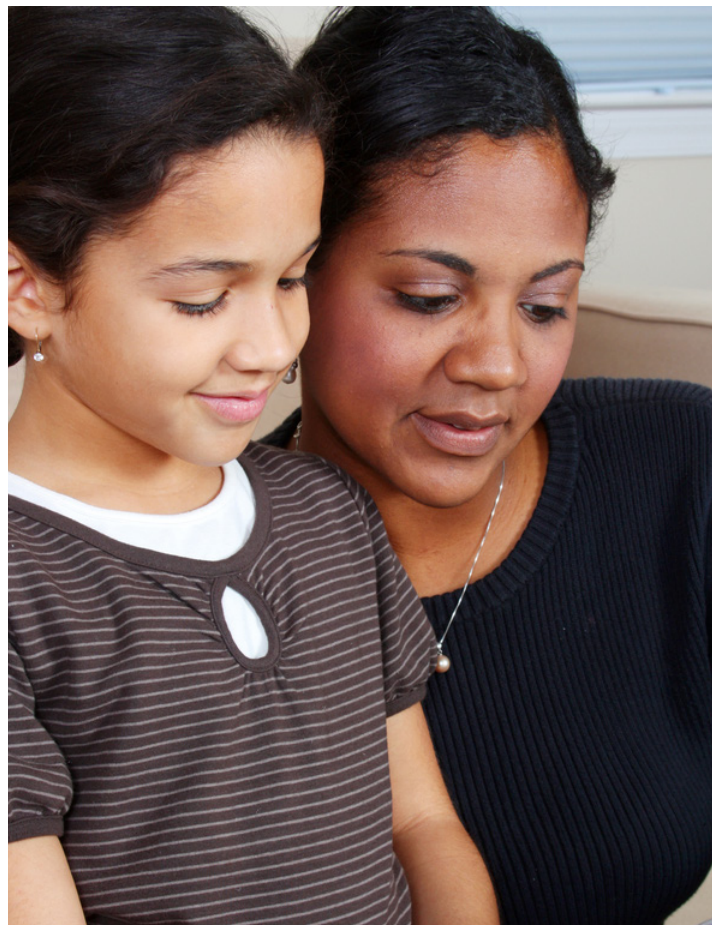
An increasing number of community organizations are turning to arts programs because they work.

- They are an effective and more affordable alternative to detention and police-centered crime prevention
- They offer safe, engaging and constructive environments for young people
- They target non-school hours—times when youth lack adult supervision and are vulnerable to community violence and gang recruitment

Research from The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada found:

- Girls with a Big Sister are two and a half times more likely than girls without a mentor to be confident in their ability to be successful at school

Our Mentorship program provides positive female role models for girls dealing with all types of issues. The mentors are women who themselves have overcome obstacles to become successful.



Dynamic Speaker

Charmette is a passionate speaker who provides motivational and inspirational talks. She is able to tailor messages to your group and has spoken at programs in schools, churches and at organizations. The message of love and healing is universal.



TOPICS:

- The transformative power of forgiveness
- Parent-child relationships
- Consequences of unresolved pain
- Teens and sex, bullying, abuse and peer pressure

Recent speaking engagements:

- 2015 - 6th Annual Back to School Backpack Drive featuring high-ranking government officials and more than 600 backpacks issued to underserved youth - Island of Hope Church
- 2015 - Gaining and Reclaiming Souls Revival - Greater Emmanuel COGIC
- 2015 - 1st Annual Kidz Choice Awards - Buffalo Soldier Museum

Media

Charmette has appeared on leading media platforms from Fox News to ABC sharing her story and her work

Houston woman tackles issues of child abuse and unforgiveness
Houston Style Magazine

Chat with influential businesswoman Charmette Jones
Gossip Talk Radio

Houston woman tackles tough issues in new play
Empower Magazine

Charmette Jones Releases New Book
Broadway World

EM's Book of the Week: Surrounded by Hell
Empower Magazine

Reclaiming Purity
Getting Good at Life

Play addressing teenage challenges back by popular demand at Hobby Center
Houston Style Magazine



A Conversation with Charmette

Q. You're a prolific playwright. What inspired the evolution from that to books?

A. Being in the schools and seeing so much that parents are not aware of led me to write. As a playwright I am limited by what can go on the stage; however, being an author allows me a blank canvas of creativity. I got the inspiration and had to follow the call.

