

Jason Allen-Paisant



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EDITIONS

Short Bio

Jason Allen-Paisant is a Jamaican writer, poet, and scholar who works as Professor of Critical Theory and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. He's the author of two critically acclaimed poetry collections: *Thinking with Trees*, winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for poetry; and *Self-Portrait as Othello*, which took both the Forward Prize and the T. S. Eliot Prize for 2023. His philosophical treatise, *Engagements with Aimé Césaire: Thinking with Spirits*, is published with Oxford University Press, and his creative non-fiction book, *The Possibility of Tenderness*, will be out in the UK with Hutchinson Heinemann and in the US with Milkweed Editions, both in 2025.

Target Audience

The Possibility of Tenderness is a book for readers of memoirs such as *How To Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair and Robert Macfarlane's nature writing.

Suggested Interview Topics and Questions

Themes and Inspiration

- 'Tenderness' is such a compelling and multifaceted concept. What drew you to centre this book around its possibility? Were there any personal experiences that planted the seed for this work?
- How does the book engage with larger societal or ecological issues while staying deeply intimate and lyrical? Do you see tenderness as a form of resistance or survival in today's world?

Resonance with Readers

- Do you imagine *The Possibility of Tenderness* as part of a conversation with its readers, and if so, what kind of dialogue would you hope it inspires?

Creative Process

- How did the process of writing this book challenge you as a writer? Were there any discoveries about your craft or voice that emerged during its creation?
- Is there a one-word description for this book. Many early readers have said that it is more than a memoir.

Influences

- Can you discuss any specific works, writers, or thinkers that were in dialogue with your own as you wrote *The Possibility of Tenderness*? How did they shape your vision for the book?
- Did any particular landscapes or ecosystems shape the book's meditations on tenderness? How did place influence the emotional and thematic arcs of the work?

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