



**FROM ST. MARTIN'S PRESS**

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

**LONG TIME COMING  
Reckoning with Race in America**

New York, NY [August 25, 2020] – Michael Eric Dyson, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*, will publish **LONG TIME COMING: Reckoning with Race in America**, with St. Martin's Press on December 1, 2020. SMPG Executive Editor Elisabeth Dyssegaard acquired World rights from Tanya McKinnon at McKinnon Literary.

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 Undeclared*. 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.

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