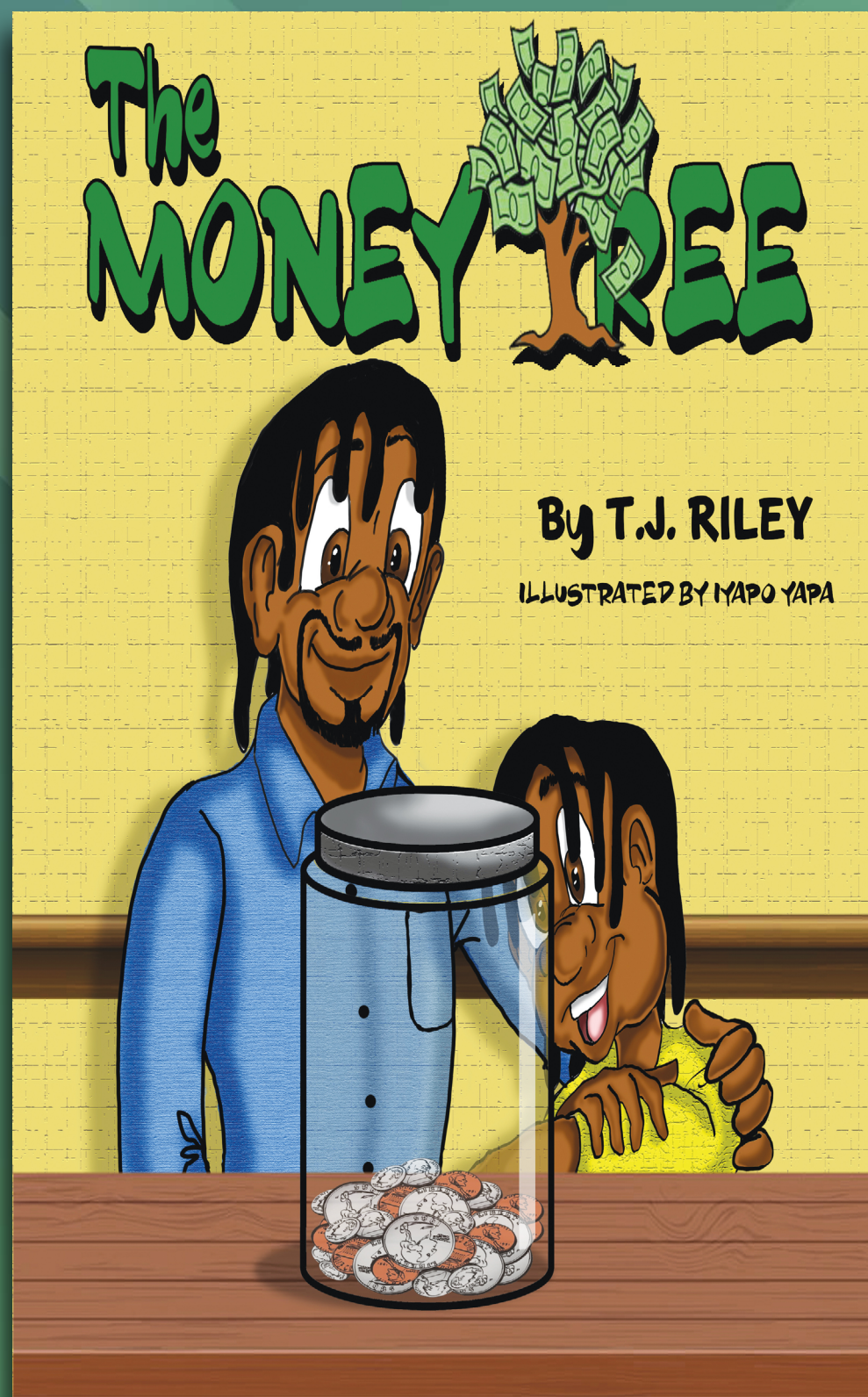


READING and WRITING in the  
**DARK**

*A space for avid Black readers and Black authors*

# NEWSLETTER

**This issue: Wait, WHAT?! Iyapo can DRAW?!**



He didn't WRITE it, but he ILLUSTRATED it! Iyapo teams up with Author T.J. RILEY for her new Children's book: **THE MONEY TREE!**

Page 3

I created a Word Search for this month! This time it's a list of Authors you need to know! **HAVE FUN!**

Page 4



In 2023 Iyapo dives into the world of Horror and Suspense with:  
**And What of the CARGO?**

Page 2

**News and Information about Completed and Upcoming Projects and MORE!**



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## NEWSLETTER

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Wait, WHAT?! Iyapo kin DRAW?! ..... Page 3

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READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter  
Vol. 1 No. 6  
DECEMBER 2022

Iyapo Yapa  
Writer/Layout/Editor-In-Chief

Angela Riley  
Copy Editor

### WELCOME BACK!

In the coming months you're going to be hearing a LOT about *And What of the CARGO?*

*CARGO*, as I've become prone to call it, is my first journey into the world of horror and suspense. The story is taught and there are a lot of moving pieces, but the end result is satisfying. I'm certain *CARGO* is going to be an entertaining read for Black audiences!

