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Hartford Public Library Announces Angela Johnson's *A Certain October* as the 2013 One Book One Hartford Selection; Explores Loss and Grief Through a Teenage Lens

Hartford, Connecticut (September 5, 2013) – *A Certain October*, the poignant young adult story exploring sudden loss and the ensuing grieving process from a teen's perspective, is this year's **One Book One Hartford** featured selection. Hartford's citywide book club, **One Book One Hartford**, begins at Hartford Public Library locations throughout the city on October 1, and culminates with an author event on Saturday, November 23, at 2:00 p.m. in the Center for Contemporary Culture at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street.

The Library will offer a variety of public programming for all ages throughout October and November to connect the community to this inspirational story. "This book was suggested to the library by Sistah Nandi of the Sankofa Kuumba Cultural Arts Consortium in Hartford as a way to engage our youth in conversations about violence and loss," said Brenda J. Miller, Chief Officer, Cultural Affairs and Public Programming, "Author Angela Johnson writes with moving honesty about facing the unimaginable and carrying on. *A Certain October* is an inspiring read for all ages."

Angela Johnson has been writing for over twenty years with more than 40 picture books, novels and books of poetry to her credit. A three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner for *Toning the Sweep* in 1994, *Heaven* in 1999, and *The First Part Last* in 2004, she was also the runner-up twice, for *When I Am Old with You* in 1990 and *The Other Side, Shorter Poems* in 1998. In addition, she was awarded the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award for *Tell Me a Story, Mama* in 1991 and the Michael L. Printz Award from the American Library Association in 2004, recognizing *The First Part Last* as the year's "best book written for teens, based entirely on its literary merit." In 2003 Ms. Johnson received a McArthur Genius Grant. She lives in northeastern Ohio with her family.

Speaking directly about the sorrows felt by youth and adults alike in our urban centers, the author said, "Indeed, I like so many feel desperate at the loss of any of our children through violence, accidents, suicide and disease. When I wrote *A Certain October* I realized I had to view mourning and loss through the prism of a young adult mind...it was truly eye-opening. I realized how overwhelming filtering loss as a teenager is, as none of us have built up the life skills and inner core to truly handle it."

"For more than a decade One Book, One Hartford has engaged and challenged readers in Hartford. People from every neighborhood and all ages are brought together to immerse themselves in a great work of literature," said Matt Poland, the Library's chief executive officer. I hope everyone will check out a copy of *A Certain October*, take part in a discussion or attend any number of programs or performances."

One Book One Hartford brings our richly diverse city together around a good book. Reading challenges us to think about ourselves, our environment and our relationships; talking about literature can add depth and breadth to this experience. This is the 13th year for **One Book One Hartford**, formerly known as One Book for Greater Hartford. Prior authors included Edwidge Danticat, Esmeralda Santiago, James McBride, Azar Naficy, Eve Ensler and Junot Diaz. Please check www.hplct.org and <http://www.onebookonehartford.org/> for upcoming **One Book One Hartford** events and program announcements.

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 833,500 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org

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