

Excerpt from

Beyond the Down Low: Examining the Politics of Black Male Desire

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Even prior to reading [J.L. King's book] *On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men*, I began ruminating on the politics of black male desire. Why was the idea of African American men sharing pleasure with other men garnering such attention? It couldn't be the novelty of the concept. African Americans have a long history of being proudly same-gender-loving, as well as other-gender-loving. It's in our blues, it's in our jazz, it's in our rock-and-roll. It's in our literature and poetry too. But would it be in our politics? Would it be in our understanding of our sexual and racial civil rights? Would it be in this book?...