*And what of the CARGO?* is presently going through the editorial process, and once published will be my second novel and third book. It will come behind *MELANIN: A Novel* and *Paradigm VOID*. *Paradigm VOID* is a collection of short stories currently available individually for a dollar each on Amazon in what I named the "Keepin' it a BUCK" series. At the end of it's 10 series run, it will be compiled into the single volume: *Paradigm VOID*.

I'm extremely excited about *And What of the CARGO?* and can't wait to release it! I'm expecting readers to get thrills and chills as well as drawing hope and inspiration from its pages.

I'm expecting to release *CARGO* sometime in 2023! I will definitely be keeping you all posted and I'm so very grateful for your interest in my work. For me, being a writer is a dream come true, and it is all of you that are helping to make this a reality for me!

So thank you, and until next time, I'll see you all NEXT MONTH!



#### What are readers saying about *MELANIN: A NOVEL*?

"Melanin is an uncompromising and timely tale of speculative fiction, brimming with thought-provoking ideas and imaginative twists."

- Brandon Massey, award-winning author of *The Quiet Ones* and *Dark Corner*

"Iyapo Yapa has earned a place among the great science fiction writers with *Melanin*. The plot twists will keep you reading long after midnight. As well the imagery is captivating. Replicating the Black experience, you are drawn into the story as if you are there."

- T.J. Riley, author of *The Path to Brightness*

"The whole world needs to read this book!"

- M.A.D.M. Precious, author of *Michelle's Story* and *Loving Betrayal*

"Every Black person needs to read this book!"

- Gwen B

"It was exciting! I stayed up a few nights wanting to see what was coming!"

- Ayoka

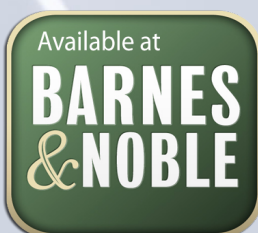
AVAILABLE NOW!

#### MELANIN: A NOVEL

Buy it now by clicking the cover to the right

or

by clicking on the logo of one of the retailers below.



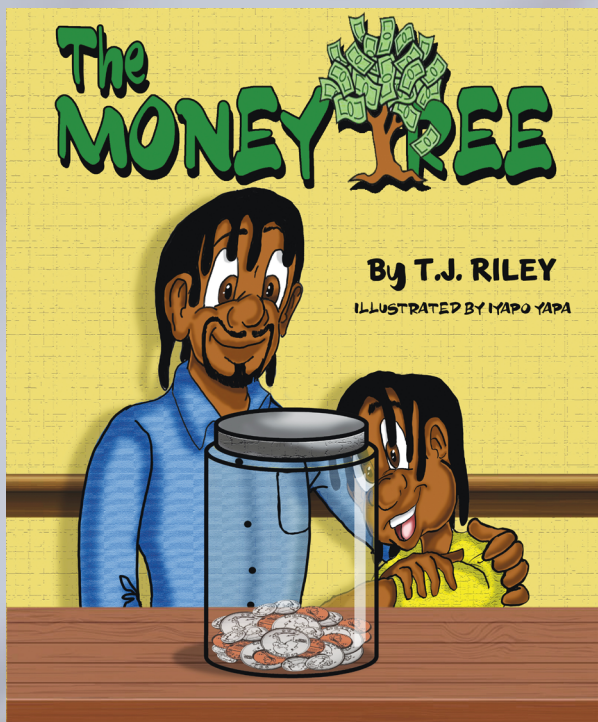
READING and WRITING in the

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## Wait, WHAT?! Iyapo kin DRAW?!



For me, being a writer is a dream come true. It is what I have wanted to do since I was old enough to know how to tell a story.

For most of my adult life I've been a cartoonist and graphic artist. I've made money from it and was always seeking ways of making it my ONLY means of income. But... even as I did that I yet had a fire burning within my bosom, a fire that was all consuming and could not be quenched. That fire?

### BECOMING A WRITER!

By the time I was in my early teens, I had written and illustrated no less than twenty children's books and close to a hundred comic books. Those works were some of my proudest achievements. I remember that when I was still in elementary school a math teacher named Mr. Campbell (who wasn't even one of MY teachers), found out about my work and did everything in his power to get my work published.

But alas, it was not to be.

I still remember to this day, how red he turned after having taken me to Random House, to show them my work. We went during school hours and got special permission from the principal visiting various publish-

ing companies. At that time, there were several that were located in Ohio.

