

READING and WRITING in the

DARIK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

NEWSLETTER

This issue: 2023 is the year of:

AND WHAT OF THE CARGO?

This year Iyapo dives into the world of horror and suspense with *And What of the CARGO?*

And it promises to be a WILD RIDE! The REAL question? IS IT HORROR?!?!

Page 3

Also:

GATE KEEPERS!

Who needs 'em?!

Some are saying it is both a blessing and a curse that creators no longer must bother with them, but I have a sneaking suspicion that it is only the GATE KEEPERS who are saying it!

Page 9

Also new in 2023



Page 6

This month's crossword puzzle focuses on the 10 issue KEEPIN' it a BUCK Series!

Page 4

News and Information about Completed and Upcoming Projects and MORE!



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NEWSLETTER

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READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 1
JANUARY 2023

Iyapo Yapa
Writer/Layout/Editor-In-Chief

Angela Riley
Copy Editor

WELCOME BACK!

It is 2023 and I am thankful to my Creator for seeing another year (I don't celebrate holidays, and I know that the first of the year on the Gregorian calendar is dubious, but you know what I mean... it is what it IS.)

I digress.

I'm looking forward to expanding this year. The fact that I went from NO works produced and public to FIFTEEN publications for sale, a website, YouTube channel and podcast out in the world, and having done so in less than SIX MONTHS isn't lost on me at all!

I have several goals for this year, some, personal, physical, some spiritual and some pertaining to my work, and one LONG TERM goal that I just thought of last night, and I plan on pursuing them ALL with determination, commitment and LOVE!

Yes, I'm very much looking forward to what the coming year is going to bring, especially what I think will be the runaway success of my second novel *And What of the CARGO?*, and as always, my guiding principle shall remain, working diligently for our people to TAKE CONTROL OF OUR NARRATIVE!

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

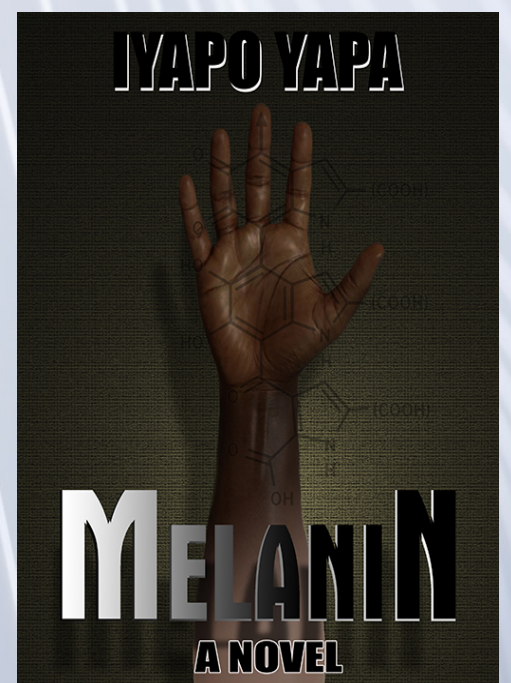
AVAILABLE NOW!

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.



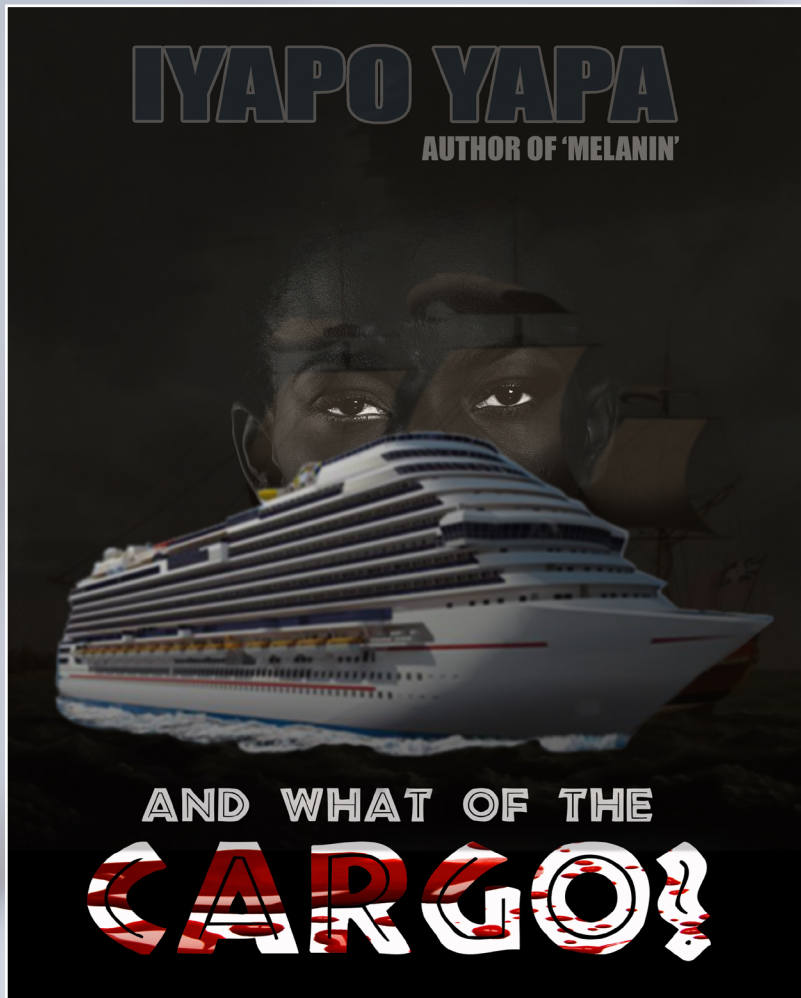
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I'm releasing my first horror/suspense novel *And What of the CARGO?! But IS it HORROR?! YOU decide.*



What is HORROR?

