

JUNETEENTH



AUTHOR TALK

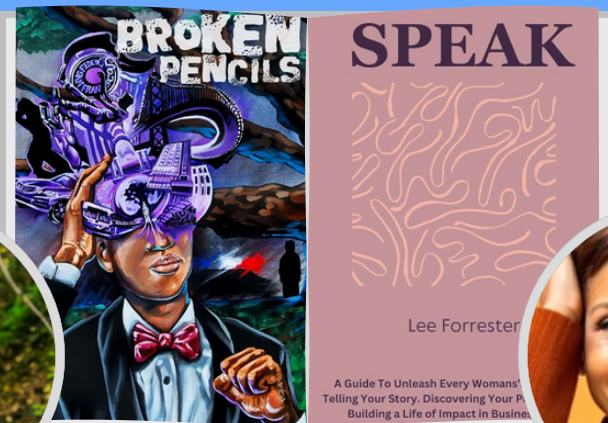


J.R. RICE

is a Black man, writer, teacher, event host & curator, and spoken



word artist, born and raised in Oakland, California. He has a B.A in Creative Writing and an English Education teaching credential from California State University of Long Beach. His novel, **Broken Pencils** earned the 2024 Literary Titan Gold Book Award, 2024 Pencraft Summer Best Book Award winner for Young Adult Coming of Age Fiction, and the 2024 Hawthorne Prize Finalist for Best Fiction. His poetry collection, *I Was, Am, Will Be*, is a continuation in the *Broken Pencils* series. To learn more about J.R. Rice, please visit his website at www.jrrice.com.



LEE FORRESTER

is a best-selling author, registered nurse, and health coach who helps



women transform their stories into powerful brands, books, and businesses. After overcoming social anxiety and self-silencing, Lee wrote **SPEAK: A Guide to Unleashing Every Woman's Voice to empower women to stop shrinking and start sharing**. Now, she assists aspiring authors in becoming best sellers, building aligned platforms, and living by design—not default. SPEAK is a bold invitation to reclaim your power, express your truth, and design a life that reflects who you really are.



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THURSDAY JUNE 26, 2025 6:30 PM

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