



"There is a renaissance on the way..." —Tananarive Due

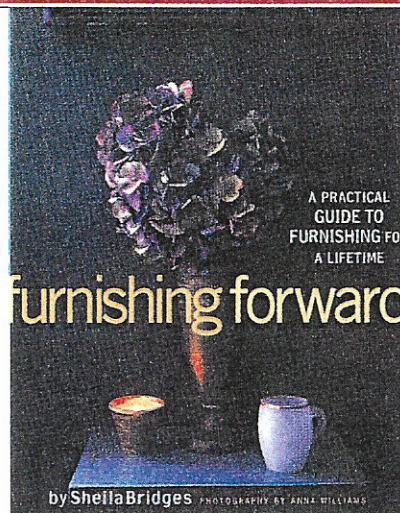
## Supernatural Thing

Supernatural thrillers written by black women aren't easy to come by. But Tananarive Due says that is changing. "There's a renaissance of black women writers on the way," the

36-year-old author proclaims, "and I look forward to the time when our work will have its own section at local bookstores."

Due earned critical praise for her first two offerings, 1994's *The Between* and 1997's *My Soul to Keep*. Now the Tallahassee, Fla. native continues her literary quest with her latest novel, *The Living Blood* (Washington Square Press, \$14). The story centers on Jessica Jacobs Wolde, who has lost both her husband and first child, and her struggles to protect her second daughter, Fana, from those after her psychokinetic powers. "[When I write] I'm trying to prick my own fears and play them out in a greatly expanded fashion. That way, nothing I encounter in my own life will ever come close, as hard as life may be."

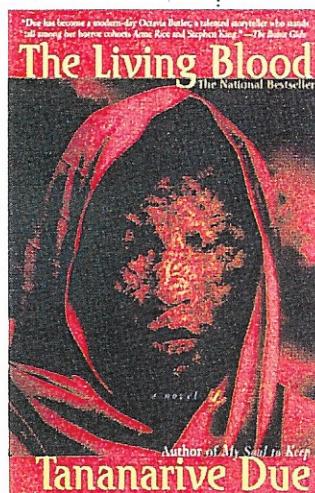
A former journalist and columnist for the *Miami Herald*, Due left the newspaper biz and relocated with her husband to Longview, Wash., far from the strains of urban life, where she aims to produce a steady stream of product. Up next will be a memoir titled *Freedom in the Family* (co-authored by her mother), which will examine her childhood in a household of '60s activists. "You have to engineer your career," Due says, "so that you can have the freedom to let your stories, those you want to tell, flow over you."



TIRED OF your ho-hum furniture? Sheila Bridges' *Furnishing Forward: A Practical Guide to Furnishing for a Lifetime* (Bulfinch), goes beyond instructing readers on the do's and don'ts of design. Using a personality-specific approach, Bridges helps readers develop their

own style. ▼ *The African-American Archive: The History of the Black Experience Through Documents* (Black Dog & Leventhal), edited by Kai Wright, traces the course of black American history through slave narratives, letters, poems, songs and essays by black authors. ▼ *The Bondwoman's Narrative* (Warner Books), edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr., is the recently discovered manuscript of Hannah Crafts. It's the first known novel written by a black woman who was a slave. ▼ Brian Keith Jackson examines self-identity and self-discovery in his new novel, *The Queen of Harlem* (Doubleday).

Protagonist Mason Randolph defers his enrollment to Stanford Law School, changes his name and moves to Harlem in an attempt to reshape his cultural identity.



## INSPIRATION DEBRA LANGFORD

"Photography is my passion."

As senior vice president of production and development for Urban Entertainment, Debra Langford oversees the content of the Internet-based company's urban-themed productions, which include the films *Undercover Brother* and *Driving While Black*. She also enjoys creating images of her own. "I've always loved photography," she says. "There is nothing like a photograph, a memento to capture that perfect emotion and moment in time. My photographs are a way I express my love for the special people in my life."

—Debra Jackson