What is horror to one person, may not seem horrible at all to another.

I remember years ago watching the movie "Drag Me To Hell." Before watching it I was told repeatedly how scary it was to the point that I was actually hesitant to watch it. Even as I watched it, for the first half hour or so, I kept the remote firmly in hand so I could turn it off should it have gotten too intense. After watching it through to the end, I kept repeating to myself, "That was supposed to be SCARY?"

Why wasn't the movie scary to me? It was because of the foundational premise of the movie which was that someone could curse someone and consign them to hell. Two things must therefore work for the audience member for that movie to work as a horror movie. The first is that they must accept the existence of a literal "hell" the way many, many people define it. I do not. AND--and this is the one that I couldn't suspend disbelief for--one would have to accept that another human being had the power to consign another human being to hell. That premise is something so alien to me that, since the entire movie basically rested upon that, then I couldn't accept (or be scared) by any of it.

So the question becomes... is, *And What of the Cargo?* a horror novel?

What is scary or suspenseful to us as Black people?

Were I to write about a person walking into a roadside diner, taking a seat at the counter and ordering an order of hotcakes and eggs with coffee. Then, were I to proceed to describing him waiting for his order, and eventually starting to eat after having received it, would anyone find it horrifying or suspenseful?

Of course not.

Same scene.

The roadside diner is full of white people in Mississippi or Alabama, and the year is 1957, and patron is a white man.

Still nothing.

Ok... everyone, except for one white patron, in the diner is Black.

Awkward maybe. Interesting and/or curious, but neither horrific nor suspenseful. (Because we all KNOW, no Black person, or group of Black people are going to put their hands on a white man in the Jim Crow south. Not really.)

Two more tweaks.

Same scene.

All the patrons are white, and a Black man walks in.

BINGO! Instant suspense: Will he be told to leave? Will he be served his pancakes with SPIT instead of syrup? Will the white patrons start murmuring and/or outright speaking aloud, their anger and disgust? Will it lead to possible horror (a beating, a lynching, a disappearing)?

A man and/or woman are driving down the freeway, obeying all the traffic laws, though they may have been a little over the speed limit for a short time. A state trooper follows them for several miles. The driver has no criminal record and has done nothing illegal. Both, law abiding citizens, a Black and a white driver will have different worries. A white driver may be concerned he or she will end up with a ticket. A Black driver will be concerned that he or she will end up either in jail, or dead.

Horror and suspense for Black people is NOT necessarily the same as horror and suspense for white people.

"Both, law abiding citizens, a white driver may be concerned he or she will end up with a ticket. A Black driver will be concerned that he or she will end up either in jail, or dead."

Yes and no.

I set out to create a story of horror and suspense, and I can pretty much guarantee, the prologue definitely has horror elements to it and some alpha readers said they had to struggle through it.

But upon reading over it again (and frankly, even as I was writing it), I realized that *CARGO* would only be a horror novel if you aren't a diasporic Afrikan - the only group for which I write. Non-Afrikans would well find the novel terrifying... but our people? Who knows?! There is plenty of blood, gore and the supernatural to go around, but in the context of the book, and where the novel leads, will it scare the average diasporic Afrikan?

Or make them CHEER?!

And What of the CARGO? jumps back and forth in time (no, it isn't one of my time travel stories), has an element of mystery to it and one spectacular occurrence that is my personal favorite part of the book!

I don't know which it will do for the reader. All I DO know is that *CARGO* is a thrill ride into the supernatural that is, in true Iyapo Yapa fashion, woven seamlessly into a tapestry of social commentary and a focus on Black Us.

And What of the Cargo? will be available soon. I will definitely let you know when you can pre-order it and I look forward to you reading it!

