



Mrs. Jeanell Marvin and her book gems



One of my favorite things about the [@chascolibrary](#) on Calhoun in addition to their author events and \$1 bookshelves, is their FREE bookshelf. Tucked in a corner in the YA department (my fave) is a little cart with free books-some of which haven't even been fully released yet.

I'm always blown away by the gems I find. What a great way to serve the community and encourage reading.

Want to serve the Charleston community in your own way?

Consider donating books or volunteering at the upcoming book sales. There's one March 1-2. Head to [@chslibfriends](#) to sign up!

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Harbor Me, by Jacqueline Woodson

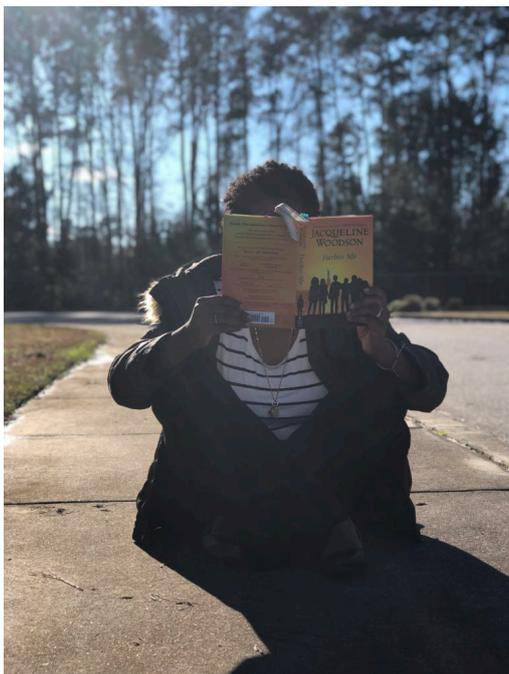


photo @jeanellnicolereads

#bookstagram @jeanellnicolereads

“When they came for me, I lifted my hands to them, let them wrap the cuffs around my wrists. I did not fight, I did not yell. When they pressed me into the van, there were others who spoke our language—a language of sun and ocean and beauty, a language of birds and merengue. We leaned across the van toward each other and knew the same people back home. Always remember, when you are with your people you are home.”

This book is a an absolute gem. Jacqueline Woodson lyrically tells the stories of six middle schoolers and demonstrates through the diverse set of characters how by sharing our story, and opening our hearts to the stories of others, we not only find healing, but quite possibly a harboring love.

I loved the characters so much! From Amari’s wisdom and insight on white privilege, to Haley’s confusion about her own biracial identity and the lingering longing for her incarcerated father.

This middle grade novel would make for a great read aloud and is sure to spark meaningful conversations amongst students. It’s so much more than a friendship book, it’s a book about America through the eyes of eleven year olds, and their perspectives are worth reading.

Follow @jeanellnicolereads on Instagram [here](#)



Say hi to Jeanell Marvin!

Mrs. Jeanell Marvin is a patron of the Charleston County Public Library and we are delighted to inform that now she is also part of our team, sharing thoughts about her readings.



“Wife, momma of four, elementary school teacher. Loves chips and queso. Reading since the age of four and finds **libraries** to be **safe havens**. Drawn to character driven novels that result in elevated empathy and the tugging of the

heartstrings. I read daily and love getting my children and students excited about the power of books.”

To stay tuned with Mrs. Marvin has been reading, [follow her Instagram page.](#)