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Chippewa Valley Book Festival Hosts Virtual Event with *New York Times* Bestselling Author Brit Bennett

For the first time in 21 years the Chippewa Valley Book Festival will be bringing authors to our community on a virtual stage. Registration is now open for a virtual event on Friday, February 12, with award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author, Brit Bennett as she discusses her blockbuster novel, *The Vanishing Half*.

Moderated by Allyson Loomis, Associate Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, the program will include a casual conversation with Bennett as well as a question-and-answer segment allowing for audience participation. This FREE event requires registration. Learn more at www.cvbookfest.org/festival-events/bennett.

Winner of the 2020 Goodreads Historical Fiction Award, #1 *New York Times* Best Seller, and one of Barack Obama’s favorite reads of 2020, *The Vanishing Half* is an emotional family story about African American identical twin sisters in the 1950s and ‘60s. One passes for white and moves to California while the other returns to her tiny southern community to raise her dark-skinned daughter. *The Vanishing Half* touches on themes of race, class, family, gender, community, love, and the cost of secrets. HBO also recently purchased the rights to develop *The Vanishing Half* into a limited series with Bennett as an executive producer.

The February 12 event featuring Brit Bennett, is one of two virtual events hosted by the Chippewa Valley Book Festival this winter. Brandon Taylor, author of *Real Life*, will be taking the virtual stage on Friday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. CST. More details about that event can be found at www.cvbookfest.org/festival-events/taylor.

Author photos, book jacket graphics, social media graphics, as well as Chippewa Valley Book Festival logos can be found at: www.cvbookfest.com/media

The Chippewa Valley Book Festival partners with the Pablo Center at the Confluence, and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire Foundation to provide literary programming for all Chippewa Valley residents.

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