



Introduction to Charles Blow. 1:00 min. Interview: Raymond Elman. Post-Production: Lee Skye. Music: Billy Torello. **Recorded via Zoom:** 10/14/2021, Miami.

# Charles Blow: NYT, BNC, and “The Devil You Know”

By Elman + Skye

**C**HARLES M. BLOW has been a *New York Times* **Opinion columnist** since 2008. His column appears on Monday and Thursday.

Mr. Blow joined The New York Times in 1994 as a graphics editor and quickly became the paper’s graphics director, a position he held for nine years. In that role, he led The Times to a best of show award from the Society for News Design for The Times’s information graphics coverage of 9/11 — the first time the award was given for graphics coverage. He also led the paper to its first two best of show awards from the Malofiej Infographics World Summit, for work that included coverage of the Iraq war. Mr. Blow became the paper’s design director for news before leaving in 2006 to become the art director of **National Geographic** magazine. Before joining The Times, Mr. Blow was a graphic artist at The Detroit News.

In May, 2021, **“Prime with Charles Blow”** premiered on the **Black News Channel (BNC)**.

Mr. Blow is the author of **“The Devil You Know”** and **“Fire Shut Up in My Bones.”**

“Fire Shut Up in My Bones” was adapted into an opera by Terence Blanchard and Kasi Lemmons – the first opera by a Black composer performed by the **Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center**.

He graduated magna cum laude from Grambling State University in Louisiana, where he received a B.A. in mass communications.

The videos below were **recorded via Zoom**, are organized by Success Factor, and run between 20 seconds and 8 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

**CRITICAL THINKING: 2:49 min.**



*In your book, “The Devil You Know,” you propose that Black people reverse the Great Migration of the 20th century from South to North to gain controlling political power in the United States. Please explain your concept.*

**INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 1:50 min.**



*Did the idea for reverse migration come to you at 3:00 AM? Or was it a compilation of ideas espoused by other people?*

**EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 1:17 min.**



*Who did you use as sounding boards to test the viability of your Abrams concept? Did you talk with people like Stacey Abrams?*

**CRITICAL THINKING: 2:17 min.**



*In “The Devil You Know,” you describe the parallel success of a friend who found emotional comfort living within the safety of a broad middle class Black community in the Atlanta area.*

**EMPATHY: 2:19 min.**



*In a strange way, Donald Trump may eventually be best remembered for causing White Americans to realize how much Black history has been suppressed — for example, “The Tulsa Massacre” and “Juneteenth.”*

**UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART: 1:01 min.**



*Are you building a coalition of influential people who can popularize the concept of reverse migration?*