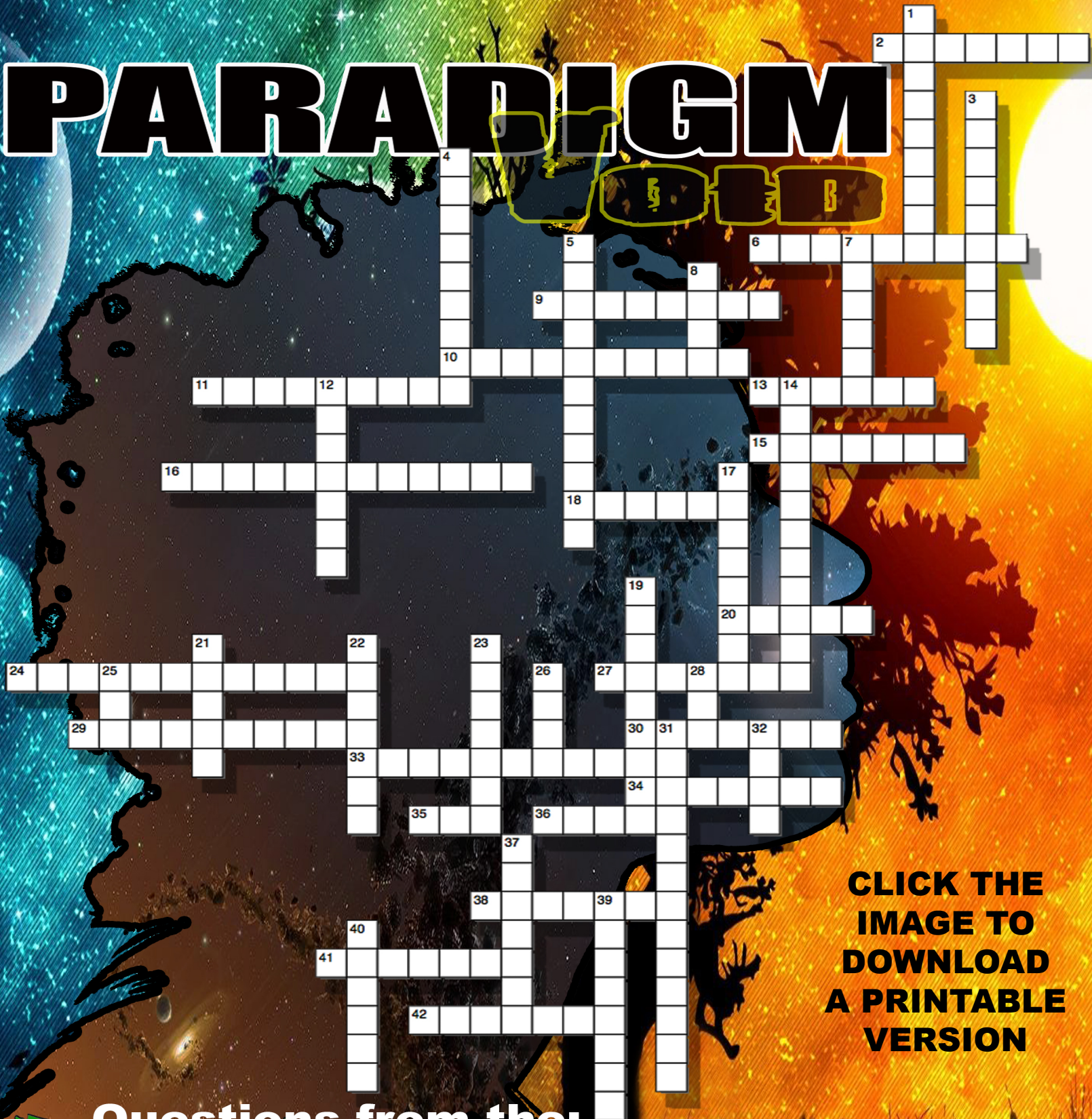
Iyapo Yapa

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PARADIGM



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IMAGE TO
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Questions from the:

DoEAtA MEDIA
CONTROLLING OUR OWN NARRATIVE
PUBLISHING

Keepin' it a BUCK *series*

IYAPO YAPA

PARADIGM VOID

THEORETICAL EBON FICTION
FROM TIME, SPACE, AND BEYOND IMAGINATION

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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It's a New Year and here is a new Crossword puzzle for you! This month we celebrate the completion of the 10 issue run of the **Keepin' it a BUCK Series** by having every question for the crossword puzzle have something to do with one of the short stories from that series!

If you get hopelessly stumped, the answer will be in next month's edition of the READING and WRITING in the DARK newsletter.

Happy Puzzling!

Across

- 2) Who was narrating the story "An Oral History of Forgotten Cargo"?
A _____.
- 6) First name of the main character in the story "SCARS"
_____ Clarke.
- 9) Name of the psychologist who analyzed Milo Lipson.
- 10) What was the very first installment of the Paradigm VOID "Keepin' it a BUCK" series?
- 11) Name of the Japanese company Clarke sought to take over.
_____ Unlimited.
- 13) The fighter Damian Harrison hates to admit he lost to.
- 15) In "ShadowHouse", what was the name of the major flying car manufacturer? _____ Motors & Flight.
- 16) The collection of short stories that makes up the Keeping' it a BUCK series.
- 18) In "Frozen Heartbeats", the name of Scott's mentor. Dr. _____.
- 20) Name of the roadster mentioned in "A Peace of Darkness". The _____ XZ-939001
- 24) Name of the inventor who created the EMP that plunged the entire globe into darkness. Sergei _____.
- 27) Last name of the main character in "Conviction". Franklin _____.
- 29) Name of the town that sat between Ebonton and Heron Oaks.
- 30) In "Conviction", what was the name of the main character's opposing high school football team? The Bexley _____.
- 33) The genre of Paradigm VOID is _____ Ebon Fiction.
- 34) In "Conviction", the number of years the main character was sentenced to.
- 35) The number of installments were there in the "Keepin' it a BUCK" series?
- 36) Randy's girlfriend in "Sundown Town".
- 38) Name of the all Black community in the story "Sundown Town".
- 41) In "Person Zero" whose name was printed on the side of the tour bus? _____ Ayden.
- 42) In "Scars", in what restaurant was Clarke confronted by an angry woman?
- 40) In "Sundown Town" the name of the mayor of Loganville. Darron _____.

