



# Author Highlight



Chante Thomas

## **“When Dreams Come True”**

*By Felecia Goldsmith*

Walt Disney once said, “All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.” Chante Thomas’s dreams have definitely come true. This Cleveland native has taught in the Shaker Heights school system for 28 years and is a published author. Her dream of writing and publishing books for all ages began after taking a survey course on children’s literature while pursuing her Master’s degree in Elementary Education at John Carroll University. That jump started her love affair with writing and her dreams of becoming a published author.

In 2017, Chante decided it was time to bring her stories to life and published her first book, *Where I’m From*, which tells the geographic story of five diverse children with roots in the United States, Africa, and Asia. Her second book, *Go to School Tommy*, is a story that teaches us the power of a smile. Her third book, *Sean and the Book Cures*, is a story that is written from a child’s perspective and takes us through the unforgettable year that Covid-19 disrupted our lives.

Chante published her fourth book, *Sean and the Book Cures: The Great Sacrifice ... Can You Spare a Kidney?* in the fall of 2022. A story about love and organ donation, this book shows the reader that information is powerful. As the main characters research what happens to the body when the kidneys begin to fail, they are comforted to learn that there are options that can save lives.

Chante received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Howard University. She also received a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Administration from Ursuline College after receiving a Master's degree in Education from John Carroll University.

An active member of the Shaker Heights Teachers' Association and Jack and Jill of America, Chante became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 2018 and is a member of the Cleveland Chapter of Chums, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for women to meet in friendship and fun, to encourage the spirit of helpfulness and to use their many talents in service to the community.

She is the mother of two wonderful sons, Sean, 12, and Chase, 10, and is a caregiver to her 88-year-old mother. Chante loves attending writing festivals, reading and talking to children about books.

Chante formed her own publishing company, BucketList Publishers, in 2018, as a vehicle to remind her that it is never too late to fulfill your dreams. Creating this company allowed her to self-publish her stories and to encourage others to tell their stories.

Chante hopes to inspire youth to not only read, but to encourage them to create, build and write their own stories by drawing upon their own personal experiences.