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Imbolo Mbue to Sit in conversation with Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman at the Main Library

Cambridge, MA, July 18, 2022 -- Imbolo Mbue, the award-winning author of *How Beautiful We Were*, will speak at the Main Library on August 4, from 6-7:30 p.m. Mbue will be in conversation with Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, associate professor of American Studies and English at Brown University.

Imbolo Mbue's stunning 2016 debut novel, *Behold the Dreamers*, marked her as a significant new literary voice. Praised by *The New York Times* as "savage and compassionate in all the right places," the book won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, was the Oprah Book Club selection for 2017, and became a national bestseller. Mbue's second novel, *How Beautiful We Were*, is a sweeping tale about the collision of a small African village and an American oil company.

Mbue will be in conversation with Dr. Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, associate professor of American Studies and English at Brown University. A two-time winner of the Darwin Turner Award for Best Essay of the Year in *African American Review*, Dr. Abdur-Rahman's scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as *African American Review*, *American Literary History*, *GLQ*, *The Faulkner Journal*, *The Black Scholar*, and *The James Baldwin Review*.

This event is supported by the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. [Registration is required to participate in this program.](#)

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At the Cambridge Public Library, we welcome all, inspire minds and empower community. We support a Cambridge where everyone has equitable opportunities to learn, people live their best lives, and democracy thrives. [Visit our website](#) to learn more.