

READING and WRITING is the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

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Search and the answer key to
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News and Information about Completed
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APRIL 2023 - Volume 2/Number 4



READING and WRITING in the DARK

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READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 4
APRIL 2023

Iyapo Yapa
Writer/Layout/Editor-In-Chief

Angela Riley
Copy Editor

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!

It is April and, *And What of the CARGO?* has been out for about two weeks. From the Wednesday before the official launch to today (March 20th, the day of this writing), *And What of the CARGO?* Was ranked number ONE in new releases, which of course made me very happy, and I want to thank everyone who has already purchased their copy and who has read it. If you haven't be sure and get yours! You'll be glad you did!

As always, I have a LOT going on! I want to write things that I think are important and will hopefully have an impact and that's one of the reasons I work so hard. I may not be able to do all the things I used to the way I used to, but I can still write and draw and I intend to use the talents I've been blessed with to do all I can within my power to help our people get control of our narrative and to move forward, up and out of the system of white supremacy that has been the bane of our existence.

In this month's newsletter you will see what I have completed as well as what I'm presently working on, and as always there is a puzzle for you to work on in your spare time. This month it is a Word Search puzzle.

If you want to read some of my thoughts and observations feel free to visit my blog by clicking the image to the right.

THANK YOU for being a subscriber to my newsletter and I'll see you next month!



BLOG

And What of the CARGO? Is finally here!

"Kylah Mbaye of the Zahnoka people, lay as silently and still as she could, halfheartedly petitioning the ancestors that at least for one night she would not be spirited away and taken above deck to endure yet another in a procession of endless rapes. Another woman would have long ago given in to despair--but Kylah--in the face of such crushing odds against her and her people within the bowels of this floating nightmare, knew that eventually, this voyage would not end well... for her captors." And so it began. *AND WHAT OF THE CARGO?* is a tale of love and hate, tears and triumph, suspense and horror that leads to an unimaginable conclusion.

"The Atlantic crossing, or "Middle Passage," as it was called by European slavers, was notorious for the number of deaths incurred, averaging in the vicinity of 15-20%"

— Walter Rodney. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

Much is rightly said and written about the enslavement and fates of Afrikans who were kidnapped from their homeland and transported to the Americas and other lands along the Middle Passage. Absent however is an expanded examination of the fate of those who did not make it through the journey. Whether victims of an inability to survive the unimaginable environment in which they were forced to occupy, or due to murders while attempting to revolt, or by simply jumping overboard, choosing death as a better alternative to chattel enslavement.

What of those ancestors in the depths of the oceans, and what of their souls and spirits. Or to put it bluntly—what of the CARGO?

AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW!

And What of the CARGO?

Purchase now by clicking the cover to the right
or
by clicking on the logo below.



You can also read it for FREE if you have Kindle Unlimited!

You don't need a Kindle to read it, you can download the free Kindle app from your Android Store or from the Apple Store and read Kindle content on your favorite devices!



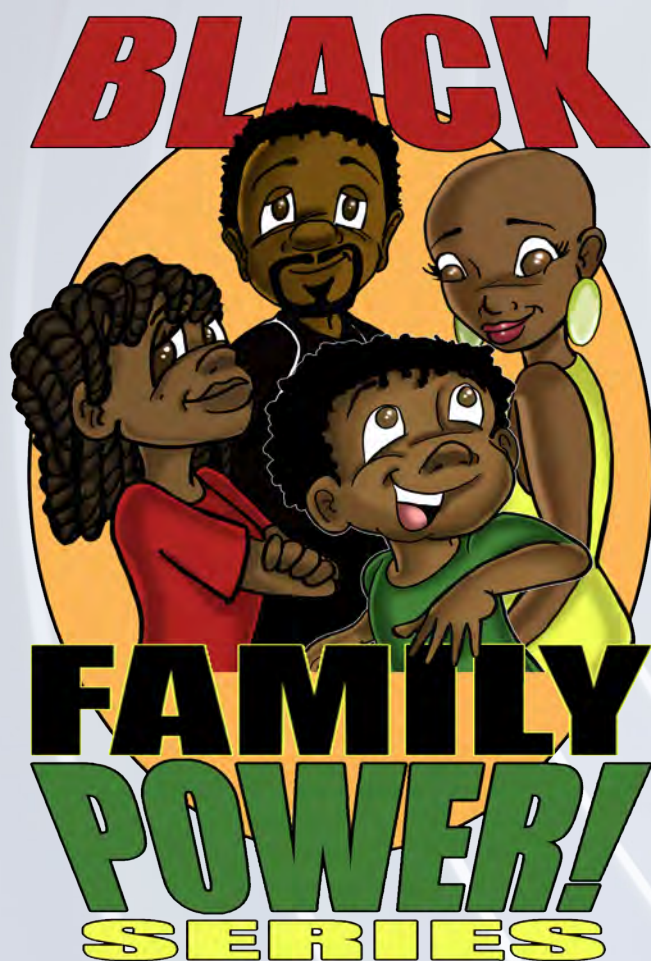
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IT'S TIME FOR SOME BLACK FAMILY POWER!