Down

- 1) Name of the global lottery. The Mega- _____.
- 3) Last name of the woman who picked Franklin from a line up in "Conviction".
- 4) Name of the author of the Keeping' it a BUCK/Paradigm Void series.
- 5) What was the final installment of the Paradigm VOID "Keepin' it a BUCK" series?
- 7) The nickname of Damian Harrison's trainer. Brian the _____ Dickerson.
- 8) In "Frozen Heartbeats" what did Scott call the dangerous track he'd walk across some Saturday mornings? _____ Bridge.
- 12) In "A Peace of Darkness" what race massacre occurred in the year 2101? The _____ Burnings.
- 14) Name of the prison Franklin was sent to in "Conviction". _____ Penitentiary.
- 17) In "An Oral History of Discarded Cargo" who was the narrator speaking to?
- 19) Name of the invaders from the story "A Peace of Darkness".
- 21) In "SCARS", the name of Clarke's secretary.
- 22) What particular talent did Damian Harrison possess (besides boxing). _____ memory.
- 23) In "The Eyes of the Dying" who was the main object of the narrator's affection?
- 25) Number of stories that dealt with time travel.
- 26) Name of the only "Love Story" in the Keeping' it a BUCK series: A _____ in the Rope of Time.
- 28) The term the narrator of "An Oral History of Discarded Cargo", didn't care for: _____ fish.
- 31) A Peace of darkness deals with an _____.
- 32) Forth installment in the Keeping' it a BUCK series: "The _____ of the Dying.
- 37) In the story "Frozen Heartbeats", what was the name of the main character's fiancé?
- 39) In "ShadowHouse", the name of the company that was responsible for policing time travel.
- 40) In "Sundown Town" the name of the mayor of Loganville. Darron _____.

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AND NOW... ORAL TRADITION TALKING BOOKS!

Well it had to happen sooner or later, and it looks like 2023 is the year!

DoEAiA Media Publishing is proud to announce that we are taking our first step into the world of AUDIO BOOKS, with our first offering, "SCARS"! "Scars" is a short story that was the first in the *Keepin' it a BUCK Series* which, in it's ten episode run, presented short stories of theoretical ebon fiction. The audio books will be published under the banner of *Oral Tradition Talking Books* and are sure to be a crowd pleaser!

FOR THE VERY BEST LISTENING EXPERIENCE, LISTEN THROUGH HEADPHONES

BACK TO MELANIN PAGE

PARADIGM VOID

SCARS

IYAPO YAPA

Keepin' it a BUCK Series

FROM TIME, SPACE, AND BEYOND IMAGINATION

LISTEN ONLINE BY CLICKING THE 'PLAY' BUTTON ABOVE

or

CLICK THE COVER TO THE LEFT TO DOWNLOAD EXCERPT.

SCARS is available to read as an ebook on AMAZON as part of the

Keepin' it a BUCK Series

SCARS excerpt: A short story from the Paradigm VOID

COMPLETE AUDIO VERSION COMING SOON!

amazon

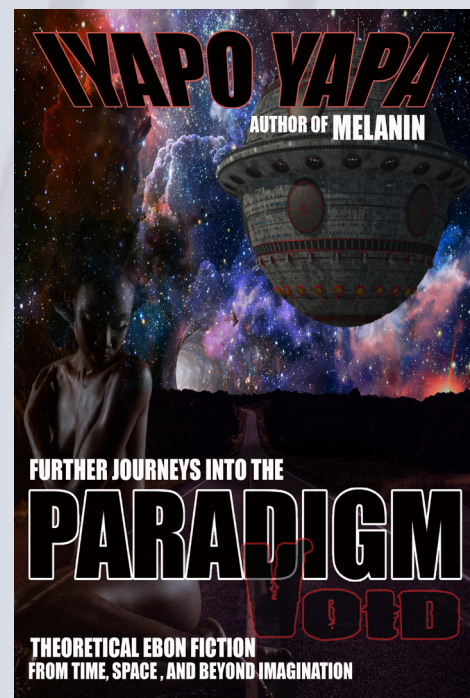
You can also find works by Iyapo Yapa at:

goodreads

The first audio-book is presently in production, but I'm happy with how it is has come along so far. I'm so excited about bringing the books to life via audio, that I have posted the working version of the first act on my website iyapoyapa.com. If you click the image to the left, it will take you to where you can listen to the excerpt of the audio-book for free! During 2023, the goal is to release several audio books from the first Paradigm Void series (specifically, the Keepin' it a BUCK Series).

