

*Uncover the Power of Resistance and Pursuit of Justice
in this Captivating Debut Novel*

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

PRAISE FOR **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO**:

“Through Gibran and Kevin’s individual exploits of equality and accountability, **fully fleshed-out characters, and skillfully cultivated narrative tension**, Allen creates a layered debut that is **timely and resonant.**”

– *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“The **crisp, succinct prose and fully realized characters** make this a shining example of how principled research in lock step with **exceptional writing creates an unforgettable reading experience.** An electric debut: **a must-read for all.**” –

Kirkus, starred review

“Autumn Allen has created a book that counts its readers as its most important characters while examining how we fight for dignity in different, but very similar generations. **Incredible art-making!**” – Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy: An American Memoir*, winner of the Andrew Carnegie medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

“*All You Have To Do* **beautifully immerses the reader in the stories of two young Black student activists** and their shared personal struggles that transcend decades. It is a **stunning debut novel.**”

– Ibram X. Kendi, author of *Stamped from the Beginning*, winner of the National Book Award

“*All You Have To Do* is a **profound and empathetic** statement on the costs of striving for excellence against all odds.

Allen is a writer to watch!”

– Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street*, a National Book Award Finalist

by Autumn Allen

Autumn Allen explores the cost of success for Black men in America and the culture of elite educational institutions in her highly anticipated debut novel, **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO** (Kokila; on sale August 29, 2023). Inspired by her family’s experiences and historical research, Allen’s story follows two young men’s struggles, triumphs, and profound growth as they face systemic prejudices and ingrained biases during incidents that are 30 years apart.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO delves into the lives of young Kevin and Gibran, showing readers the resilience and courage required to navigate their lives while fighting for what they believe in. In the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination in April 1968, Kevin participates in a protest that shuts down his Ivy



League college. In September 1995, Gibran challenges the “See No Color” hypocrisy of his prestigious New England prep school as controversy over the Million Man March raises tensions on campus. To explore their values and pursue their dreams, the two students risk the opportunities their families fought to provide. Through the eyes of Kevin and Gibran, this novel offers a unique perspective on historical events, highlighting the significance of community solidarity while exploring differing viewpoints on protesting and organizing for social justice.

This gripping family saga sheds light on two pivotal moments in American history that have not been explored in literature for young people: the Columbia University protests of 1968, and the Million Man March in 1995. Allen spent time at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture examining cultural records to help recreate the setting and atmosphere for the 1960s. This rigorous research grounds the complex relationships and emotions of the characters as they live through historical events, creating an immersive reading experience that will leave readers reflecting on determination and the intricacies of the ongoing fight for equality.

As an educator working with young people and teaching children’s literature at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Allen is passionate about the role books play in shaping culture, one mind at a time. **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO** reminds readers of the enduring power of hope, resilience, and the unwavering dedication to forge one’s path in the face of adversity.

Autumn Allen teaches literature and writing workshops for young people and edits picture books as a senior editor at Barefoot Books. She teaches children’s literature at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and holds graduate degrees in education, children’s literature and writing for children from Harvard and Simmons Universities. Her forthcoming picture books, *Step On Board: Sculpting a Memorial to Harriet Tubman*, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, and *Answered Prayers*, will be published by Knopf. *All You Have to Do* is her debut novel. Autumn grew up in Boston and lives in Massachusetts with her family. Visit her website at autumnallenbooks.com.



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO by Autumn Allen
Kokila Books ■ on sale August 29, 2023 ■ 9780593619049 ■ \$19.99 ■ Ages 12 and up

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