Black families are the backbone of the Black community. Without strong families, we do not have a strong community. Strong communities mean a strong nation. And when a people have a strong nation behind them, it isn't quite so easy, for those who seek to marginalized and do them harm, to push them and knocked around. We talk a lot about what needs to be done to help strengthen Black families: from husbands and wives to parents to children and outward to extended family.

The work I do is for Black people. I seek to uplift us in a way that we see ourselves accurately, as the spectacular people we are. This translates into loving ourselves and that self-love—not self-ISH love—only strengthens us and ground us in our humanity. That self-love can't help but extend outward to our people in general. When people love and respect themselves, and walk in honor, they almost can't help but to, by default, love honor and respect each other.

Side note... My wife, fellow author Angela Riley, has an ongoing

book series "Affirming Self Love" which is SELF-LOVE affirmations that follow short graphic essays. There is a link to the series on the back pages of this newsletter which will take you directly to her series available digitally on amazon.com.

"Without strong families, we do not have a strong community. Strong communities mean a strong nation."

I digress.

In the choir of voices that are already producing family-oriented materials for our Black families, I am adding my voice with the BLACK FAMILY POWER Series. The series will focus on books that are written with families in mind. Some will be aimed toward husbands and wives. Some will be child-oriented story, picture and activity books. Some will be for the entire family to enjoy and learn from. I'm really looking forward to putting out this series because there is such a need for quality material for our Black families and things that not only entertain, educate and bring us together, but also continues my mission of presenting to our people positive images and content that is made for and about our people that is created BY our people!

The first book in the Black Family Power series will focus on Fukushima and more precisely the dangers of manmade radiation on the planet. The goal of the book is to get entire families involved in the discussion. I aim to do it in a way that doesn't spread fear but empowers Black families by giving them the facts and to educate us on things we may not know about this threat to our people, our environment and our planet. The book contains information that is presented in a way that explains the situation but doesn't get too "science-y." Everything is put in plain language. The first part is addressing parents about what is happening and the second part is about engaging children to learn about it through activities and games. Finally, the third section is set aside for family discussions and how to approach them so that each member is clear on what we are facing and more importantly, what we can do about it.

This first book from the Black Family Power Series is coming very soon! As always, I'll keep you posted!



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:

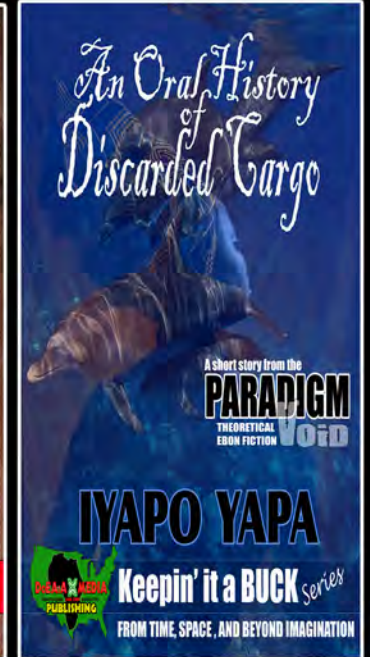
- What if somewhere in the universe numerous alien races observed earth and concluded that there is a faction on the planet that in no way should ever be allowed to reach out beyond the bounds of its own atmosphere?
- What if the universe itself started taking measures to correct and bring balance to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

These possibilities and more are examined in "PARADIGM VOID" a collection of ten short stories in the genre of **THEORETICAL EBON FICTION**.

