

# Caboodle Books

## ADVANCE INFORMATION

**Title:** Shades of Black  
**Author:** Kimba Bush  
**Illustrator:** Susie Bush & Kimba Bush  
**ISBN:** 9781068548758  
**Price:** £8.99  
**Format:** 225x165mm, PB  
**Extent:** 390 pp  
**Category:** Poetry  
**BIC Code:** YDP  
**Age:** 14+ years  
**Pub Date:** July 2026

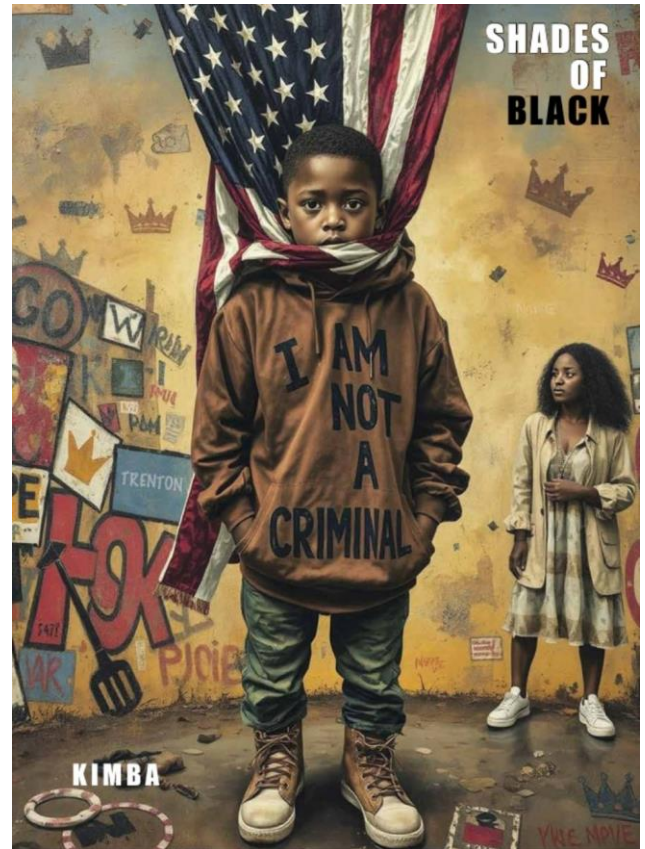
## AUTHOR

**Kimba** is a London based poet and hip-hop artist who is originally from New Jersey. He has been writing and performing poetry for over 20 years, working with Sony Viacom, CBS & more and delivers poetry workshops in schools across the globe as well as working as an Oracy Development Artist.

Eventually, it died down.  
We dressed fast,  
filed out—  
only to walk straight  
into another eruption.

A crowd swelling  
from that neighbourhood  
some called Hick Town—  
a slur wrapped in  
stereotypes about poor,  
white, backcountry families.

Two white boys  
stood squared up  
in the middle of the road,  
circles forming around them.  
One was from Hick Town.  
The other—  
a state champion wrestler,  
a teammate,  
built like he could snap  
a body in half  
without meaning to.



## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Coming of age verse novel set in the USA following a young black man surviving and succeeding against all the odds, while seeing loved ones fall victim to cycles of crime and violence.
- Explores key talking points including peer pressure, racism, bullying, consent, violence and housing insecurity.
- Vivid poetic descriptions bring Kem's story to life while he uses poetry and sport as positive outlets to help him cope with life's challenges.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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