



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 21, 2025

DC's Literary Scene Heats Up: Planet Word Launches New Author Series with Pretty Little Bookshelf

The Reading Lounge debuts July 27 with four standout romance writers and continues August 31 with YA fantasy authors Roseanne A. Brown and Namina Forna

Washington, D.C. — This summer, Planet Word and [Pretty Little Bookshelf](#) present [The Reading Lounge](#), a new monthly event series spotlighting dynamic voices in contemporary literature. Each installment offers an afternoon of thoughtful conversation and curated book selections in an immersive reading lounge setting.

The series kicks off Sunday, July 27, with a focus on contemporary romance featuring authors Kristina Forest, Nikki Payne, Mia Sosa, and Natasha Bishop. Attendees can expect engaging conversations, book signings, and selections from local Black-owned bookstore MahoganyBooks.

The series continues Sunday, August 31, with Young Adult and middle grade fantasy authors Roseanne A. Brown and Namina Forna. Curated in collaboration with Morgan Menzies of Pretty Little Bookshelf, the event combines the joy of book clubs and salon-style gatherings to celebrate the magic of summer reading.

Menzies, a Washington, D.C.-based literary organizer and founder of Pretty Little Bookshelf, has cultivated a vibrant online and local community where readers connect through storytelling and shared experiences. She has moderated author conversations at the Essence Festival of Culture, the Bronx Book Festival, and Lincoln Center.

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Readers can explore featured titles in advance through The Reading Lounge Summer Book List, curated by Menzies and inspired by each month's theme. The full list is available here: <https://planetwordmuseum.org/the-reading-lounge-a-summer-reading-list-from-pretty-little-bookshelf/>

Additional events in the series will be announced soon.

Event Details:

Sunday, July 27

The Reading Lounge: Pretty Little Bookshelf with Kristina Forest, Nikki Payne, Mia Sosa, and Natasha Bishop

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Get Tickets: <https://planetwordmuseum.org/events/the-reading-lounge-pretty-little-bookshelf-with-kristina-forest-nikki-payne-mia-sosa-and-natasha-bishop/>

Sunday, August 31

The Reading Lounge: Pretty Little Bookshelf with Roseanne A. Brown and Namina Forna

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Get Tickets: <https://planetwordmuseum.org/events/the-reading-lounge-pretty-little-bookshelf-with-roseanne-a-brown-and-namina-forna/>

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Planet Word is the only museum in the country dedicated to renewing and inspiring a love of words and language. Located in the historic Franklin School on the corner of 13th and K Streets in downtown D.C., Planet Word opened in 2020 as a new kind of interactive and self-guided museum. Using the museum's state-of-the-art technology, visitors determine their experience through their own words and choices. Planet Word is a bold and imaginative response to the life-long importance of literacy and to the challenge of growing a love of language. As a private, non-governmental museum, Planet Word is free for visitors and supported primarily by the generosity of donors.

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