

Author DeShawn Snow is not opposed to more reality TV



DeShawn Snow is releasing a children's book series and planning a possible return to reality TV.

Former "Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast member DeShawn Snow is thrilled to see one of her dreams come to life this month when her *Lil' Shawnee* book series for girls ages 7–12 goes on sale.

Since her departure from the hit Bravo show, DeShawn has spent a lot of time trying to empower tween girls. Her book series is an extension of those efforts. "These are issues that are relevant to young girls today," DeShawn said of the first three books that deal with rumors, keeping up with the Joneses and self-esteem. The main character, Lil' Shawnee, is a fifth grader facing typical problems with the help of a fairy godmother-type named Nevaeh.

"Shawnee is my nickname, so the books are loosely based on my life," DeShawn explained. "The first book, *The Rumor*, is about bullying, and I was bullied when I was in private school, in third and fourth grade."

The series focuses strongly on friendships and teaches concepts that most girls figure out later in life. "Don't worry about trying to be friends with everybody. You just have to have a good core group of friends that will be with you through life."

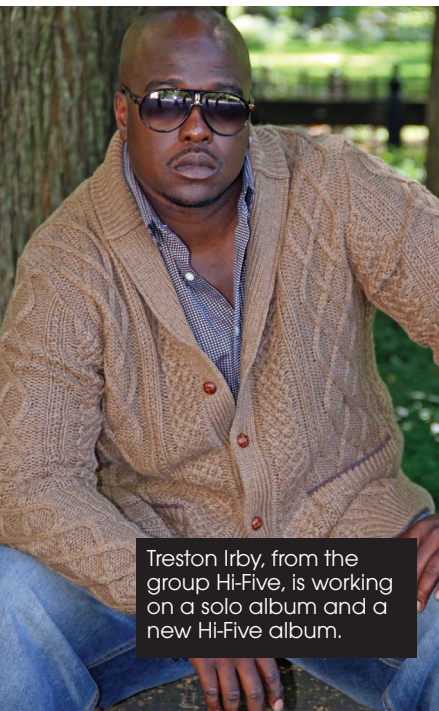
DeShawn is still close to some of her childhood friends. She also runs into her "RHOA" castmates sometimes. "I've seen the girls out and connected with them. I told them that I'm really proud of their success," she said. Although she doesn't watch much TV, DeShawn seems to be planning a possible return to reality TV. "I'm not done with it. I have some things that we're trying to do."

—Sabrina M. Parker



Photo by Dimityr Loiseau

Inset photo courtesy of Persona PR



Treston Irby, from the group Hi-Five, is working on a solo album and a new Hi-Five album.

Hi-Five's Treston Irby wants to be heard

Hi-Five churned out '90s hits such as "She's Playing Hard to Get" and "I Like the Way (Kissing Game)." Today, group member Treston Irby has returned on his own. Treston's forthcoming album, *10473*, is named for the Bronx zip code where he was raised, and, according to the singer, "My songs may be a little more upbeat, a little harder than Hi-Five. The vibe's grown and sexy with a little hat-to-the-back swag."

Treston did some soul searching and decided to pursue a solo career after surviving a near-fatal shooting in 2009. He's still unclear on what happened that night outside the Connecticut club where he was making an appearance. "I was backstage waiting to go inside and heard some shots. I tried to run inside and a couple minutes later, I feel wet, right in my stomach area," Treston explained.

He said he was shot five times. Two years prior, Hi-Five's lead singer, Tommy Thompson, died after intentionally inhaling Freon from an air conditioner.

While promoting his new single "Everything," fans constantly asked about Hi-Five. Treston and fellow group member Marcus Sanders agreed it was time to reunite. After adding two new members, Hi-Five is now recording new material, too. Neither album has a release date, but both are dropping this year on Treston's label, Bronx Most Wanted Entertainment.

Treston's also writing a book about his Hi-Five years titled *In My Own Words*. "It's about things we done on tour, things management did to us, full circle to now." The book, currently untitled, will be released in July. Treston said, "It's a juicy page-turner."

—Stephanie Dayton

Photo by Wade Irby/Photography