



BOOK OVERVIEW: GOOD FORTUNE  
By Noni Carter (published by Simon & Schuster)

“History awakens Identity & Identity leads the path to Good Fortune!” – Noni Carter

What would happen if...

- Black history—including the scarring reality of the slavery—were a point of pride and legacy for today’s black youth?
- More youth saw themselves through the lens of the perseverance and triumphs of their ancestors?
- People of all shades and sizes realized the value and impact of African Americans’ contributions to the U.S. legacy?

If all of these things were true, would today’s youth, and the nation as a whole, experience more Good Fortune?

### **About Good Fortune**

Good Fortune is an inspiring story of an African-American slave woman in the early 19th century. Brutally kidnapped from her African village and shipped to America, Ayanna Bahati struggles to come to terms with her new life as a slave. Rising from the cotton fields to her master’s house, Ayanna is threatened by the increasingly dangerous world of the plantation. Risking everything, she escapes and makes her way north to freedom and an education, but can she shed the chains of her harrowing past to live the life she has longed for?

She struggles with the concept of emancipation verses freedom, praying for miracles to manifest in her life, and finally understanding the importance of her homeland, engrained into her soul through her name: BAHATI, or Good Fortune.

A stirring debut novel from a young talent, Good Fortune traces one girls’ journey from slavery to liberation, and details how she finds her true self along the way. Through this account of Ayanna’s journey through slavery; through her dreams of honest freedom; through her aspirations; and through her love, sorrow, pain, joy, readers will find that Good Fortune will inspire and stimulate many to keep the memory of these ancestors alive.

## **The Story Behind Good Fortune**

An accomplished classical pianist, poet and novelist, 18-year-old Noni Carter has always cherished the history, values and life lessons of her ancestors. Her debut novel, *Good Fortune*, is poised to do for Noni's generation what Alex Haley's *Roots* did for his generation —inspiring 21st century black youth to embrace, with pride, the rich legacy of black history, including the gripping experience of slavery.

The story of Ayanna Bahati is inspired by the real-life experience of Noni's great-great-great-great grandmother—Rose Caldwell. At 12-years-old, Noni joined her siblings and cousins at her family's kitchen table as her great aunt recounted Rose's story, along with other true accounts of her ancestors' histories in America. These are stories that had been shared in her family for more than four generations.

Noni, so moved by the story of Rose Caldwell, embarked on a three-year journey to write a book that would also inspire other youth to embrace, value and learn from their history. Noni dedicated significant time during her adolescent years (ages 12 to 15) to reading, listening to stories and conducting research about the black history experience. The work that began as a 25-page short story evolved into a compelling historical slave narrative that is exciting parents, educators and youth all over the country—teaching them to treasure and learn from all aspects of their history; to value education and lifelong learning; and to never, ever give up.