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At 55, Lynn Graham turns private journals into R&B project VELVET PRAYER

The North Carolina creator's seven-song project explores mature love, Black love, emotional safety and self-possession under the artist identity Mara Lennox

LOUISBURG, N.C., October 8, 2026 — At 55, North Carolina creator, lyricist and producer Lynn Graham has transformed years of private journal writing into VELVET PRAYER — THE GROWN ERA, a seven-song contemporary R&B/soul project released under the artist identity Mara Lennox. Drawn from reflections written across different seasons of Graham's life, the project explores mature love, emotional safety, Black love, tenderness, discernment and the freedom to remain fully oneself inside relationships.

"I was writing my life before I ever thought about making an album," Graham said. "Some of those words came from moments when I was still trying to understand what I was feeling. Going back to them later, I could hear the woman I was then — and I could also hear the woman I had become."

Released August 22, 2026 through Mara Lennox Music, the project moves through seven distinct chapters. "Velvet Prayer" pairs desire with discernment; "Handle Me Soft" makes tenderness a standard rather than a plea; "Groceries & Grace" finds romance in ordinary devotion; and "Looks Real on Me" closes from a place of self-possession. "Carry Gold" turns outward, affirming Black men through its central refrain, "Black man, you carry gold."

"I didn't want the project to only speak about what women need from love," Graham said. "There are Black men carrying so much that often goes unspoken. 'Carry Gold' came from wanting them to feel seen beyond what they can endure or provide."

The title track, "Velvet Prayer," has been accepted into rotation on The Ant Taylor Show, which reports syndication across a network of more than 35 stations. The independent campaign is also being serviced to Adult R&B, Quiet Storm, HBCU, college, public and independent radio while expanding outreach to R&B tastemakers and Black culture and lifestyle media.

Rather than framing the project as nostalgia, Graham positions The Grown Era as a contemporary point of view shaped by experience. Across the project, peace and discernment are not treated as the opposite of desire; they are part of what mature intimacy requires.

Listen to VELVET PRAYER — THE GROWN ERA:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/maralennox/velvet-prayer-the-grown-era>

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About Mara Lennox

Mara Lennox is the contemporary R&B/soul artist identity created by Lynn Graham, a North Carolina creator, storyteller, lyricist and producer. Through Mara Lennox Music, Graham creates music and visual storytelling centered on grown womanhood, Black love, tenderness, emotional depth and self-possession.