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Vindicated: the unedited interview with Karrine Steffans

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Karrine Steffans is the New York Times best selling author of six titles including the

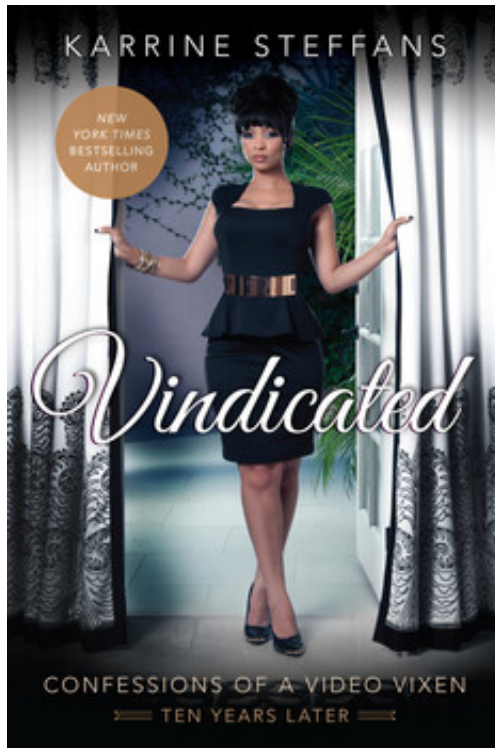


photo by Jamal Bayette

unforgettable *Confessions of a Video Vixen*. The gifted author has also appeared on legendary shows hosted by the likes of Paula Zahn, Tyra Banks, Bill O'Reilly, Kathy Lee Gifford, and the queen of daytime herself, Oprah Winfrey. Karrine

is currently on tour to support her newest release **Vindicated: Confessions of a Video Vixen, Ten Years Later**, a gripping memoir for your summer must-read lists!

L - With "Vindicated" you have proven once again being a powerful Writer. Like Fine Wine this follow-up to "Confessions" took 10 years of maturation, how do you feel after its launch?

K - I feel just as the title promises - **vindicated**. This is my 7th book and my 4th memoir, but it is my most significant work so far.

L - You wrote about the heartbreaking power and control in abusive relationships; what would you say to a victim currently facing a similar trauma?

K - No matter how horrible things have gotten, no matter how deep into the abyss you may have sunk, the door is always open, and you can always leave. It's not going to be easy, but it won't be as hard as being abused. Support is important and if there is no one in your life who can help, there are agencies that are waiting to save you. It takes a brave person to stay in a bad situation and that same bravery can be used to get out.

L - Tell us about the intriguing cover and how it came about.

K - I fought for the cover of Vindicated, and shot three separate times until I got the perfect image. Everyone involved had their own ideas of what they thought this cover should look like, but I was

the only one who knew the contents of the manuscript, at the time. I wanted to stand, tall and proud, so that's what I did. This is the only book cover on which I am standing and that is significant. I ignored everyone else, booked a suite at Hotel Bel-Air, and stood there in all my glory, in all my truth.

L - You have self-published and worked with publishing editors, from your experience where do you see publishing going in the future?

K - This time around, I opted to join forces as a publishing partner and not just as an author. Being a 50/50 partner or a self-published author is ideal for someone in my position, who already has a vast audience. As for the industry as a whole, there needs to be a major overhaul. It is quite antiquated and can learn a lot for the music industry, which is the model for my business. There is still a lot of capital being lost and overlooked.

L - In Vindicated, "Hold me back" from Rick Ross has a prominent feature; which song has currently the most profound impact on you?

K - I don't listen to music very often, but once in a while, something will grab my attention. Right now, I have gone back in time to *This Woman's Work*, sung by Maxwell. When I first heard it, the song was featured at the end of *She's Having a Baby*, starring Kevin Bacon, and sung by Kate Bush. Maxwell's rendition is just as striking. This song speaks to my life, especially right now.

L - "And then what?" What can we wish you for the years to come?

K - From me, you can always expect truth and growth. I will never stop writing and I will never stop living, even long after I am dead. So, if you wish me anything, wish me eternal love and light, laughter and a long, long life.

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