While you're waiting for the audio-books you can purchase all TEN installments in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series. AND the soon available in one COMPLETE (paper & digital) *Paradigm VOID*, which will have all ten stories, and one

never before published BONUS story! You can read more about the full Paradigm VOID series on page 4 of this newsletter.



After the release of *Paradigm Void*, will be the next short story collection in the series, *FURTHER JOURNEYS INTO THE PARADIGM VOID!* It will feature the same brand of Theoretical Ebon Fiction that made the original short story compila-

tion what it was, and most of all... each story will feature BLACK US in the main roles! 2023 is looking to be a FANTASTIC YEAR!



IT IS TIME TO JOURNEY INTO THE **PARADIGM VOID** ONE STEP AT A TIME.

EACH SHORT STORY IS DIFFERENT. EACH ONE THOUGHT PROVOKING & MIND BENDING. EACH ONE ONLY **A DOLLAR!** AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW ON: **amazon**

DoEAiA MEDIA PUBLISHING CONTROLLING OUR OWN NARRATIVE
Keepin' it a BUCK Series



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In 1902 a postal clerk turned writer named William Wymark Jacobs (better known as W.W. Jacobs) wrote the story that would become his best known work, a cautionary tale titled “The Monkey’s Paw.”

There are few people who have never heard of the work or seen some work influenced by it. It has been argued that “The Monkey’s Paw” itself borrowed from stories like “The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus” by Christopher Marlowe (aka Kit Marlowe), around 1592.

Even before that, there have always been stories about genies emerging from bottles, and people making wishes that nearly always went awry.

From genies granting wishes to Faustian bargains--full disclosure: Faustian bargains tend to be some of my favorite stories, even more than time travel, and that’s saying something!--we have seen the theme played out time and time again in one form or another, from the *Arabian Knights*, to “The Devil and Daniel Webster”, *The Twilight Zone*, to “Bedazzled”, to “The Wishmaster”, to the recently released (2022) motion picture “Three Thousand Years of Longing” people just cannot seem to stop WISHING!

No matter HOW badly things always go sideways.

Whatever the setting, and no matter the wisher or even the wishes, the moral of the stories are typically, that problems, whether perceived or real, cannot simply be wished away. Just as with time travel, every action can create unpredictable outcomes, and in most cases, disastrous ones. Some might say that tales of wishes, and Faustian bargains are different, because wishes don’t involve forfeiting one’s soul.

Oh, don’t they?

There are many ways for a person to sell their soul. They need not always involve striking a deal with Mephistopheles. If we are paying at least a cursory amount of attention to what is going on around us presently, we (especially in Black social media), are witnessing many of our people selling their souls daily... for fame, for money, for clicks, for a wish.

At the end of the day, the way to deal with life... is to DEAL with it. That is the moral of our story.

I digress.

The first time I remember hearing the story *The Monkey’s Paw*, was when I was a little boy. My older sister Linda read it to me

and our other siblings. (She was always reading to us.) I remember the story having me scared. And I mean 12 year old, not wanting to go to sleep with the lights out, scared! In later years, I’ve seen and read many incarnations of “The Monkey’s Paw” and the thing

that always struck me was that it was always some retelling of the original story. I always wondered why, just as with Faust, or those who come across a mighty genie, there were not a host of people who got to have their opportunity at the brass ring and a chance to attempt to cheat fate?

In the original story, W. W. Jacobs made the story closed ended, wherein, the person making the wishes on the Paw would be the last person who was able to ever use it for that purpose (though I can’t imagine any other purpose for an old shriveled up monkey’s paw at that point). However, just because he closed that particular door, it didn’t mean that door had to stay closed, and I decided to open it back up.

After all, if one mystic were able to bestow such power onto the icon... could not another?

Sure they could, and within the universe of my written works... they did.

The result is a new series of short stories featuring people seeking to get whatever they want the easy way but discovering that alternate path to be far more treacherous. There are quite a few of these paws floating around out here (relatively speaking), and each one may have different rules governing them, but one thing is certain; there is going to be a LOT of wishing going on, and plenty of horror, suspense, and chaos to follow.

Enjoy reading *TALES of the MONKEY’S PAW*! It’s guaranteed to be a spectacular addition to the *Keepin’ it a BUCK Series*!



