

## **Yvonne Frances Brown – *The Jamaican American Dreamer* - Interview questions**

### **What made you choose *Self Creation* as the subject matter for your first novel?**

I feel as though the subject matter chose me. I never planned to write a self-help book. I always knew I would write a book someday but I thought it would be a novel. Frankly, I was a voracious reader of novels as a youngster. Detective novels were my favorite.



### **What was it like writing *Self Creation*?**

It was daunting, intriguing, and exhilarating. I tend to be introspective and analytical by nature, so of course I'm always wondering, "Will I get this right?" At the same time, I'm never happier than when I'm being creative. I enjoy immersing myself in the creative process, getting to know my abilities and myself better, giving in to the creative process, and listening to my inner voice share the possibilities with me.



### **Why did you decide to tell the story from the perspective of a Jamaican American?**

I never sat down and decided to tell the book in a certain way. That's just the way the book came to me. I received the book in full form while driving on the Edens Expressway in Chicago. I remember thinking, "oh my God, I don't have a pen or my tape recorder, what if I forget this before I can write it down?" So I pulled off to the side of the road as soon as possible and wrote down the outline for the book. I think that many Americans do not immediately recognize the opportunities available to them. Meanwhile, foreigners like myself come to America specifically in search of the American Dream so we are always open to the possibilities and on the lookout for opportunities. I work very intuitively. Also, switching the points of view just made the telling of the story more interesting for me, as a writer.

Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica Yvonne Frances Brown is a graduate of DePaul University and an expert on taking control of your personal manifest destiny to live your life on purpose instead of by chance. [Self Creation](#) is her third book.

### **How close are the events in the book to the actual experiences of you and your grandparents in Jamaica?**

It is all true to life. My grandfather was a successful entrepreneur who was illiterate and kept it a secret from his business contacts and my grandmother really was a bar owner who was her own bouncer. To me they embody what is possible regardless of your circumstances. Both were orphaned in their early teens and became successful business owners despite their circumstances. I was raised in a very closed environment and the net result was a naiveté that can only be described as a great way to be set up to be let down. And since my family didn't talk about the "the real world" much, I had to learn that for myself by making my own mistakes (and believe me, there were many).

**Did you ever find out what happened to your grandfather's property and businesses?**

No, not really. My mother finally wrote it all off. My grandfather left someone other than a family member as the executor of the will and that person stole everything that my grandfather had built in his lifetime. With no money or resources, my mother gave up on her inheritance and basically our family legacy. It was devastating, but I have adjusted to this reality and that's when I realized that "if it's to be it's up to me" and set out towards my own Self Creation.

**What was your family's reaction to *Self Creation*?**

My family is, how best to put it...reacting uniquely. The overall reaction to the book has been surprisingly positive and supportive. Almost every family member has been supportive and proud of my accomplishment. I plan on doing a book tour in the U.K. as I have many relatives there and they truly support my publication of this book.

**Why do you think topics like self-creation are almost never discussed either in or outside of classrooms?**

Honestly, I have no idea. Maybe because they believe this is a subject best left to the parents? I just don't know. I'm still surprised, when I do readings, at how little young people today actually know about self-creation and determining their own future. Many people think they have to just take life as it comes.

**To what do you attribute your ability to see the possibilities?**

I think that, from the moment I read the book "Think & Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill the die was cast. Soon I was listening to tapes such as "The success secrets that never fails" by W. Clement Stone and Dale Carnegie's "How to win friends and influence people," Any Rand's "Atlas Shrugged and the Fountainhead," and creating the foundation of the philosophy that I would build my life upon.

**Do you have plans for another novel?**

Yes, I've started writing the next one, but feel superstitious about talking about it this early on. Don't want to jinx it! Silly, I know.

**What books are you currently reading?**

"The power of your subconscious mind" by Dr. Joseph Murphy