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# NEWS TODAY

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## The Last Dreamwalker

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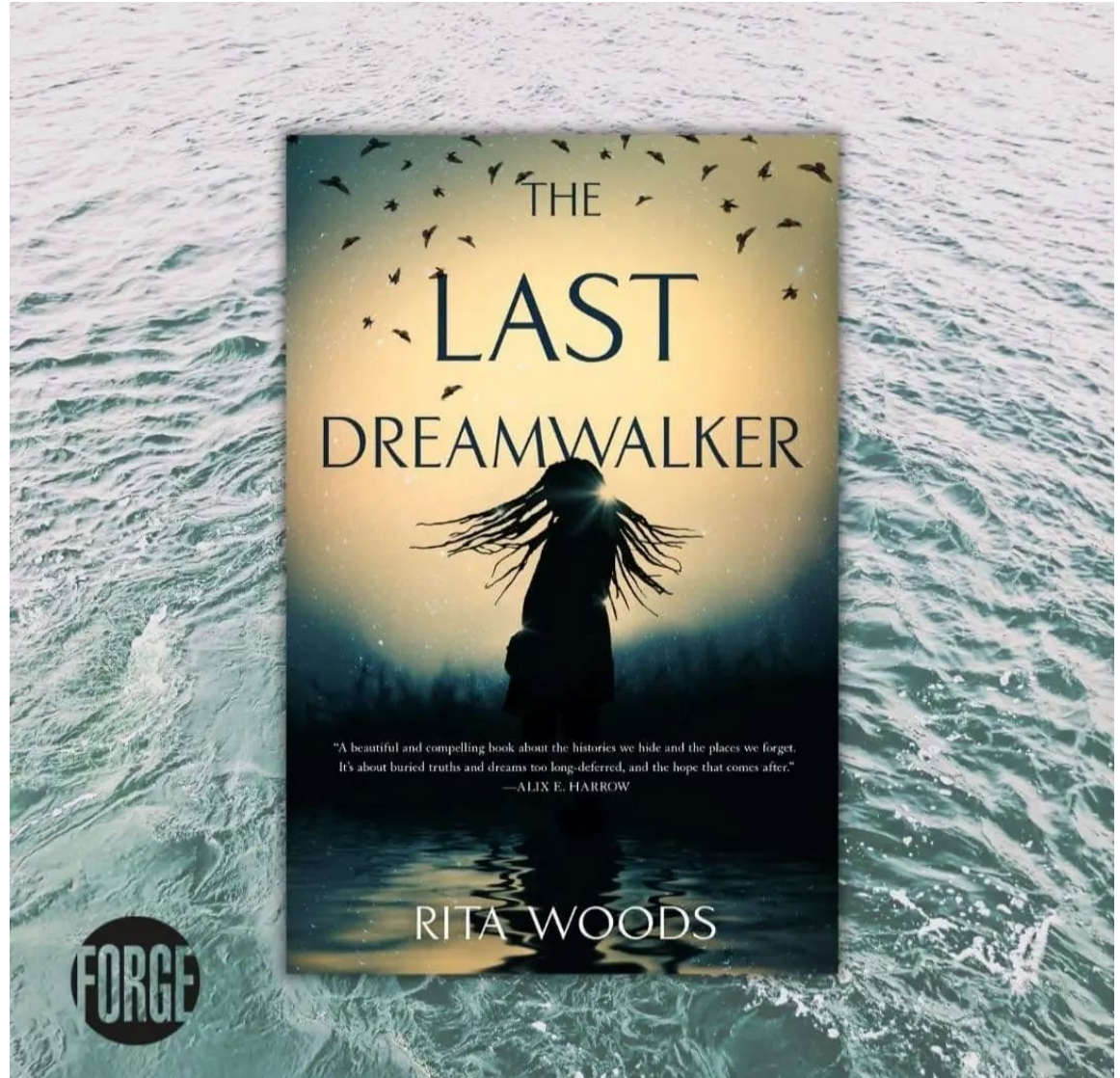
### The Gullah-Geechee Nation

The Last Dreamwalker takes place largely in the Gullah-Geechee Nation. The Gullah-Geechee Nation is a series of over 100 barrier and tidal islands off the U.S. Atlantic Coast, extending from Jacksonville, N.C. to Jacksonville, Florida.

My 1<sup>st</sup> exposure to the Gullah was years ago when I traveled to Charleston, S. C. for a medical conference. I was picked up at the airport by a friendly African-American taxi driver (this was pre-Uber/Lyft). He immediately began chatting in what I initially thought was English, but it quickly became apparent he was speaking a completely unfamiliar (to me) dialect. He identified it as Gullah and as a self-admitted history geek, I was hooked.

The Gullah-Geechee are descendants of enslaved West Africans who were brought to the Sea Islands, as they are known, to raise rice, indigo and Sea Island cotton. Because of their isolation, the enslaved were able to maintain their distinctive music, language, food and culture.

It wasn't until the 1950's that bridges were built to some of the islands and developers turned their attention to these heretofore self-contained lands.



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The Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor 2006

In 2006, Congress designated the area The Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor and in July of 2020, the people there declared themselves a Nation within a Nation.