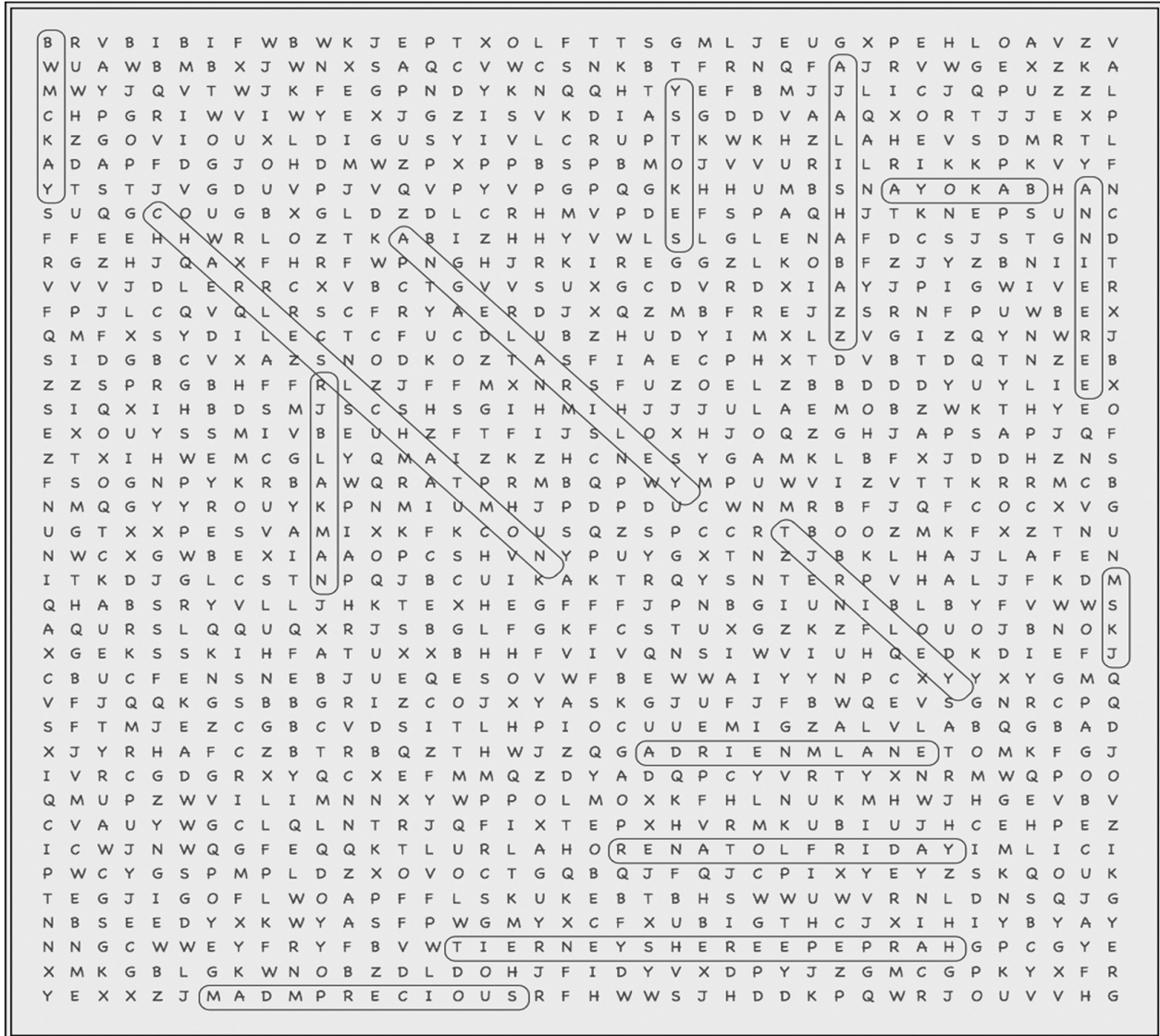
Keepin’ it a BUCK!

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HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE!



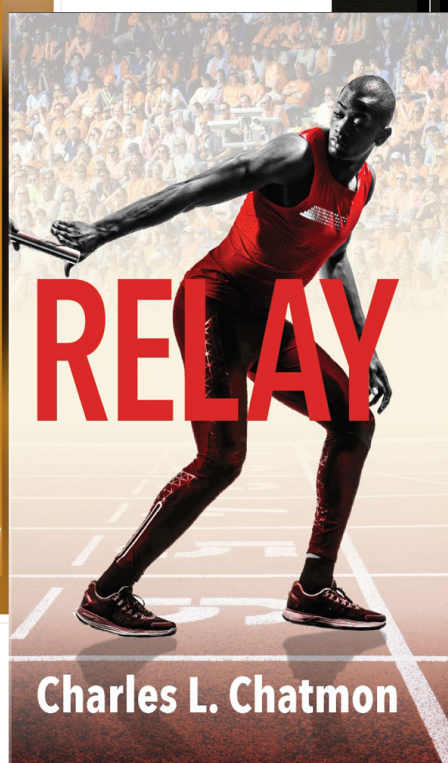
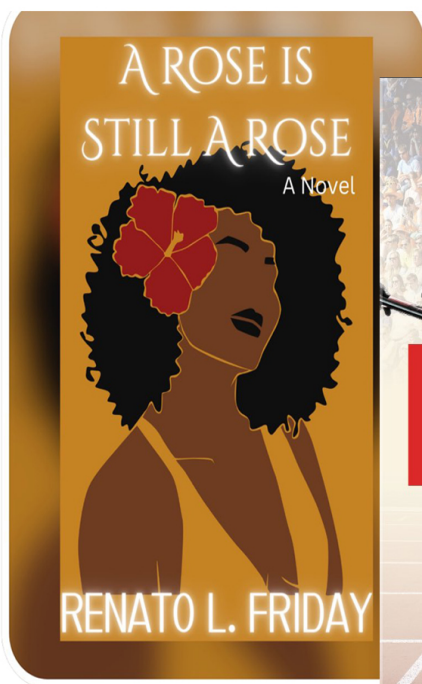
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ANGELA RILEY
TJ RILEY
MS KJ
ANNIEE REE

