



From Real Housewife to Author

DeShawn Snow triumphs over drama to pen her first chapter book series for teens.

Philanthropist and businesswoman DeShawn Snow has been really busy since her starring role on the first season of Bravo's hit reality show, "Real Housewives of Atlanta." Between her "Lil Shawnee Chapter Book Series," her non-profit organization, the DeShawn Snow Foundation, and her ministries, the mother of three boys can be described as a literal superwoman.

The "Lil Shawnee Chapter Book Series," focuses the adventures of Lil Shawnee, an African-American girl with multiracial friends. The books have a strong biblical influence and positive parental figures, which are important for the emotional and mental growth of young girls. The character of Lil Shawnee is loosely based on Snow's life and many of Lil Shawnee's adventures are derived from Snow's past experiences. The purpose of the book series is to help girls, age seven to twelve, build self-esteem and to empower them to make positive choices.

Snow has another series of books, "Vanderbilt High," in the works. It was originally meant to be a television dramedy, but will be released as a publication first. "Vanderbilt High," is based upon three teen-aged girls from the other side of the tracks, and the things they go through.

"I have a passion helping young girls," Snow told *Tastemaker Magazine*. "My ultimate goal is to have a book series, a merchandising line, and an animated series." The "Real Housewives of Atlanta Alum," has come a long way since her television debut. She was initially disappointed from not being asked to return for another season, however this let down was short lived. Snow has used her innate creativity and entrepreneurial savvy to spark up several business ventures since then. She is currently the CEO of DeShawn Snow Enterprises Inc., which is her brand and handles anything that she is involved in, and DeShawn & the

Boys Productions, a company that oversees all of her innovative endeavors.

This living, breathing superwoman's experiences are the inspiration for her next book, this one is for grown-ups, "Drawing Strength: How God Uses Your Challenges to Fulfill His Plan for You." According to Snow, she plans to share testimony, "from [her] own difficult journey to equip readers with practical and biblically based lessons on handling adversity in their lives." The book will hit stands early next year.

DeShawn also plans on creating a reality television series with the purpose of empowering divorced women. She's not interested in recreating the drama that RHOA is famous for. Although drama and conflict tend to be a cash cow in the reality television genre, Snow wishes to maintain the integrity of any show that she produces. The odds may be against her but she believes that, "You can't give up hope because there is a market for it."

She told *Tastemaker Magazine* that being a part of the RHOA cast was an amazing experience but she doesn't feel that she's defined by it and does not regret leaving the show. Snow admits that the last two years have been very difficult, but she's pulled through and wants to help others do the same. She is a firm believer in finding a blessing in every situation. "We go through things for a reason and then sometimes it's not really just for us, but it's to help somebody else out."

The talented author offers some words of wisdom for all of you *Tastemakers* out there who are currently going through a negative or traumatic experience: stay true to yourself, don't lose yourself in the moment, realize that everything happens on God's time, and just try to be more understanding toward the people around you.

Take her word for it, "It's not good to judge. You have to understand that hurt people hurt people. When someone is acting a certain way, they're more than likely hurt themselves."

To find out more about the DeShawn Snow Foundation and "The Lil Shawnee Chapter Book Series," visit www.deshawnsnow-foundation.org. You can order the books at www.lilshawnee.com, the series is a must-read for all tweens. —Gary Johnson