At first they seemed very interested when he spoke with them on the phone about having found a prodigy who deserved to be published. Each time, he was confident they would see my work and publish me. But time after time, as soon as they saw my Black face, they mysteriously were no longer excited nor interested. I very distinctly remember an increasingly red Mr. Campbell (who was a white man), basically "going off". He had just parked at my house to drop me off and he turned to me and said, "The ONLY reason they aren't publishing you is because of the color of your skin!" He was pretty hot about it, and after that we stopped visiting publishing houses. We'd gone to seven or eight publishers over the course of several months and had exhausted all that were in driving distance.

Oh well.

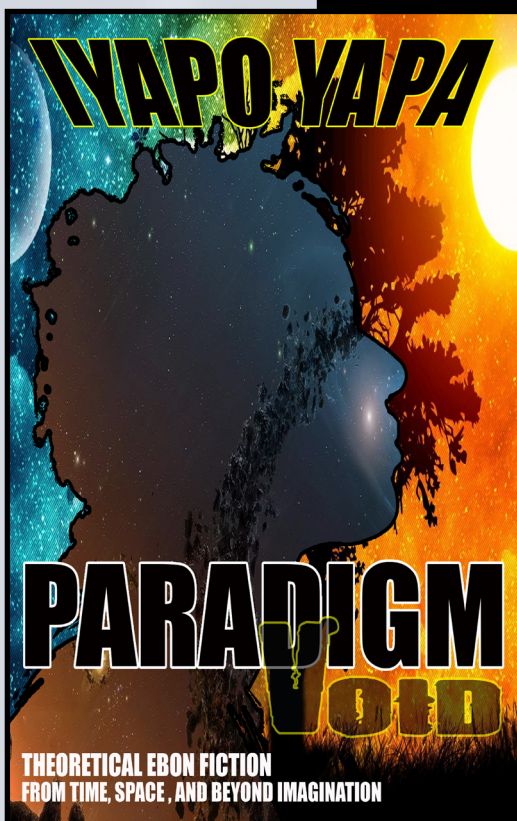
Eventually, ALL my work (over 11 years worth), was burnt up in a fire, and to this day, I've never quite gotten over the loss of ALL my work. It was ten years after the fire before I would put pencil to paper again. I finally got back into the swing of drawing and cartooning (but never with quite the heart I had when I was young).

But now, I have my first novel out: *MELANIN: A Novel* as well as a slew of short stories under what I call the *Keepin' it a BUCK* series. Those stories from the Paradigm Void (which you can read about below).

ALL of that said, I have been blessed to have been able to work on a book with the brilliant T.J. Riley author of *The Path to Brightness* (there's a link at the back of the newsletter). This is her first children's book and I had the honor of being asked to illustrate it, and not only was the book a joy to work on, but T.J. was an absolute DREAM to work with!

*THE MONEY TREE* is available on AMAZON as both a Kindle version and as a physical copy! It would make a GREAT GIFT for any of your favorite Black children to put their foot on the path to financial literacy!

Click on the image of the cover above to go straight to the purchase page! You can thank me later.



If you're needing to get your **THEORETICAL EBON FICTION (TEF)** fix, THIS is the place to go!

*PARADIGM VOID* is a collection of short stories written by Iyapo Yapa, one of the new leaders in the field of Black Science Fiction and Speculative Fiction. Each story explores possibilities and concepts that were not long ago only within the domain of the standard Sci-Fi reader.

Now, with the insurgence of Black writers of TEF, Iyapo is adding his powerful voice to the chorus, and moving at full speed to work in our people taking control of our narrative!

In *PARADIGM VOID*, Iyapo explores things like:

- What if somewhere in the universe numerous alien races observed earth and concluded that there is a faction on the planet that in no way should ever be allowed to reach out beyond the bounds of its own atmosphere?
- What if the universe itself started taking measures to correct and bring balance to itself in terms of justice?
- What if time slowed down nearly to a stop ... but only for YOU?

*PARADIGM VOID* is presently in the editorial stages and will soon be available at your favorite book seller!

