MICHAEL ERIC DYSON
TO PUBLISH A NEW BOOK WITH ST. MARTIN’S PRESS THIS FALL

LONG TIME COMING
Reckoning with Race in America


The night of May 25, 2020 changed America. George Floyd, a 43-year-old black man, was killed during an arrest in Minneapolis when a white cop suffocated him. The video of that night’s events went viral, sparking the largest protests in the nation’s history and the sort of social unrest we have not seen since the sixties. While Floyd’s death was certainly the catalyst, (heightened by the fact that it occurred during a pandemic whose victims were disproportionately of color) it was in truth the fuse that lit a powder keg that has been filling since America’s promising but perilous beginning. Everywhere one turned, there was the claim that this might finally be the reckoning that the nation had been promising to undertake for decades.

Building on Tears We Cannot Stop, a passionate call to America to finally reckon with race and start the journey to Redemption, Michael Eric Dyson’s new book, LONG TIME COMING: Reckoning with Race in America, grapples with the cultural and social forces that have shaped our nation in the brutal crucible of race. In five chapters—each addressed to a contemporary martyr from Breonna Taylor to Rev. Clementa Pinckney—Dyson traces the genealogy of antiblackness from the slave ship to the street corner where Floyd lost his life—and where America gained its will to confront the ugly truth of systemic racism.

Along the way, Dyson examines the cultural imperatives of black death, the plague of police brutality, the white theft of black bodies and opportunities, the resort to the often fascist justice of social media instead of the faulty, but far superior justice of the legal system, and the craving for white comfort that has too often cost black people their lives. Ending with a poignant plea for hope, Dyson’s new book points the way to social redemption.

LONG TIME COMING is a necessary guide to help America finally reckon with race.

Dyson says, “I am honored once again to team up with my incredible editor Elisabeth Dyssegaard to work on one of my most timely and important books, addressing a racial reckoning we haven’t
seen in this nation in more than 50 years. At that time, I was a lad who didn’t know much about
the nation’s original sin, but now, over the last 30 years, I’ve gained the insight and perspective
to grapple with these issues and to filter them through a mature understanding. This book is my
love letter to the martyrs of the struggle, to my people who have been courageous long-distance
runners in the fight for justice, and to a country that hasn’t always loved us as it should. As the
immortal Sam Cooke sang, ‘It’s been a long time coming, but I know change’s gonna come.’ I
believe it will come too, but only if we make it come, and this book is my effort to do my part to
bring that day closer.”

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON is one of America’s premier public intellectuals and the author of the
New York Times bestsellers JAY-Z, Tears We Cannot Stop, and What Truth Sounds Like as well
as many other books. He is a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times, and is a
contributing editor of ESPN’s The Undefeated. Dyson won 2 NAACP Image Awards and is the
recipient of the 2020 Langston Hughes Festival Medallion and Ebony magazine named him one
of the 100 Most Influential African Americans and one of the 150 most powerful black people in
the nation.

###

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around
the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in
all categories and formats.

U.S. publishers include Celadon Books, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt &
Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, St. Martin’s Publishing
Group, and Tor Books. In the UK, Australia, India, and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under
the Pan Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes
among its imprints S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Rowohlt, and Droemer Knaur.

Macmillan Publishers is a division of the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, a large family-owned
media company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.  us.macmillan.com

For More Information Contact:

Gabrielle Gantz, Associate Director of Publicity, St. Martin’s Press
Tel: 646-307-5698
Gabrielle.Gantz@stmartins.com