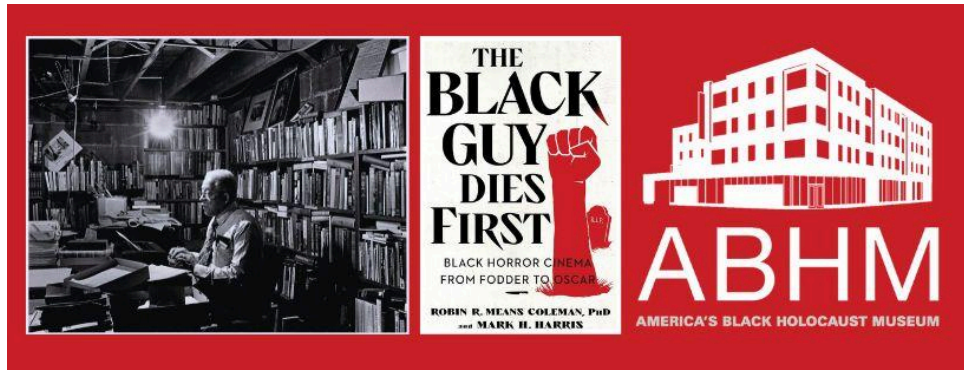




ABHM Book Club Discussion Guide

October 24th, 2026 at 1:30 PM

***The Black Guy Dies First* by Robin R. Means Coleman, PhD, & Mark H. Harris**

How to Use this Guide:

ABHM staff created this guide to assist in reading and discussion of *The Black Guys Dies First* (2023). Please feel free to print a copy and keep it with your book as you lend to friends and others who are interested. Do not expect to get through all of the questions during the upcoming meeting nor in one sitting. Perhaps consider them as conversation starters or an invitation to reflect more deeply about your own or shared experiences.

Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the implications of the trend 'The Black Guy Dies First' in horror films? Where does the Black Guy Dies First trope come from, according to the authors? Were you familiar with this trope before reading? See pages 9 and 29.
2. Are you a fan of horror films or not? Have you seen any of the movies discussed by the authors previously? If so, did the information they present change your perception of the film(s)? See page 37.
3. The authors trace the archetypes of Black characters in horror movies through the decades. How do these characterizations evolve in different eras and why? Why does representation matter, both on camera and behind the camera? See pages 19 and 225.
4. What is the connection between Black horror and Black history? What different stereotypes from the Jim Crow era were perpetuated in horror movies? See pages 2, 19, 44, 64, and 92.

5. How have modern films (such as *Get Out*, *Candyman*, *The Purge*) rewritten or completely shattered these traditional expectations? See pages 90, 97, and 252.
6. What has been the influence of social movements on horror movies? What about protests, racial justice groups, legal groups, etc.? See pages 29, 40, and 124.
7. What connections do the authors point out between religion and Black horror? How are Black people and their religions presented and why? See pages 79, 136, and 142.
8. The authors state, "Black America has a complicated history with comedy." What is this history and how did it influence horror movies? See pages 185 and 204.
9. In the epilogue, the authors ask, "Can Black horror compete with a real life that is so unimaginably horrific?" What do you think the future of Black horror is? Did this book make you think differently about the genre and its future? See page 304.