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READING and WRITING in the

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December 2022

WORD SEARCH

Independent Black Authors

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ADRIEN M LANE  
ANGELA RILEY  
TJ RILEY  
MS KJ  
ANNIEE REE

AYOKA B  
MADM PRECIOUS  
AJALI SHABAZZ  
Y STOKES  
TIERNEY SHEREE PEPRAH

CHARLES L CHATMON  
RENATO L FRIDAY  
BW MCKAY

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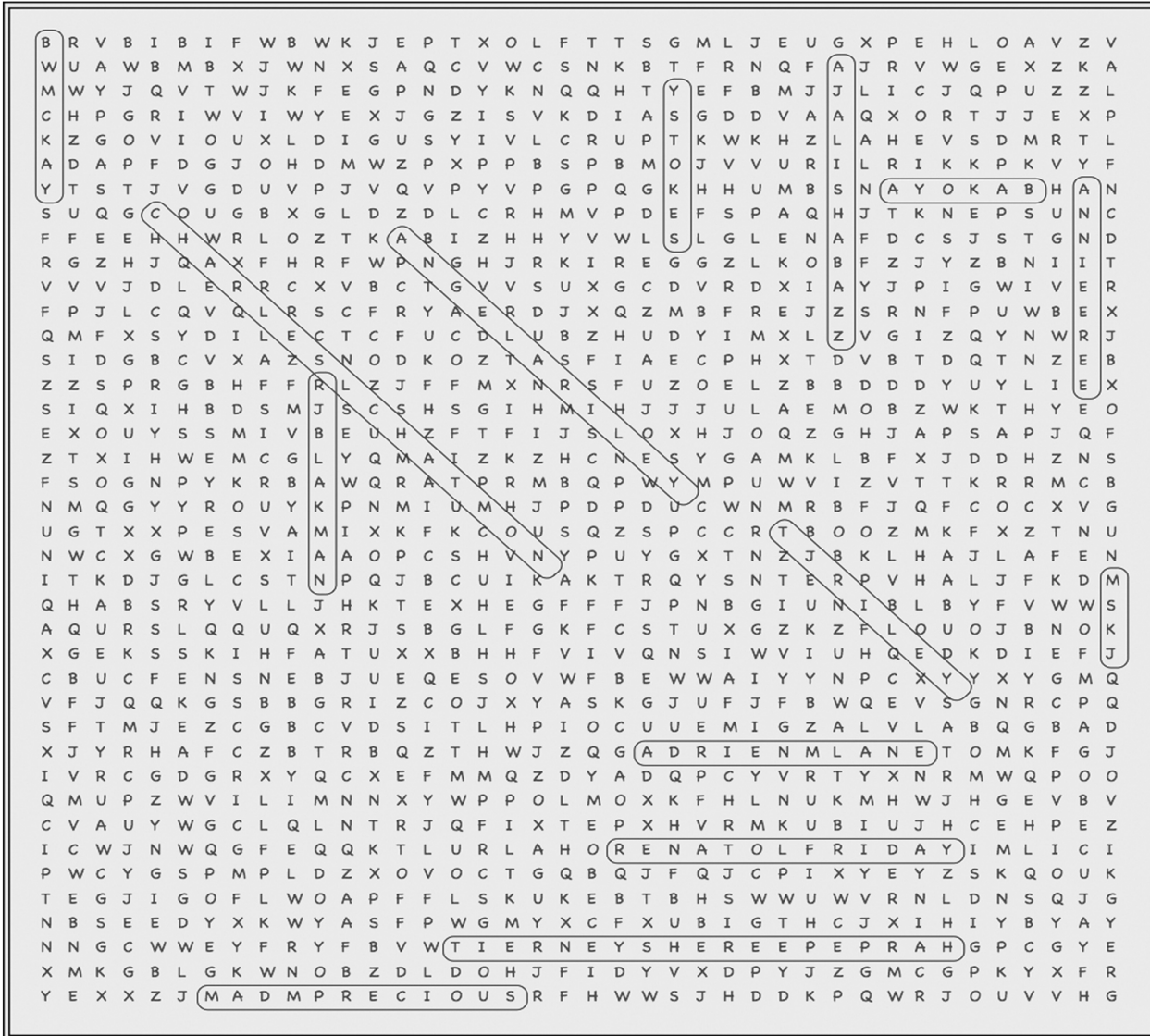
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December 2022  
WORD SEARCH  
Independent Black Authors

# DECEMBER WORD SEARCH

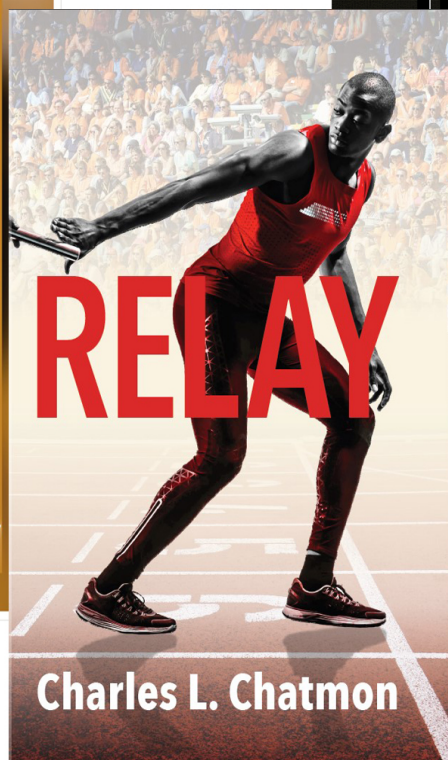
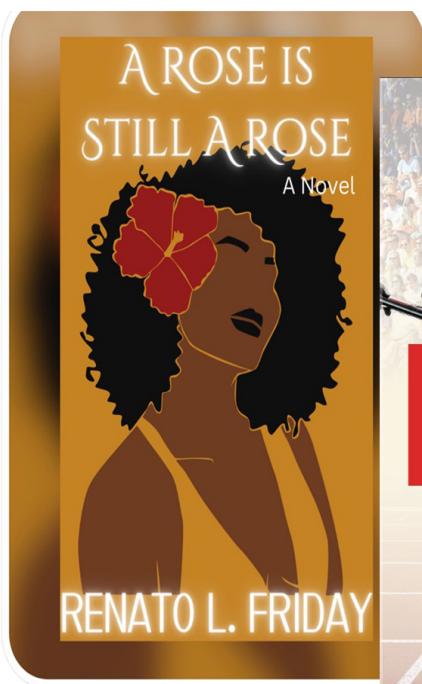