AYOKA B
MADM PRECIOUS
AJALI SHABAZZ
Y STOKES
TIERNEY SHEREE PEPRAH

CHARLES L CHATMON
RENATO L FRIDAY
BW MCKAY

ANSWER KEY

DECEMBER WORD SEARCH



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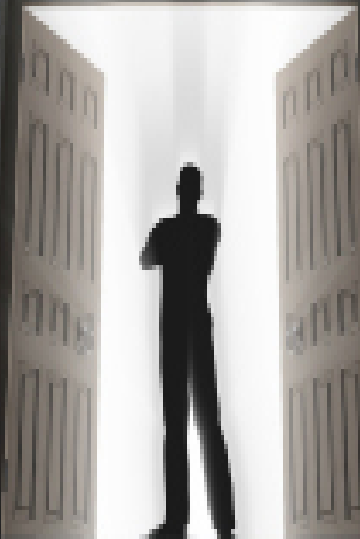
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GATE KEEPERS... WHO NEEDS 'EM?!

Those who can... do.
Those who can't... teach.
Those who can't do or teach... GATE KEEP!

Gate keepers are an unusual lot. They typically have no describable talent, but yet they somehow manage to position themselves in a way that they have the ability to lord over people who actually DO have talent, and determine whether they are allowed past the "velvet rope".

The gate keeper will argue that their "talent" is the ability to recognize talent. That is a dubious claim in itself, being that talent or lack thereof is highly subjective. Jazz musician Joe Jackson of "Steppin' Out Tonight" fame once said, "People don't know what they want... they just want something GOOD." In a perfect world... in an ACTUAL meritocracy, people would be able to put out their works and let the PUBLIC decide whether they like the product or not (And frankly, even if the general public DOESN'T like it, that STILL doesn't necessarily mean the work has no merit). The important thing is that eyes get to see the work, ears get to hear the work and so on. In the end, it is the consumer who will ultimately decide what is worthy to be put before them and what isn't. And they should be given that choice! I have to wonder how many works the public has been unable to ex-



perience because, like in a courtroom, the ones in charge (the attorneys), are determining what it is that the jury does and doesn't see.

There may be some cases, in some areas of life where gatekeepers are necessary, but not, I believe when it comes to the arts. In this realm, I believe gatekeepers are the talentless leaches and hangers on, who's only purpose in life is to not only dictate what people should and should not like, but to make themselves defacto middle-men who stand between people as they exchange money, and demand that the money pass through THEIR hands first so that they can take their cut before passing it over to the other party. And what does either party get in return for the money touching the hand of the gatekeeper? Nothing that they could not get if the gatekeepers had not set a system in place that made it so there was no way to get past them. As I look at the ever-growing roster of independent writers, musicians and other artists, I see that there indeed IS a lot of what might be considered "trash" out there. But at the end of the day... if something is indeed trash, then sooner or later, the PUBLIC will throw it in the garbage can without needing someone from on high telling them what they should and should not like.

Could YOU survive?!

Five years ago, a cataclysm now known as THE COLLAPSE occurred. Dimensions merged with horrific results. It is now common to see creatures of myth, legend, and nightmare along with once long extinct animals populating the landscape. Carl, LaTanya and Lester, embark on a quest to find a lost book that can't change the madness of the new normal but may assist them and others in the now nearly impossible task of: SURVIVING the WORST! Enter a world of action, adventure, science and horror on Kindle vella!

Click on the Kindle vella link below!



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 defiantly be pleasantly surprised!



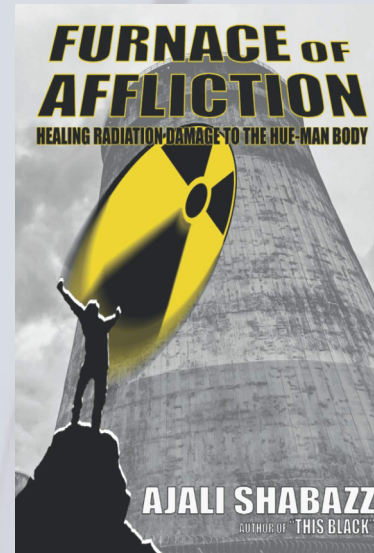
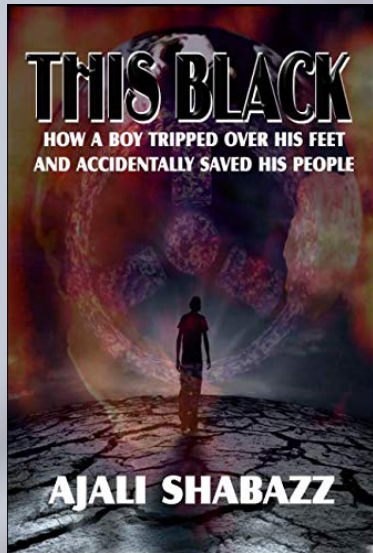
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Books by:

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!

