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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR TO HOST AWARD WINNING AUTHOR TIPHANIE YANIQUE
BOOK READING AND SIGNING EVENT

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources invites the public to attend two book reading and signing events by award winning Virgin Islands author Tiphanie Yanique on Friday, February 11th from 5:30-8pm at Fort Christian Museum in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; and on Saturday, February 12th from 2:30-5pm at Fort Frederik in Frederiksted, St. Croix.

Ms. Yanique is promoting her new novel entitled: "Monster in the Middle," a multigenerational love story that travels from the continental US to the Virgin Islands, to Ghana exploring issues of identity, religion, class, and colonialism in the US.

"In honor of Black History month, the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM) celebrates one of our Virgin Islands Sheroes on home ground," said Director Amy Patrice DeSorbo.

The community is welcomed to join and participate in this free event that will also include a book reading, followed by a Q & A around Ms. Yaniques' process, and geared towards teaching and pedagogy. Ms. Yanique will also sign books made available for sale by **BOOKSTORE 340** at Fort Christian for the Friday evening event, and by **UNDERCOVER BOOKS** at Fort Frederik on Saturday afternoon. DLAM looks forward to this opportunity to bring the community back into the Fort Museums for dynamic arts and cultural programming.

Ms. Yanique is also planning to partner with DLAM again territory-wide once all the libraries re-open to host literacy workshops for youngsters, and to present specifically to local educators.

For more information, please email DPNR-DLAM's Territorial Chief Curator Monica Marin at monica.marin@dpnr.vi.gov, or contact Amy Patrice DeSorbo, Territorial Director at 340-513-7525 or email amy.desorbo@dpnr.vi.gov.