ADRIEN M LANE  
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TJ RILEY  
MS KJ  
ANNIEE REE

AYOKA B  
MADM PRECIOUS  
AJALI SHABAZZ  
Y STOKES  
TIERNEY SHEREE PEPRAH

CHARLES L CHATMON  
RENATO L FRIDAY  
BW MCKAY

## ANSWER KEY

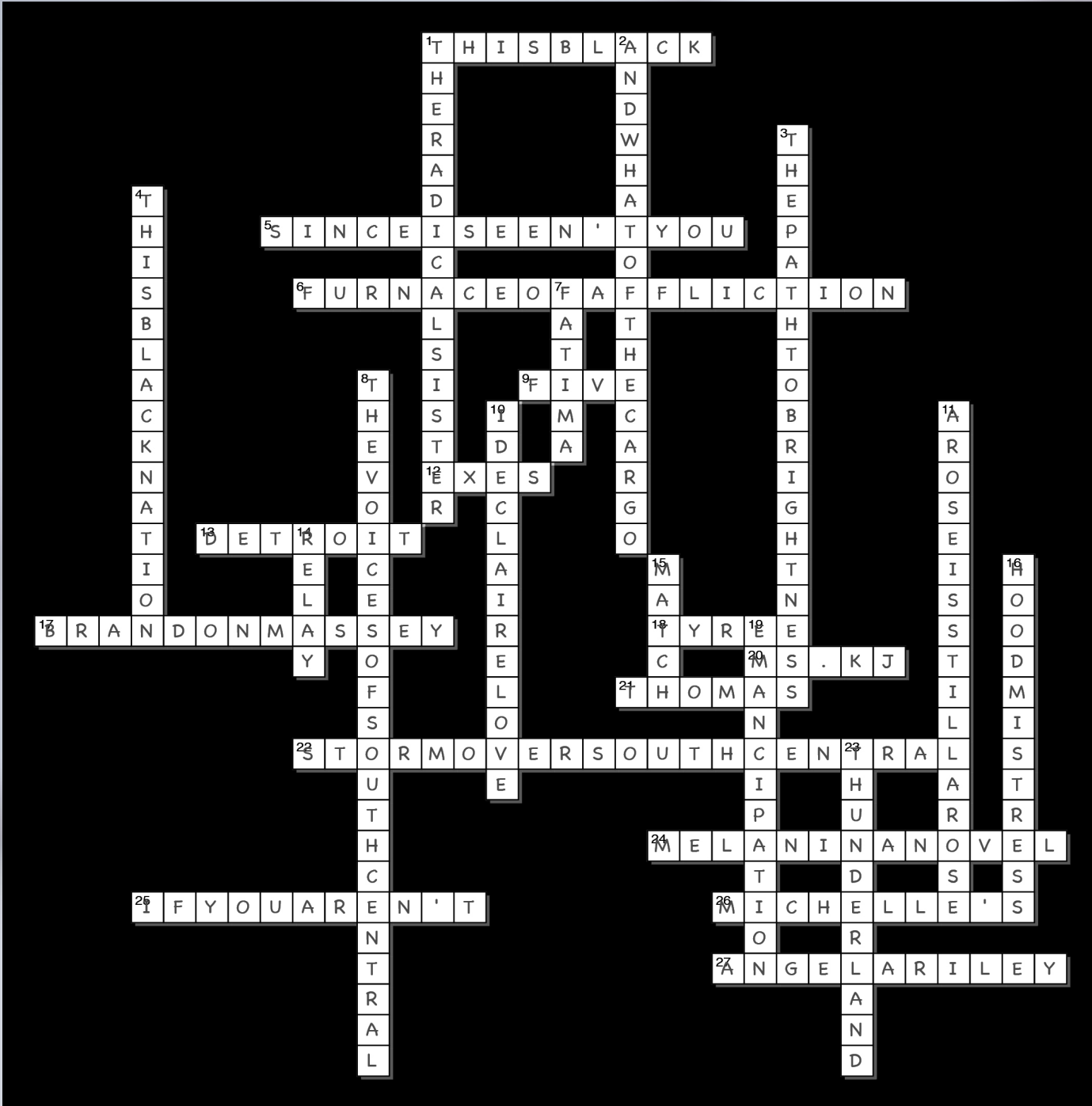


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## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS for LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

Here are the answers to this month's crossword puzzle!