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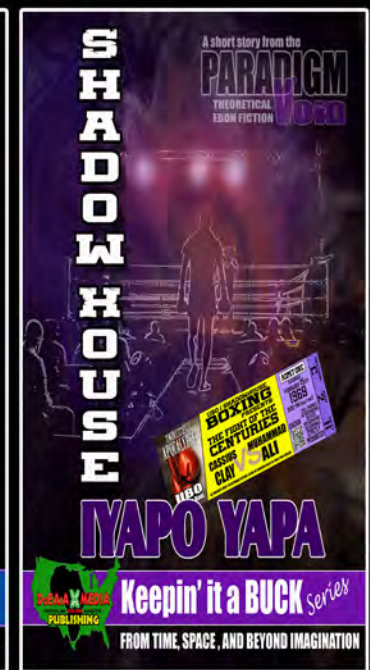
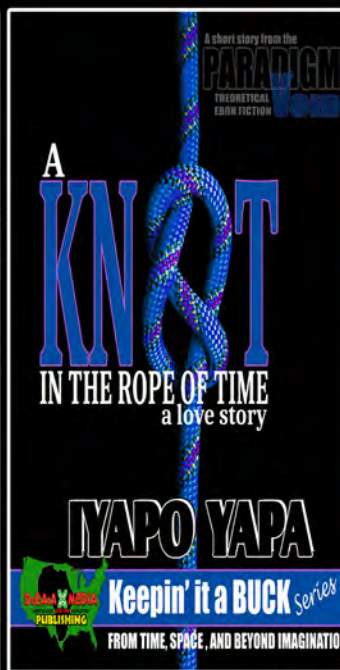


IT IS TIME TO JOURNEY INTO THE **PARADIGM VOID** ONE STEP AT A TIME.

EACH SHORT STORY IS DIFFERENT. EACH ONE THOUGHT PROVOKING & MIND BENDING.
EACH ONE ONLY **A DOLLAR!** AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW ON: [amazon](https://www.amazon.com)



Keepin' it a BUCK series



Also, Keepin' it a BUCK series TWO: Stories from Further Journeys into the Paradigm VOID coming soon!



Also remember:

ORAL TRADITION talking books are also coming soon!
Click the image to the right to hear a sample, of one of our talking books. Yes, it's still in its rough form, but the story is still fun as all get out! So give it a listen!

