

**BAKARI SELLERS** made history in 2006 when, at just twenty-two years old, he defeated a twenty-six-year incumbent state representative to become the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the nation. He has been named to *TIME*'s 40 Under 40 list and The Root's 100 Most Influential African Americans list. Sellers is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *My Vanishing Country*. He practices law, hosts *The Bakari Sellers Podcast*, and is a political commentator at CNN. Visit Sellers online at [www.stromlaw.com/bakari-sellers](http://www.stromlaw.com/bakari-sellers).



**REGGIE BROWN** loves drawing vivid scenes of Black children and families that include expressive, unforgettable characters that make children and adults want to read and reread those stories. Reggie also has a passion for stories with genres like fantasy, superheroes, and science fiction. When Reggie isn't drawing, he loves exploring San Diego, watching anime, and hanging out with his wife, Demi, and min pin, Bruce. Visit him online at [www.trendingcreativedesign.com](http://www.trendingcreativedesign.com).

Also available as a downloadable audio.

Jacket art © 2022 by Reggie Brown  
Jacket design by Rachel Zegar



Photo by John Walder/Carbon Thread



Sellers / Brown

WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

**BAKARI SELLERS**

*New York Times* Bestselling Author of *My Vanishing Country*

# WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?



Illustrated by  
**REGGIE BROWN**

Ages 4-8

When you meet someone for the first time, they might ask,

**“Who are your people?”**

and

**“Where are you from?”**

In these pages is a timeless celebration of the individuals and experiences that help shape young children into the most remarkable and unique beings that they can be.

*New York Times* bestselling author and CNN analyst Bakari Sellers brings this inspirational, lyrical text about family and community to life with illustrations from Reggie Brown.



**Quill Tree Books**  
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# WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

 HarperCollins

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Written by **Bakari Sellers**

Illustrated by **Reggie Brown**

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Sadie and Stokely, daddy loves you.  
Kai, your (bonus) dad is so proud of you.  
—B. S.

To Brittani—she made this world a better  
place and will always be missed.  
—R. B.

List of historical figures who appear in the book:  
pp. 8-9: (from left to right) Muhammad Ali, Maya Angelou, Stacey  
Abrams, Martin Luther King, Jr.; p. 11: Harriet Tubman; p. 17: Barack  
Obama; p. 18: (clockwise from top left) Serena Williams, Jackie  
Robinson, Kamala Harris, John Lewis; p. 19: a buffalo soldier.

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The artist used a little Malcolm (X), a bit of Martin (King),  
and a lot of Marvin (Gaye) to create the illustrations for this book.

21 22 23 24 25 PC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

◆  
First Edition







When you meet someone for the first time, they might ask,

“Who are your people?”

and

“Where are you from?”



*Who are your people?*





You should always be proud of who you are.

Your people were strong and smart.

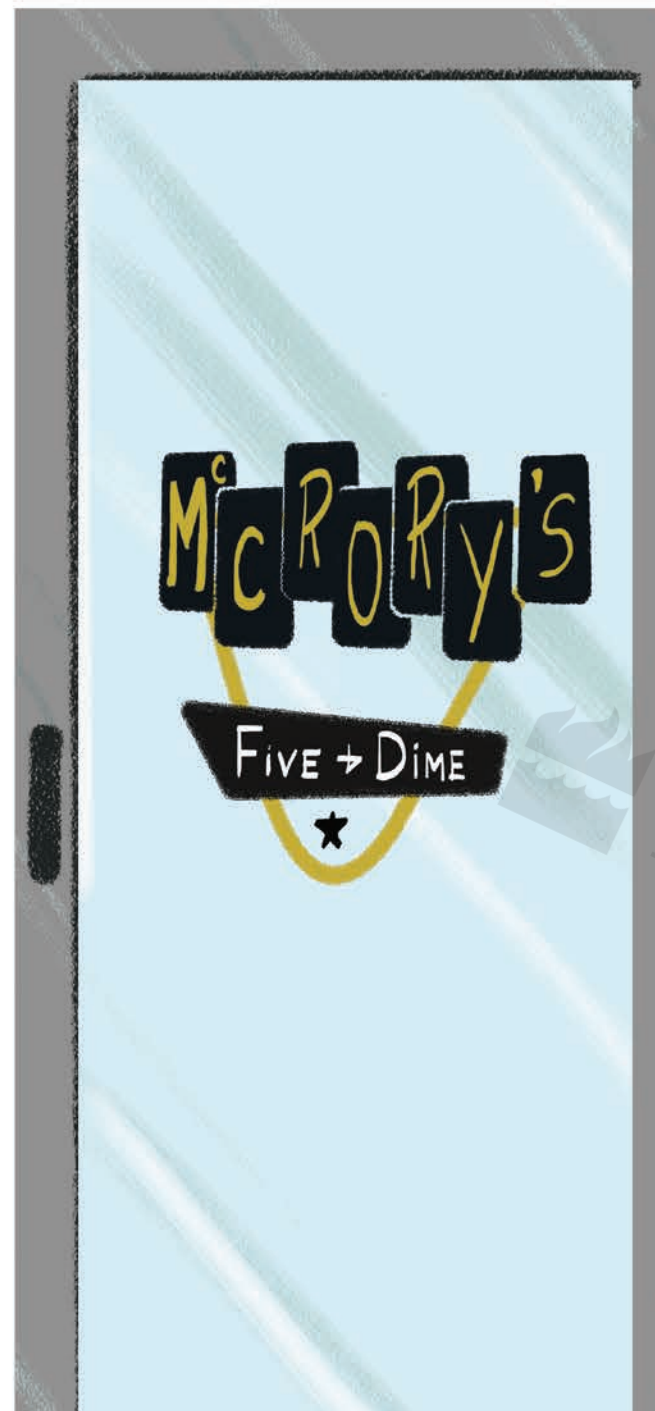
They dreamed of things not yet seen and  
imagined that we could all be free.