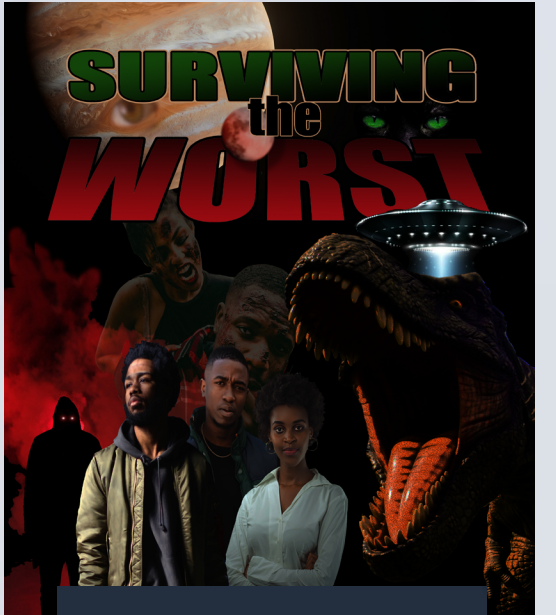
How many did you already know?

How many did you have to research?

How many did you give up on and finally came HERE?!

I'm considering making it a feature each month. Do you enjoy crossword puzzles? Let me know by dropping me a line at:

comments@iyapoyapa.com  
Subject line: crossword puzzle



kindle vella



Be sure to take some time to visit my website at:  
<https://www.iyapoyapa.com> - or just click the image to the right!

There are a LOT of things to see and interact with! There are also a couple special surprises hidden in the site. They aren't marked, but if you take a little time to search for them, you'll definitely be pleasantly surprised!

**Books by IYAPO YAPA**

**MELANIN** A NOVEL

**PARADIGM VOID**

The Redemption of Maxine Allison

**INTERCEPTORS**

**THE DREAMS OF A RESTLESS GOD**

**FURTHER JOURNEYS INTO THE PARADIGM VOID**

**BOOKS BY & ABOUT BLACK US!**

**IN THE WORKS**

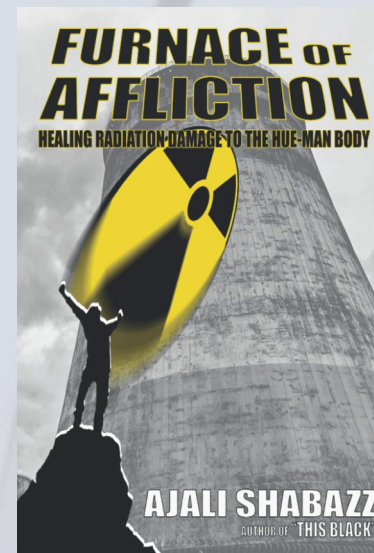
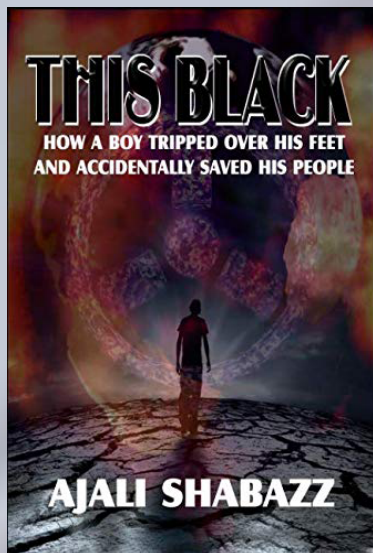
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Books by:

## AJALI SHABAZZ



Author of: *This Black* - *This Black NATION* and *Furnace of Affliction!*

**The Reading and Writing in the DARK Podcast Interview!**

You don't want to miss this discussion with this new POWERFUL voice in PRO BLACK FICTION in the genre of Theoretical Ebon Fiction, and Non Fiction!

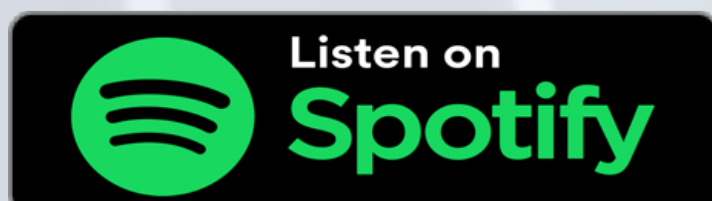
Listen to the interview on  by clickingg the link below:

<https://www.spreaker.com/show/a-conversation-with-author-ajali-shabazz>



Did you know there is also a READING and WRITING in the DARK PODCAST?! Well there IS and you can tune in to it and listen just by clicking the block to the right.

You can also hear the READING and WRITING in the DARK podcast on:



CLICK THIS BLOCK TO LISTEN TO THE

READING and WRITING in the

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## podcast!

listen on Spreaker

LISTEN ON iHeartRADIO

Listen on Spotify



## Alright, enough about ME!

Below are AWESOME stories on the KINDLE VELLA platform by some authors I know!  
Just click the the cover art to be transported to their stories!  
And remember, the first THREE episodes are FREE to read!



