

YOUR LETTERS



Jada Pinkett Smith's grace and passion shined in our September 2012 issue.

Of Style and Substance

Jada Pinkett Smith's commitment to her marriage and family, along with her outspokenness against sex trafficking, is a strong example for women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds ["Jada's Journey," September]. **Meredeth English, Chicago**

Jada Pinkett Smith looks absolutely gorgeous on the cover, and that lipstick is perfect. What brand

and color is she wearing? **Karen Perkins, Columbus, OH**
EDITORS' NOTE: MAC Lipstick in Taupe and Clear Lipglass add to Jada's smile.

Color Lines

"White Mama, Black Baby" [September] made me sad. These children are being loved by another human being. Isn't it more important to give a child a chance to be loved by a parent no matter what race that parent is? **Susan Cadle, Whiting, IN**

The Plus Side

ESSENCE has found its chutzpah. I was floored by the "full-size" (pul-ease!) model without a weave who was showcased in "Modern Girl in a Retro World" [September]. One step toward reality, one giant leap for real women everywhere. **Jeanna Searcy, Marietta, GA**

Money-wise

As suggested in "40 Ways to Save More, Spend Less" [September], I signed up for an app to track my spending. Immediately I was alerted to

a fee on an account that I'd been unknowingly and unnecessarily paying for four years. I have resolved to keep monitoring my finances and to keep reading your magazine.

Francisca Florent, Mount Pleasant, TX

Dynamic Duo

As a Black man who's been happily married for 23 years, I was encouraged after reading the refreshing and enlightening "Holding Fast" [September]. With their humble beginnings, Attorney General Eric Holder and his wife, Dr. Sharon Malone, affirm that preparation and educational opportunities breed success.

William L. Twitty, Columbus, OH

Thank you for featuring Dr. Malone in addition to Eric Holder in your interview. The gold standard for doctors, she imparts the same values of life and freedom to her patients that she does to her own family. She is likely the wind beneath Holder's wings.

Carla Jordan, Washington, DC



Losing weight can be spiritual ["My Soul to Keep, My Weight to Lose," September], but only if you make it.

Helen Legena

I took notes on "From the Bottom to the Top!" [September]. My sons are going to have a better school year.

ThatDiva Jay



The article "7 Days 7 Styles" [September] has great ideas for naturalistas. **@instylhaircare**

Corrections

The dressing for our One-Step 'Cesar' Salad recipe ["Vegan Cajun," September] is made with **vegan Worcestershire sauce**. The **B Brian Atwood shoe "Campisa" ["Shoes That Fit," September] was incorrectly listed. We regret the errors.**

CONTRIBUTORS



CONNIE AITCHISON

profiled Black women who rocked in London for "Our Champions" (page 66). "These women are resilient and determined.

They pushed emotionally and physically to achieve their dreams," she says. Aitchison has written for *Sports Illustrated*, *Cosmopolitan*, *InStyle* and *Black Enterprise*.



AMY ELISA KEITH

shares the story of Apryl Michelle Brown, a Los Angeles mom of two who lost her arms and legs after receiving butt injections, in "The Price of Beauty" (page

126). "All of us have had insecurities and wanted to fix things about ourselves. However, those decisions don't define us," says Keith, who is a former *People* reporter.



ANTHONY BARBOZA

captured Studio Museum of Harlem's Thelma Golden and Lauren Haynes for "Picture Perfect" (page 62). The museum's new exhibit celebrates the centennial of

photo legend Gordon Parks, ESSENCE's founding editorial director. "He pushed the boundaries," Barboza says. "I am a better person and photographer for knowing him."