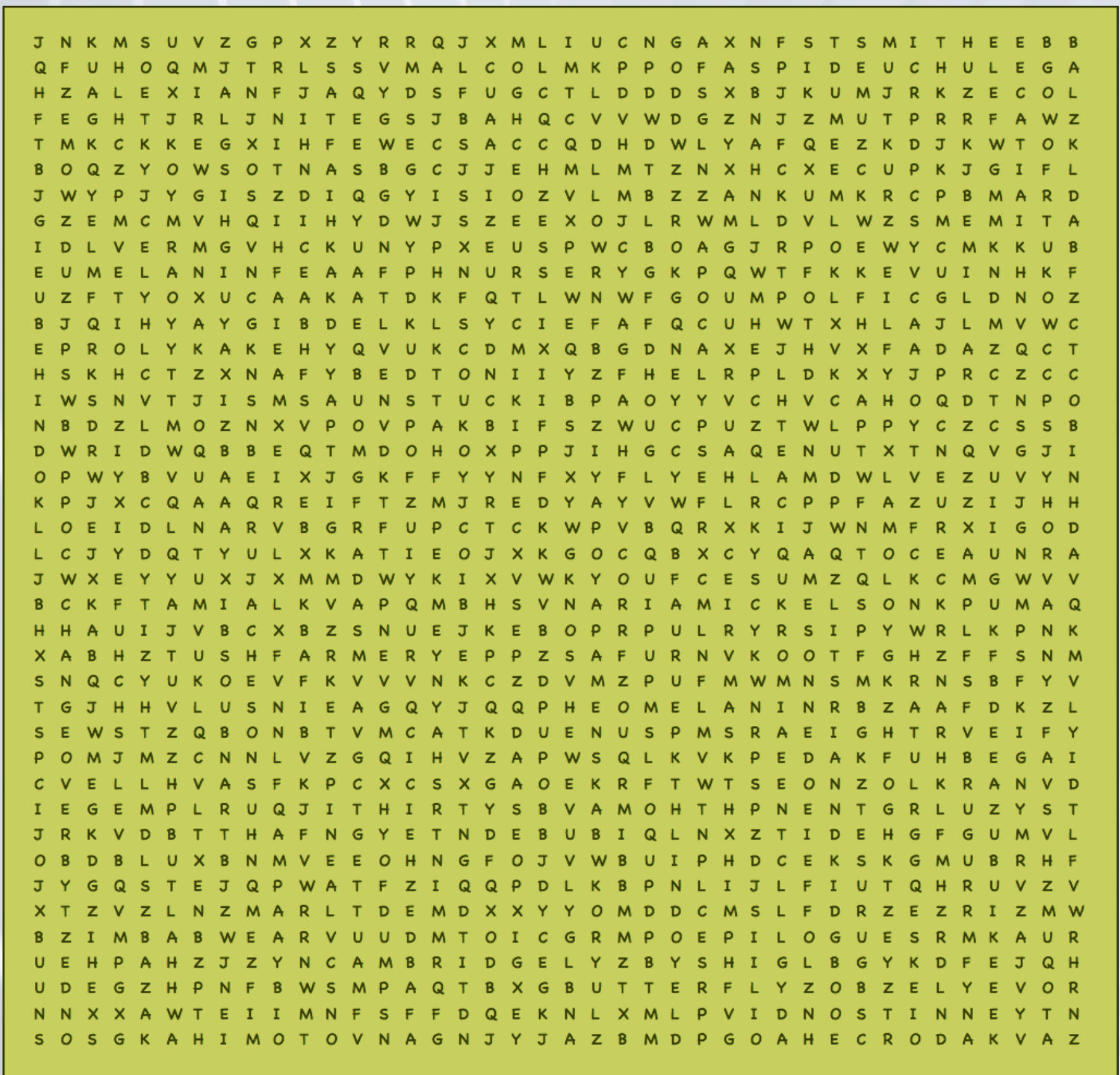
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ALRIGHT! It's APRIL and now, for sure, by now everyone has read MELANIN: A Novel. WHAT?! You haven't read MELANIN yet?! Come on! Everyone's waiting on you! Well, you'll certainly need it if you expect to complete last month's crossword puzzle! You can purchase it for the Kindle or get a paper (soft or hardback) edition at amazon.com! For those who HAVE read it, the answers to last month's crossword are on page 9. If you've read MELANIN, but still got stumped by the crossword puzzle, this month's word search contains the answers to all the crossword questions, so if you want to give it another go before peeking at page 9, this may help you! As to the answer key to this issue's word search, as always, the answers will be in next month's edition of the READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter.

[CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE COPY OF THE PUZZLE!](#)



APRIL WORD SEARCH WORDS

ACHESON
ALEXIAN
ANN
APOCALYPSE
ASPID
AZUBUIKE
BEHIND
BUTTERFLY

CAMBRIDGE
CHANGEOVER
EIGHT
EPILOGUES
EUMELANIN
FARMER
IYAPO YAPA
JAMESON

JESSICA
JOY
KAHIMOTO
KAPTEZIN
KATIE
KURZWEIL
MALCOLM
MICKELSON

MILLARD
NURSERY
OBIN
OCTOBER
PHEOMELANIN
PINEAL
QUANTUM
RAVENS

SMITHEE
SPEEDSTER
STINNEY
THIRTY
THYZINE
UNSTUCK
YIS
ZIMBABWE

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POOKIE, RAY RAY and LaQUITA and the END OF DAYS!

Admittedly I'm not disturbed when I hear anti-Black rhetoric or comments from people who are not Black. I expect it. As I say often, "Getting upset about or surprised by hearing anti-Blackness from white people is tantamount to being upset or surprised by a bird flying or a fish swimming." The point at which I'm taken aback is when it is my own people—BLACK people—who are parroting the toxic mess!

A narrative has developed that focuses on Black people as being the problem in the world. For some Black men, they contend that the problems of the world (or to be fair, the Black community at large) are the fault of Black women. It's the reverse, Black men, when it comes to a faction of Black women. Hence, we get "Passport Bros" and Black woman misandrists (whose hatred of men does not extend beyond BLACK men—hmmm I may start calling them negrandrists since the only men they hate are BLACK men), and divestors of both genders. The result is also boulé Black people and so called "coons" who, like Uncle Ruckus in the comic strip and animated series the Boondocks, have an ingrained contempt for Black people (as well as a conscious or subconscious contempt for themselves). Unfortunately, the hatred of self and others of our people is further exacerbated by people who seek, for their own self-serving, self-aggrandizing reasons, to further divide our people based upon our geographic locations and in what countries we were born—as opposed to looking at the TOTAL diaspora as a powerful force that could be rallied for the liberation of our people as a whole. (A strategy that would awaken all our people from this nightmare.)