### I DeClaire Love Angela Riley

DeClaire and Tyrone meet and sparks fly. They fall in love with each other quick, fast, and in a hurry. It seems to good to be true. But is it? Is it safe to love? Are there any “good” rules when it comes to love? Do we have to fight for love? Are there always games being played when it comes to love? Is simple, sane, “old-fashioned” love out of style? CAN LOVE SET US FREE? \*\*\* New Episodes Weekly!



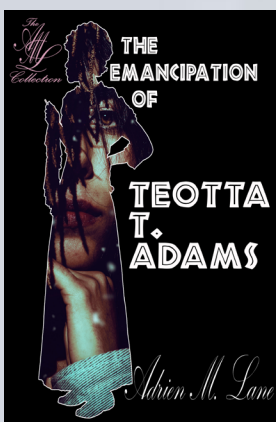
### The Love X TamuTamu Agency Angela Riley

Love is natural but it ain't always easy. And Mama Tamu should know! She is a 91 year old match maker who has run “The Love X TamuTamu Agency” for FIFTY years. She has personally experienced and been a witness to all kinds of love. And, as she says, “Love is more than a notion!” Follow along as she stands up for and works to support and encourage the natural flow of Black Love.



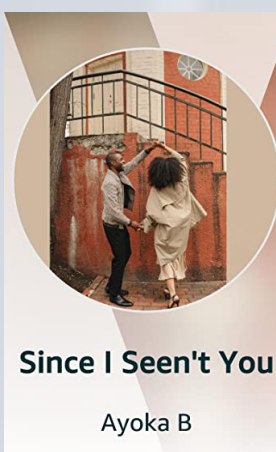
### 365 Dates Angela Riley

Single again, after my first divorce, one day I had a new thought: I WANT TO DATE. And... NOTHING. No one came knocking on my door to woo me. No one approached me when I was out wanting to court me. Nobody asked friends/family to be set up with me. Just crickets! So, thinking that maybe my goal was to vague--I want to date.--to make anything happen, I decided to pursue a HUGE goal of going on 365 dates. Not 3, 5, or 6 dates but three HUNDRED and SIXTY-FIVE dates. So...LET'S GO!



### The Emancipation of Teotta T. Adams Adrien M. Lane

Teotta T. Adams has it all, big house, nice car, fine clothes, and a private chef, one of the best in the world, and a successful husband. Yes, Teotta has everything. Everything except her FREEDOM! She spends her days in the lap of luxury, but inside she knows something's wrong. Her 'husband' is just this side of a stranger, and worse, Teotta knows even less about herself. When she finally discovers why, and the incredible truth behind it, she will long for the bliss of her lost ignorance.



### Since I Seen't You Ayoka B.

She and David met when they were 18. After a rough start, they build a friendship that would span decades: marriages, children, love and heartache. When they lose touch, she thought that she would never see him again, but she was wrong. Can men and women truly be just friends? Can their friendship withstand what life has in store?



**The Match**

Ayoka B.

Have you ever changed someone's life? I mean in a life and death sort of way. I opened a letter that I almost threw out, thinking it was junk mail; it said that I was a possible bone marrow match for someone! I couldn't even remember being tested. The letter asked me to contact them if I was still a willing donor... what would you do?

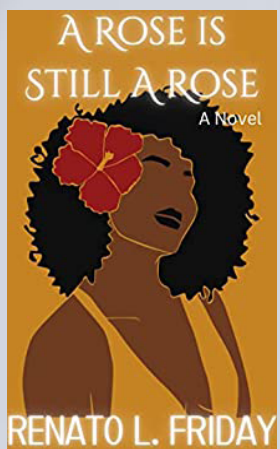
**ALSO AVAILABLE on AMAZON and OTHER PLATFORMS!**  
**Below are stories and books by some authors I know!**  
**Just click the the cover art to purchase their book.**



Meditations, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS on SelfLOVE.

