

I N T H E L I F E

To Michael

With Love

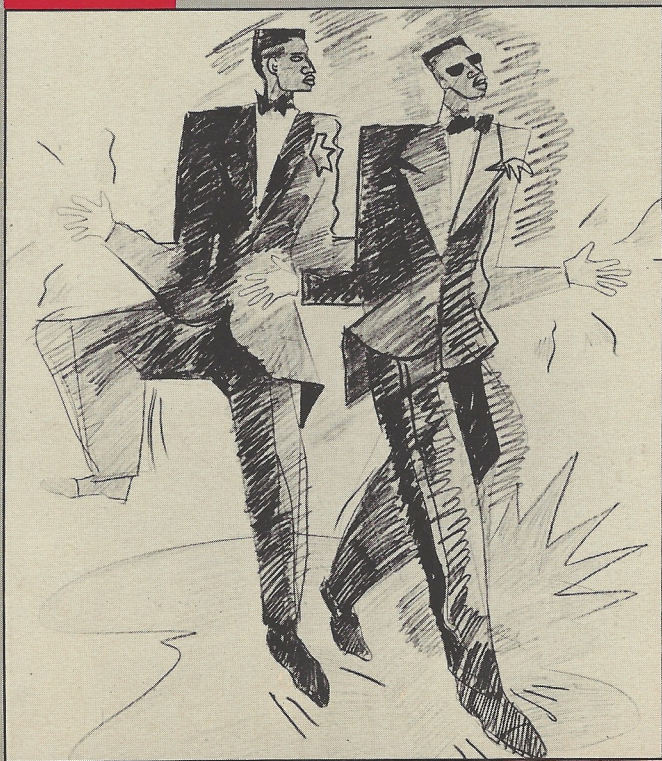
Miss you.

~~Before~~ your Birthday!  
(four months before!)

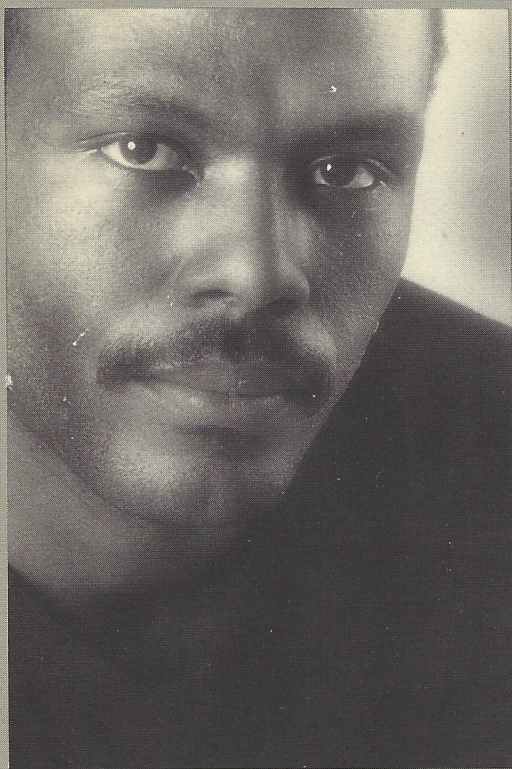
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A BLACK GAY ANTHOLOGY

# IN THE LIFE



EDITED BY JOSEPH BEAM



**In the Life**, an expression which means being gay, is also the title of this collection of writings in which 29 Black authors explore what it means to be doubly different — both Black *and* gay — in modern America. These

stories, verses, works of art, and theater pieces voice the concerns and aspirations of an often silent minority. They can be poignant, erotic, resolute, or angry, but always reflect the affirming power of coming together to build a strong Black gay community.

Editor Joseph Beam (above) began collecting this material after years of frustration with gay literature that had no message for — and little mention of — Black gay men. “The bottom line,” he wrote, “is this: We are Black men who are proudly gay. What we offer is our lives, our love, our visions . . . We are coming home with our heads held up high.”

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