Our people it seems, because of our proximity to whiteness and their 'LACK of value' system, now measure things in money and material wealth. Worse, we have been conditioned into thinking as the colonizer and exploiter of our people do—in zero sum. Because of this zero-sum thinking we get what results in the infamous "crabs in a bucket (or barrel), mentality.

An expression that I argue is in its way disingenuous because it makes the focus the crabs. I live near the beach and walk on it daily. I see crabs all the time. Never ONCE have I seen a crab attack another crab... not ONCE. They peacefully co-exist, roaming along the beach or into (or out of) their individual holes, minding their own business and doing what they do. The point being that when crabs are in their natural environment, they are fine. But take them and toss them into a barrel or bucket stacked one on top of the other, then they may seem to be

pulling one another down as they attempt to crawl out. Are they trying to pull the next crab back down? Do they think in terms like "Since I can't get out, I don't want anyone ELSE to get out.?" I doubt it! I believe that what they are actually attempting to do is escape. They are just grabbing hold of something, anything, that will help them move up and out. They are trying to get out of the bucket another being put them in. But, for the sake of argument and going with the analogy. At the end of the day, the

point is that the natural environment for a crab is not a BUCKET! When put in a bucket they behave in unnatural ways. The bigger question is, "Who put the crabs in the bucket?!"

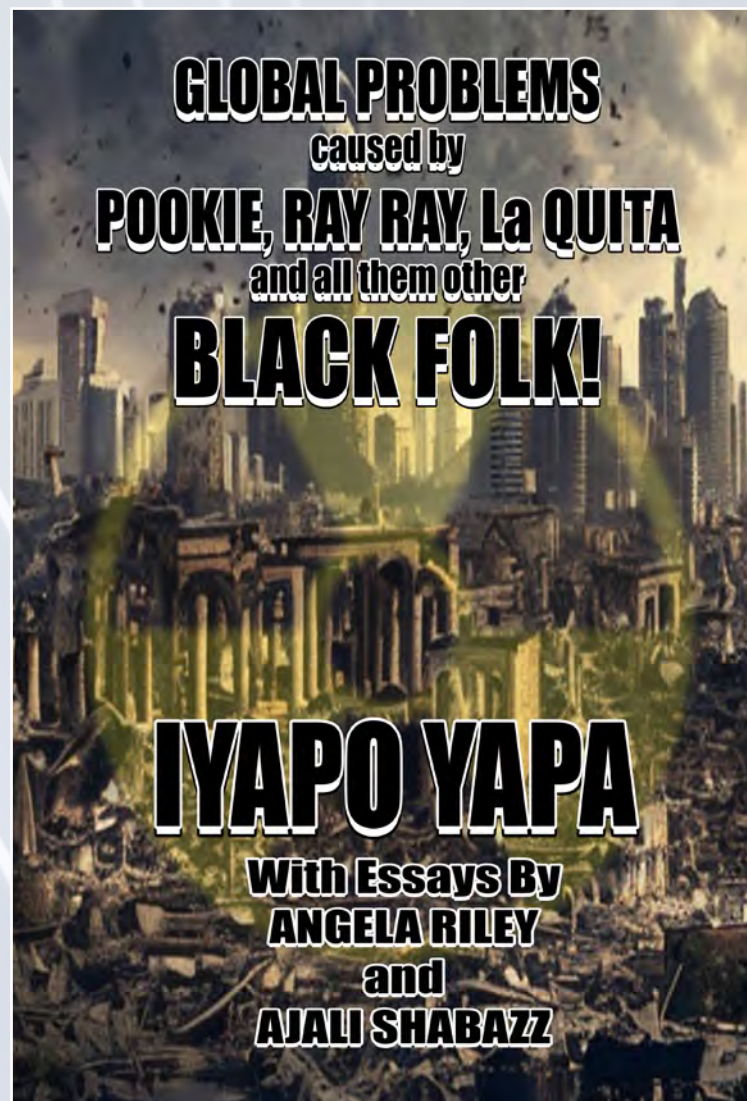
"A narrative has developed that focuses on Black people as being the problem in the world. For some Black men, they contend that the problems of the world (or to be fair, the Black community at large) are the fault of Black women."