**Following The Happy: SelfLOVE Meditations, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS**

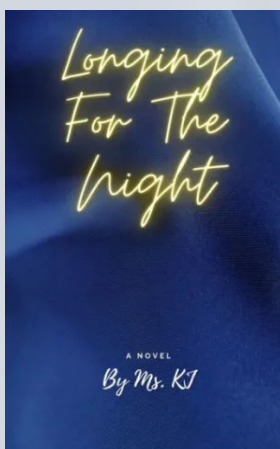
Angela Riley



**A Rose is Still a Rose**

Renato L. Friday

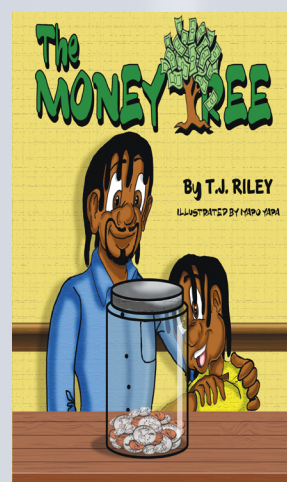
Rose thought life was going great: she was engaged, had a beautiful set of twin girls, a recent trade school graduate, and a new job right around the corner. Unfortunately, her fiancé, David, turned out to not be what she needed, and she chose to break things off. In the midst of her failing relationship, she met a man named Falcon, who ironically turns out to be her new boss. They quickly go from acquaintances to lovers, which opens up a fire pit of drama. Then comes Landon, a self-made millionaire, who is very humble about his accomplishments. He shows her all the things she was lacking while with David, and ultimately proposes. Naturally, Rose is scared to fall for Landon and accept his proposal due to David's lies and Falcon's toxic choices, but she takes a chance and allows Landon to love her the way she needs. Will her love for him forsake the feelings she's still harboring for Falcon, or will she give into temptation?



**Longing for the Night**

Ms. KJ

Inspired by the poem Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti, two young sisters face the trials and tribulations of the hood in this coming-of-age story about the harshness of living in South Central Los Angeles.



**The Money Tree**

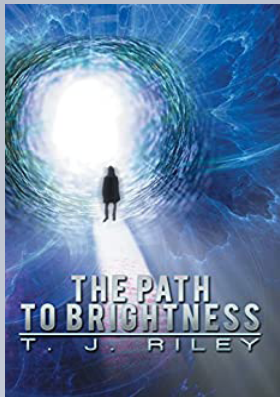
T.J. Riley / Illustrated by Iyapo Yapa

Every child wants money to buy something, right? Our hero does too. But, his father has a surprise, a Money Tree. Join the fun journey to find out how to grow your own money tree.

READING and WRITING in the

# DARK

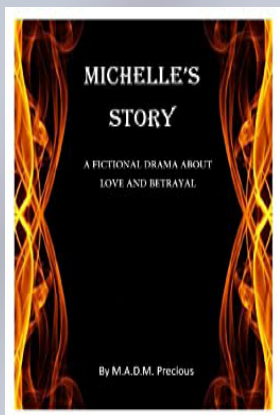
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## THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

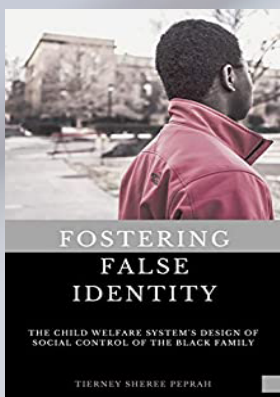
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince others of the astounding esoteric knowledge she has brought back from beyond the veil. However, there are some that wish to stop her from sharing an ancient secret. A secret that will change life on earth, forever.



## MICHELLE'S STORY

M.A.D.M. Precious

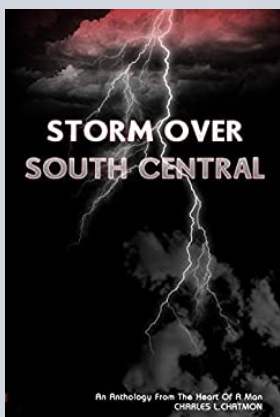
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



## Fostering False Identity: The Child Welfare System's Design of Social Control of the Black Family

Tierney Peprah

THE ORGANISM OF RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES CRAFTS VARIOUS SYSTEMS MEANT TO ACHIEVE ONE OVERARCHING PURPOSE, that is to ensure that peoples and groups designated for an inferior existence pose little to no threat to the social structure of wealth and privilege that is propped up on their backs. These systems are allowed to exist, oftentimes unchallenged, by propagating dishonest descriptions of why these systems exist. Many people are without the proper means to challenge these systems, camouflaged as being charitable or in the public interest, for their unjust outcomes. In *Fostering False Identity*, the American child welfare system is explored as such a system. While the child welfare system is portrayed as a moral arbitrator in the abuse and neglect of children, in actuality this system was formulated for the specific purpose of regulating disenfranchised populations by removing children from those communities to assimilate them into White society. Thus assimilated, they are believed to pose minimal threat to the social order. *Fostering False Identity* will explore this phenomenon through a lens of Black liberation and self-determination of African families who are consistently victimized by this system.



## Storm Over South Central

Charles L. Chatmon

The Storm has been unleashed, which means it's time to share what's inside the much anticipated anthology by author Charles L. Chatmon.

Chatmon, a refreshing voice in the world of modern poetry and author of *The Depths of My Soul & The Voices of South Central* returns with engaging short stories and thought provoking poems.

Read *Storm over South Central* and discover the thoughts he writes about in this volume filled with verses and tales of despair, stories of hope. It will also reveal a lot about American society – its strengths, its flaws and its people. This is a literary journey you will enjoy taking.

**And there will be more authors to come, who are working to**

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