

COLLECTOR'S EDITION OUR BIGGEST ISSUE EVER!

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

BE INSPIRED  
GET STRONG  
BE BLESSED  
The Best Time  
Ever to Be a  
Black Woman!

ON THE COVER  
Mo'Nique  
Fantasia  
Alicia Keys  
Angela Bassett  
Iman  
and Our Own  
Susan L. Taylor

INSIDE  
Queen Latifah  
Halle Berry  
Beyoncé  
Yolanda Adams  
Whoopi Goldberg  
Raven-Symoné  
and Others



The Beautiful Ones  
35 of the Most Remarkable  
Women in the World

WORD

Promise in the Earth

There is a promise between the soft, moist mounds of swallow coloured crevices, that oozes gently over hills, rising over streams, that lick the quiet valleys and lubricate the grounds.

There is a promise emanating from breasted opal mountains racing for the suns of melted iridescence reflecting prised gold in faceted remembrance.

There breathes a promise from the Mother's gentle breath that stirs, excites the foliage into massive reproduction repurchasing the earth for commitment to tomorrow's fertile crescent beds... providing for the offspring of father's tender wish there is a promise...

—TANYA TYLER

Reprinted from *Vicissitudes*.

Miracles

I stand in bubble of miracles  
Where trees grow, as people.

Love resonates through smiles  
That stamp time  
Never to be relived...  
Marks place in heart  
Never to be revisited.

Animals dwell in valley lows,  
And mountain highs as life itself.

Brush to canvas God paints  
scenarios that eyes fathom in  
fractions, as my view of the  
universe. I know God is real.

—CEDRIC MIXON

Reprinted from *Lost Letters*, published by  
Kobalt Books LLC.

Red

there are moments death is  
moves into your house  
watches the number of times  
you come and go

waiting for a moment to call  
before reminding you that  
sometimes candlelight  
will stop flickering  
if you stare at it long enough  
will check its own shadow  
just to make sure

it's still on

fire.

—JESSICA CAN

Reprinted from *The Alphabet Verses*  
*The Ghetto*, published by Moore B.