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Award-Winning Author Angela Johnson Speaks at Hartford Public Library

“ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD” Program Culminates with Special Author Talk and Book Signing

HARTFORD, Connecticut (November 15, 2013) – This year’s ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD program will offer an extraordinary opportunity to meet and hear Angela Johnson, author of the moving young adult story *A Certain October*, the 2013 selection for Hartford’s citywide book club.

From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 23, in the Center for Contemporary Culture at Hartford Public Library’s Downtown location, Johnson will engage in a special moderated dialogue with the public about her book, which explores the emotions of a teenage girl who encounters a sudden tragedy and struggles to make sense of her place in the life that follows.

“We are honored and thrilled to welcome Angela Johnson to our library and to introduce *A Certain October* to library customers of all ages,” said Chief Officer for Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Brenda Miller. “The bedrock of *A Certain October* is the story of how a young girl copes with the terrible loss of a friend she is just getting to know and a devastating injury to her family. This spare, beautiful book addresses grief, responsibility and young love, yet never preaches. This is a book that can truly *help*, and we’re delighted to provide a chance to meet Angela Johnson and to explore her work.”

Three-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant, Johnson has written books for young adults and younger readers, as well as picture books for young children. Her Saturday presentation will be the centerpiece of a full roster of community events and conversations focused on her 2012 book, which *Publishers Weekly* described as “a story of startling immediacy.”

Stan Simpson, a longtime columnist for the *Hartford Courant* and now executive producer and host of the weekly current affairs program *The Stan Simpson Show* on Fox CT, will moderate a community discussion with the novelist.

In more than forty books, the award-winning novelist has explored and celebrated the complexities of African American life. Johnson began her writing career in 1989 with *Tell Me a Story, Mama*. When she received a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2003, at age 42, the MacArthur program cited the “universality”

of her stories, and said, “She creates characters who are vibrantly alive....and who live in one’s memory long after their stories have been told.”

The November 23rd presentation is free and all are welcome. For those who cannot attend, this program will be streamed live at that day and time; for access, go to www.hplct.org. To learn more about the many programs for *A Certain October* and for ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD, please visit www.hplct.org, or call 860-695-6300.

About [Hartford Public Library](http://www.hplct.org)

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 860,000 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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