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Whether along race, class, or generational lines, hip-hop music has been a source of controversy since the beats got too big and the voices too loud for the block parties that spawned them. Dubbed “the Hip-hop Intellectual” by critics and fans for his pioneering explorations of rap music in the academy and beyond, Michael Eric Dyson is uniquely situated to probe the most compelling and controversial dimensions of hip-hop culture. *Know What I Mean?* addresses salient issues within hip hop: the creative

expression of degraded youth that has garnered them global exposure; the vexed gender relations that have made rap music a lightning rod for pundits; the commercial explosion that has made an art form a victim of its success; the political elements that have been submerged in the most popular form of hip hop; and the intellectual engagement with some of hip hop’s most influential figures. For those who wondered what all the fuss is about in hip hop, Dyson’s bracing and brilliant book breaks it all down.

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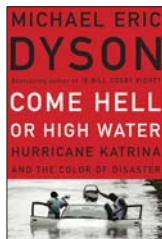
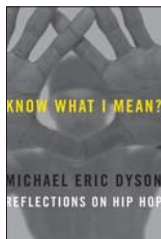
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**MICHAEL ERIC DYSON**, a University of Pennsylvania professor, has been named by *Ebony* as one of the hundred most influential black Americans and is the author of twelve books, including the bestselling *Is Bill Cosby Right?*, *Holler if You Hear Me*, *Mercy, Mercy Me*, *Why I Love Black Women*, *Open Mike*, and the forthcoming *Debating Race*, available from Basic Civitas Books in February 2007. Mr. Dyson lives in Philadelphia.

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