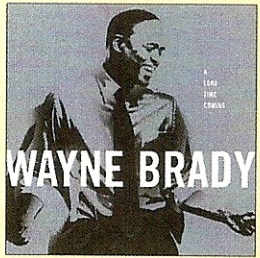


# Musical JOURNEYS

[CD picks for your travels]



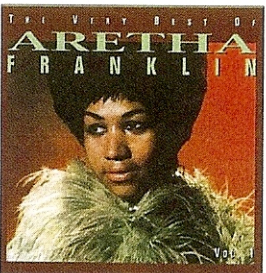
**A Long Time Coming**  
Wayne Brady  
Concord/Peak Records  
2008

I know what you're thinking: *Wayne Brady, is that the guy from "Who's Line Is It Anyway?"* Most definitely!

Wayne Brady, actor, dancer, comedian and singer, is truly multi-faceted. "A Long Time Coming" is proof positive that Wayne can and does sing quite well. This 12-track R&B collection features songs from music legends Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder, the Beatles (yes, the Beatles) and a few others. This CD gives you seasoned soul with a youthful twist. The first single, "Ordinary," speaks about everyday life and love. "Make Heaven Wait," a song many can relate to, speaks about the loss of a loved one. When you hear Wayne's version of "A Change is Gonna Come" by master crooner Sam Cooke, you will be convinced of his many talents. Wayne says singing is his first love. "A Long Time Coming" reinforces Wayne's comfort in his soulful niche; you hear it in his voice on the Beatles' "Can't Buy Me Love." Listen to "Beautiful Ugly" and you're sure to feel a Teddy Pendergrass vibe. Overall, this CD is a must for your collection.

—Sandra Rogers

**The Very Best of Aretha Franklin**  
Atlantic Records 1994



Yes, this compilation was first released 14 years ago, but—and no disrespect intended to Miss Respect—Aretha hasn't really done anything since 1994 that would be deserving of a spot in her "best of" compilation anyway. When you're talking about probably the most powerful, influential voice of our generation, it's necessary every once in a while to go back and revisit her genius. This Atlantic compilation is a great place to start. Spending time with this CD is also a tribute in a sense to the great Atlantic producer Jerry Wexler, who died in August. A groundbreaking giant in the music industry who was even credited with creating the term "rhythm and blues," Wexler was instrumental in persuading Aretha to forgo the more commercial sound she was using early in her career at Columbia and return to her bluesy, gospel roots with Atlantic Records. The result is the stuff of music legend, so brilliantly displayed here on songs like "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" and "I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)."

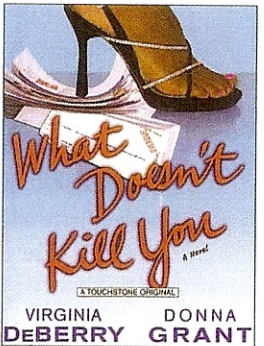
—Nick Chiles

# Flights of FANCY

[Books for your travels]

## FICTION

We are all undoubtedly familiar with the quote by Friedrich Nietzsche, "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." The upcoming release "What Doesn't Kill You" (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster) by best-selling collaborators Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, who brought us the award-winning novel "Trying to Sleep in the Bed You Made," takes us on the journey of fly forty-something Thomasina "Tee" Hodges. As we face current economic hardships with companies downsizing and closing daily, Tee's journey will be easy to relate to for most of us. The journey begins as Tee, a single mother, the morning after her daughter Amber's elaborate wedding wakes up in a hotel room with a handsome member of the wedding party. Tee's unable to remember anything about the last 12 hours other than drinking too much champagne. To add insult to injury, strong-willed Tee fails to tell anyone that after being the first employee for an organic lotion company, to which she has given 25 years of dedicated service, she is laid off, losing her six-figure salary. Struggling with unemployment, no money to pay the mortgage and on the brink of financial ruin, Tee brings us on her inspiring quest for survival as she encounters grief, anger, depression and the realization of having to reinvent herself when all seems hopeless. You are sure to find strength in this novel to face your own struggles and losses.



VIRGINIA DONNA  
DEBERRY GRANT

—Sandra Rogers

## NON-FICTION

Fashion designer and stylist Jo Jo Harder of Boca Raton, Florida, brings you "Diva Dogs – A Style Guide to Living the Fabulous Life" (Bowtie Press). Pet parents will agree that your beloved pooch is truly a family member. Dog day afternoons are a thing of the past once you have read "Diva Dog." It will enlighten you on such topics as: The Rules of Etiquette, Entertaining Canine Style, Doggy Spas and Pampering and, most important, Pooch Fashion. No longer are you relegated to dressing Max or Daisy in boring sweaters and blah scarves. Top fashion designers now offer clothing lines for dogs, everything from formal wear to casual wear (jeans, t-shirts, hoodies and sneakers). In "Diva Dogs," Jo Jo gives you step-by-step instruction on how to host events from birthday parties to debutante balls for that special canine. One might think it a bit over the top, but for those who love their doggies, it's right in line. "Diva Dogs" provides great illustrations and the pooches featured throughout the book are adorable. Jo Jo also provides an informative Resource Index where you'll find everything from where to purchase accessories to premier pet-friendly hotels. —S.R.