Q. Your first book, *Teenage Playground of Love*, discusses real-life teen issues. What are the main struggles you see teens face, and how can they overcome them?

A. Often teens don't understand who they are and struggle to fit in. They look for the approval of their peers and their parents. When they cannot relate to their parents that's when they find themselves in difficult situations. They get caught up and feel isolated. Teens need to understand you have to be a leader not a follower. I had to speak their language to really reach them in this book. One mother read it and couldn't believe children really experienced those issues; she and her child had a long discussion afterwards. There is so much parents don't know about their kids.

Q. How did the idea for your nonprofit Shamelessly Saved Productions emerge?

A. Growing up poor I wanted to get involved in arts activities, but my mother could not afford them. That made us want to help those who are less fortunate. When I got the opportunity, I chose to form a nonprofit where kids could come and express themselves and divert self-destructive behavior.

Q. What is the most memorable reaction you've had from someone who's experienced your work whether through attending a play, reading a book or hearing you speak?

A. One was when a group of students and I were reading my script entitled, "I Cut Myself." Many of them started crying and sharing stories of cutting themselves or knowing people who did; they opened up about the issues they were dealing with. Some of them had been abused and cut themselves to relieve the pain. When we did the show parents walked up and said, "That's my house." Another child who always had an attitude and was very rebellious decided she no longer wanted to be a part of the theater arts afterschool program. After two semesters she said she wanted to rejoin. She asked me to do the play, "Where Peer Pressure Led Me" again. She revealed that she had been in a psychiatric facility because she tried to commit suicide. She said, "Miss, the play we did ... when I was in the hospital those words kept me alive. I remember when the character 'Depression' spoke saying she loves to take over the minds of people who can't cope with life." She said she began to focus on the positive side and cast down her negative thoughts replacing them with positive ones, reminding herself—I am somebody and my life has value.

Q. Your slogan is, Bringing Healing Through the Dramatic Arts. Why does theatre connect with people in such a deep way?

A. Youth today thrive on entertainment, and many times they can relate to something that reminds them of past pain. From there they can see the positive side of that—reaching towards being set free of the pain. Theatre connects with them emotionally because they see themselves. When we did the play *Momma* in Beaumont, TX you could hear a mother in the audience sobbing. Afterwards she came up and said she had a son

in prison that she never visited, but the play made her want to see her child. That mother had to push past her own pain to save her child.

Q. Your newest book *My Heart and the Holy Spirit—Surrounded by Hell* deals with the painful effects of being separated from the true love of God. How was this inspired by your own life?

A. Pain blinds you and makes you feel alone and betrayed...even by God. That was a place I was in, but God showed me that He is never the author behind the pain that comes our way, although He may use that affliction to make us stronger. This was something I had to encounter in order to be effective in what I was speaking about. I happened to be sitting in prayer, and God told me Hate would not be tolerated. I had hate in my heart from divorce and the painful events leading up to it. One day I even went to my closet to get the gun. The Holy Spirit stopped me and said, "Get rid of hate, and know I can deliver you, heal you and restore you. There are so many people like you. I need you to write this book." I wrote the book to help people see the value of their own heart and know that they are loved.

Q. What is the ultimate vision you hope to achieve through your work?

A. My goal is to see people live a life full of laughter and love, not being held captive because of pain.



Contact

Shamelessly Saved Productions provides an array of uplifting, enlightening and educational programs throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you at a future production or at a performance, training or speaking engagement for your organization.

You can find Charmette's books for purchase online at:

Amazon.com

My Heart and the Holy Spirit - Surrounded by Hell
Teenage Playground of Love

Barnes and Noble

Apple iTunes

Google Play

Website:

www.shamelesslysaved.com

Social Media:



www.facebook.com/ShamelesslySaved



www.twitter.com/CharmetteJones



google.com/+ShamelesslySavedProductions

For Booking Information Contact:

info@shamelesslysaved.com

For Media Inquiries Contact:

Sarni Jaye, Publicist, sarni@sarnij.com, 757-932-5446