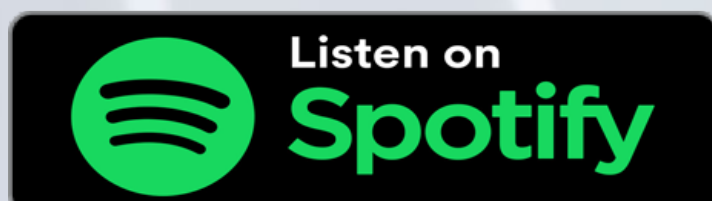
Listen to the interview on  by clicking the link below:

<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:



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podcast!





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Alright, enough about ME!

Below are AWESOME stories on the KINDLE VELLA platform by some authors I know!

Just click 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 too 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

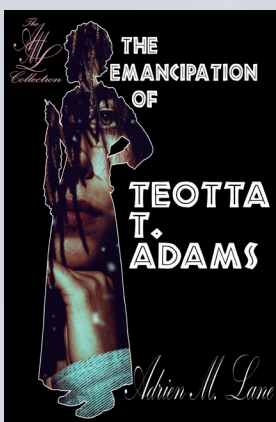
Love is natural but it ain't always easy. And Mama Tamu should know! She is a 91 year old match maker who has run “The Love X TamuTamu Agency” for FIFTY years. She has personally experienced and been a witness to all kinds of love. And, as she says, “Love is more than a notion!” Follow along as she stands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



365 Dates

Angela Riley

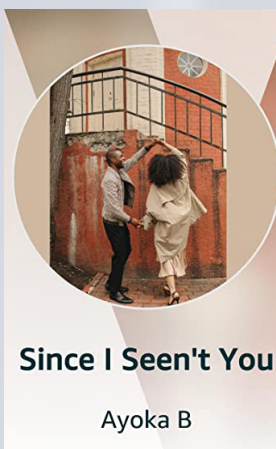
Single again, after my first divorce, one day I had a new thought: I WANT TO DATE. And... NOTHING. No one came knocking on my door to woo me. No one approached me when I was out wanting to court me. Nobody asked friends/family to be set up with me. Just crickets! So, thinking that maybe my goal was too 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?

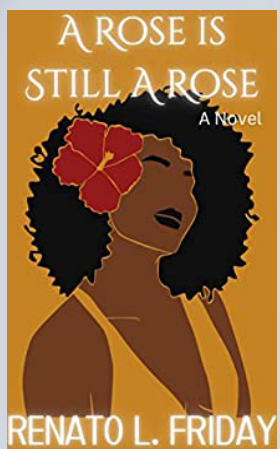
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Meditations, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS on SelfLOVE.

Following The Happy: SelfLOVE Meditations, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS

Angela Riley



A Rose is Still a Rose

Renato L. Friday

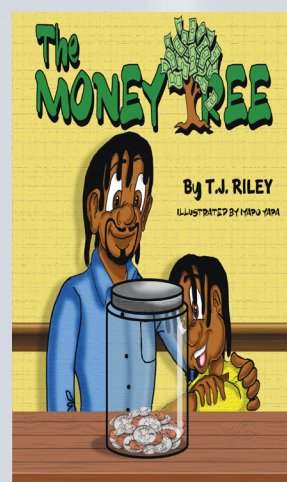
Rose thought life was going great: she was engaged, had a beautiful set of twin girls, a recent trade school graduate, and a new job right around the corner. Unfortunately, her fiancé, David, turned out to not be what she needed, and she chose to break things off. In the midst of her failing relationship, 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

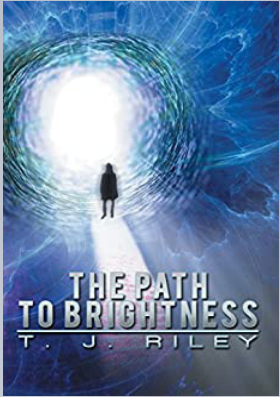
T.J. Riley / Illustrated by Iyapo Yapa

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

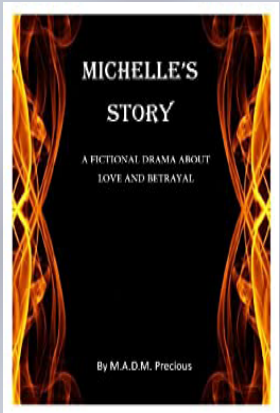
A space for avid Black readers and Black authors



THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

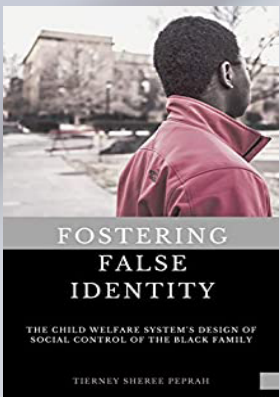
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince 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

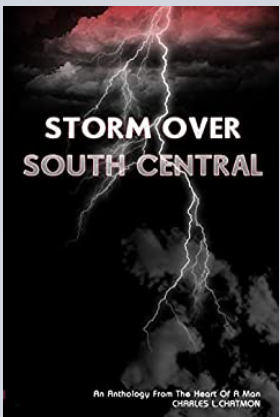
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



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

TAKE CONTROL OF OUR NARRATIVE!

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WAPDO WAPDA

Tales of the
MONKEY'S PAW



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