I think the idea of us pulling someone down because we don't want to see them advance is not a good comparison. We have been taught to hate ourselves and our people and place the blame for our shortcomings squarely at our own feet. Look at a tree stump. All you will see is a stump. Who cut the tree down and for what reason? What would that tree have grown into had it not been chopped down? Is it the tree's fault it is in the state it's in?

I'm sick and tired of seeing our people blamed first and carrying the weight of atrocities committed AGAINST us, while at every opportunity, we seek to give a direct or passive 'pass' to the ones who PUT us in this position and are the REASON why we are in the sorry state we're in and remain so.

So, what does this have to do with my upcoming book?

I like satire and I find sarcasm, if done right, to be the most hilarious form of humor there is. (Second only to well done physical humor.) Some people find those forms of humor funny, some don't, it is all a matter of taste. That said, as I look at the world and the situation the oppressor and colonizer has forced us into, and as I look at and listen to what is said on social media platforms, I am seeing a disturbing trend. Admittedly, things may have already been like this, or this bad, but now because of the internet it is just more readily accessible. I notice a lot of our people seem to have fallen into a trap of anti-Blackness.



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The major reason for me writhing Global Problems caused by Pookie, Ray Ray, LaQuita and All Other Black Folk, is my anger at the fact that the focus for what is wrong is always upon our people—and worse—the segments of our population who have the least power to affect any lives in a negative or far reaching way. Meanwhile the people who are supposed to be the smartest in the room—the ones whom are the standard by which all others should be judged—seem to get off free and clear of any blame. I mentioned to a friend last night, that if the world were a car, white people are the ones driving into a ditch!

I am a Pan-Afrikanist, a Black Nationalist, and Unapologetically PRO-BLACK. Does that mean I'm necessarily against anyone who is not Black. Of course not, it simply means what it says—that I am FOR Black people. I am for our safety, security and sanity. I'm for our liberation and freedom. Others have it, as well all sentient beings should, why not US?! My book is pure satire and sarcasm through and through until the essays at the end of the book, in which I make my serious statements and observations, along with essays by ProBlack authors Angela Riley and Ajali Shabazz.

Each chapter is an outlandish retelling of history and other facts that explain how Pookie, Ray Ray, LaQuita and the rest of us Black folk are to blame for the WORLD (not just a city block) being in chaos. It seeks to put into perspective the pure insanity of looking at the situations that are happening GLOBALLY—endless wars, the surveillance state, the move toward a totali-

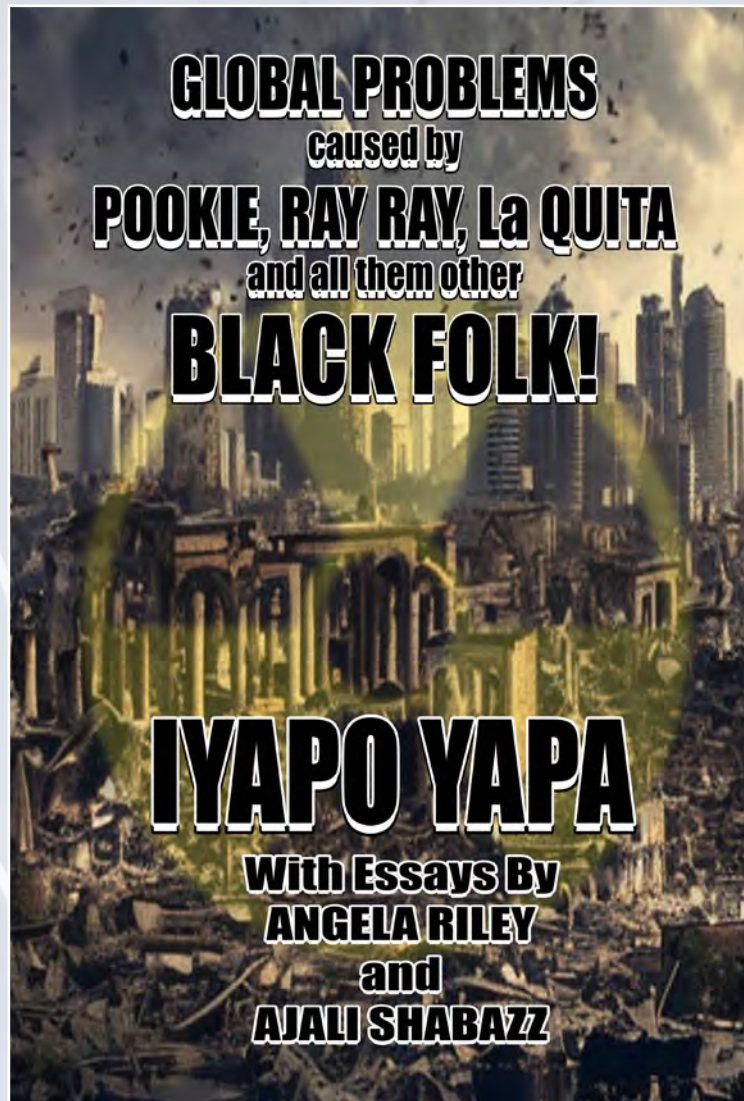
tarian, authoritarian world government, ecological breakdown, the irradiation of the entire planet, mass extinctions of species, biological and chemical warfare and their consequences, an impending financial collapse and the list goes on—and not placing the blame where it belongs. NONE of it caused by Black people! NONE! Yet on social media all we hear about is bad relationships, and how “Black men, or Black women ain't shit.” Or Black people who are not part of our 'group'. ALL while the world is collapsing around us! I'm hoping that the absurdity and over the top idiocy of what I've written in the chapters will wake some people up to how ludicrous it is to blame Black people for the ills of the world. YES, we have issues, but at the end of the day, our issues are localized and can be handled if we approach them correctly and frankly, my mind always goes back to the question I heard someone pose years ago and I NEVER forgot it:

