

Fannie Lewis was a Grassroots, she was born in the 1920s. She grew up in harsh times for African Americans, and especially for an African American woman. But her spirit, she reminded me so much of my grandmother. That spirit of that southern African American woman that says, although life may be hard and difficult, it is good and we're gonna fight, and that I want to make this world a better place for the next generation. It was really her essence, and the essence of my grandmother, that was born in 1913. My grandmother couldn't read or write, but she could count her money. And she would always talk to me about the power of the three bones, which has certainly become my signature: the wishbone, the jawbone, and the backbone. And she said the wishbone was for hoping and praying, because hope is the motivator, but the dream is the driver. The Jawbone is for speaking truth to power. But the backbone is the most important bone of them all, because it gives you what you need to stand through your trials and tribulations.