Your people were  
fighters.

When they were told  
they had to leave because  
of the color of their  
skin, they sat down.





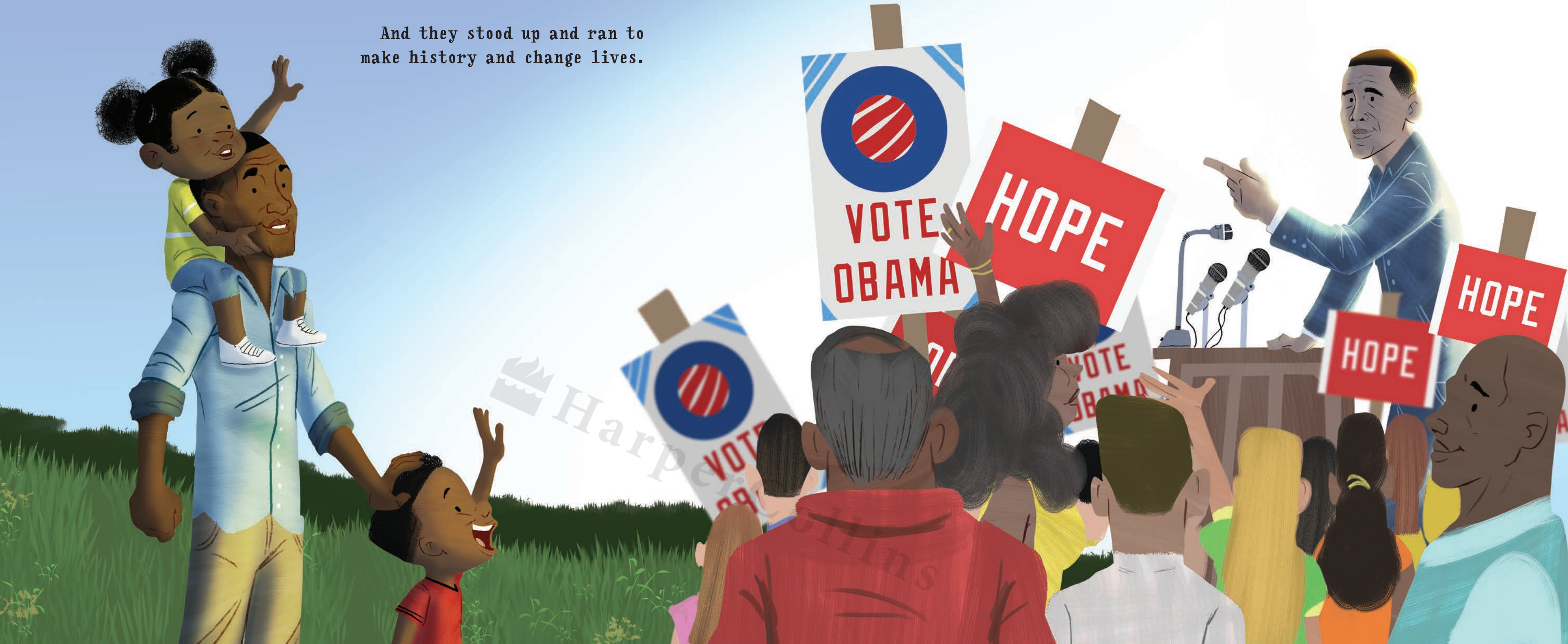
Your people were mighty  
activists, champions that  
struggled for justice and  
equality.

They marched so that people  
would know your life matters.





And they stood up and ran to  
make history and change lives.





Your people were  
trailblazers who changed  
laws and broke records.

Today we stand on  
their shoulders.



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When they ask you, "Where are you from?"



You are from a land where the soil is dark and matches the richness of your skin. Where cotton and sugarcane were strongly rooted and match your strength and determination.



You are from the country,  
where time moves with ease and  
where kindness is cherished.

We say a simple hello to  
our neighbors to let them  
know we see them.





You are from a place where the aromas of cakes and pies waft from the windowsills, to fill your bellies with goodness and your hearts with love.





You are a product of the proverb “it takes  
a village to raise a child.”





You are from a place filled with love and hope and expectation. Where people rooted for you to succeed.

Today we stand on their shoulders.





On their shoulders, you are  
so strong and so loved.

On their shoulders, you can  
reach for the sky.







So what will you  
dream, and how will  
you change the world?