“Tell me ONE problem Black people have that isn't caused by white people?”

This will be the first of my books to be sold exclusively through my website—no other outside distributors, at least for now. The book will only be in a digital, downloadable format for now, but it is sure to be a good read for anyone needing a laugh, while peering more deeply into a problem that needs to be seriously addressed.

It will be available soon on my site: <http://www.iyapoyapa.com>

Keep an eye out for it!



IT'S ALMOST HERE! As part of the Keepin' it a BUCK HORROR/SUSPENCE Series!



COMING IN MAY!

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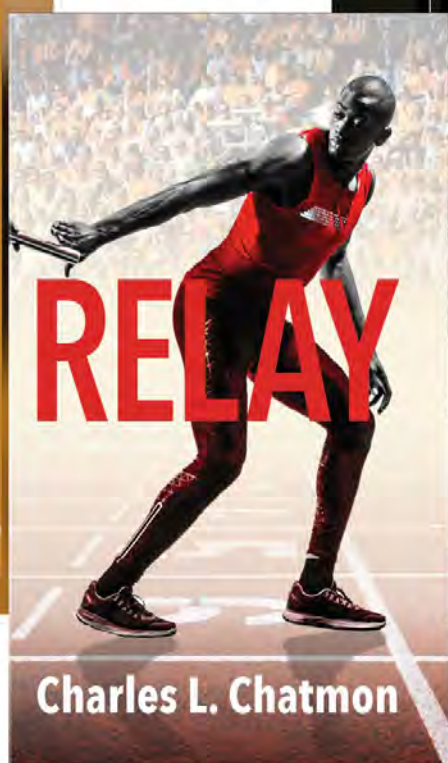
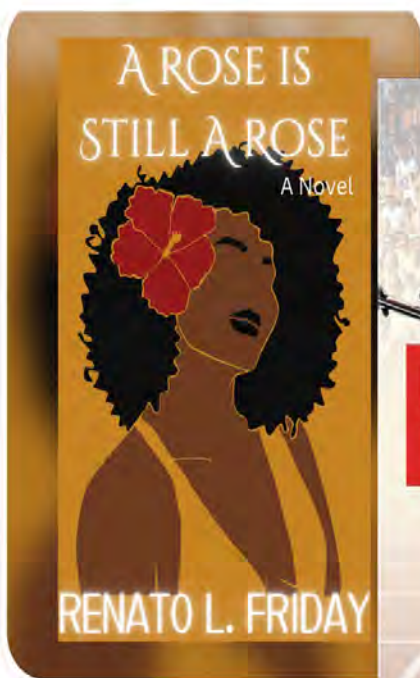
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HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE!

**MARCH 2023
MELANIN: A NOVEL
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE**

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BATTLEFIELDS: Melanin Book II

When I was a teenager, I was a thrasher. A skateboarder, and I was pretty darn good, even if I do say so myself. While visiting family in Georgia one year, I jumped on my rail (skateboard), literally every day for the month I was there. One day I went to a particularly steep incline (or decline from the top), that the skateboarders called “Dead Man’s Drop”. They said only a few skateboarders had ever made it all the way to the bottom from the top. I got it in my mind that I would become one of those few. Starting on my way down, since a few pretty girls were looking on, I pumped a few times to pick up speed and make it look even better.

Mistake.

I picked up speed quickly and before getting even halfway to the bottom I was moving faster on a skateboard than I had ever gone—faster than I thought was even possible—and I was exhilarated! Just as quickly I could feel my rail starting to vibrate beneath me and beginning to swerve. My exhilaration turned to panic as I realized there was no way possible I was going to get control of the board before I wiped out onto the hard pavement below. I decided that the better option would be to jump off before wiping out.

Not so much.

I will never forget the way (when I jumped off my skateboard at that speed) my feet hit the pavement. Then my feet bounced off the ground and my whole body did a near full summersault. I landed on my back, began rolling sideways, slid several feet, and finally stopped under the back of an ice cream truck. My skateboard had gone on down the hill the rest of the way.

Shaking like a leaf, I stood up with the help of some of the other children present. I was banged up, bruised, bleeding from my hands and elbows, and my clothes were ripped. Thankfully nothing was broken, and I hadn’t landed on my head. (I wasn’t yet wearing a helmet or padding in those days but made sure I got some pdq.) One of the children brought my skateboard back to me as everyone asked me if I was alright. I assured them I was, which was a half-truth.

So, what does that long drawn-out story have to do with BATTLEFIELDS: Melanin Book II?

I’ve always had this belief that were our people to finally find our-

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 B.

selves with this boot off our necks and no longer caught within a system of white supremacy—for at least the first years afterward (if not decades)—there would be an adjustment time. Our people would not just all of a sudden become completely sane and turn in to the Black Us we always were inside and always meant to be any more than me jumping off that skateboard would have stopped me cold in my tracks. No, the momentum of it picked me up and carried me. Then, I got knocked around about before finally sliding to a

stop. And even after that, the bruises from that stop took time to heal. So I perceive it will be similar when our people are finally free of this oppressive system.

“If you can control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his action. When you determine what a man shall think you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel that he is inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, for he will seek it himself. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one.”

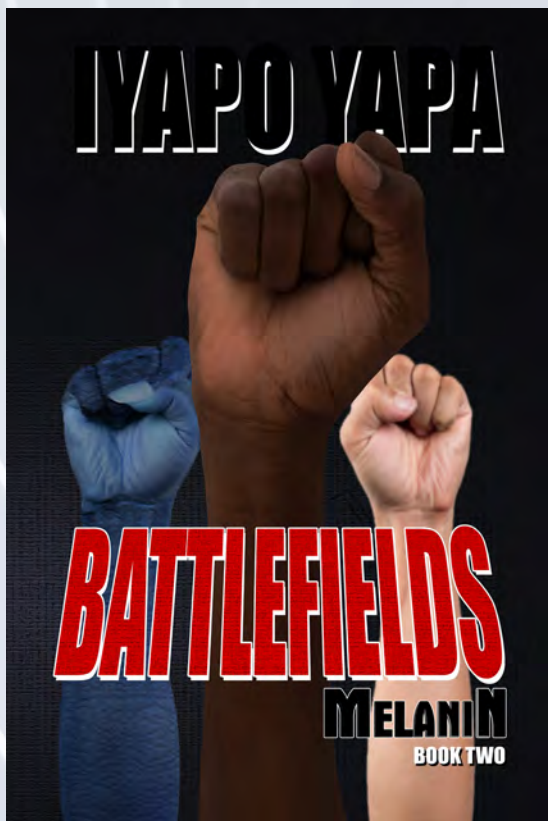
— Carter Godwin Woodson, *The Mis-Education of the Negro*

Battlefields is about what happens to our people after oppression, subjugation and terror by white people are a thing of the past. How do we build from there and how does one break out of a mindset that was so forced into us and so ingrained that we may not necessarily know how to break out of it.

And what about the white people who escaped?

These questions and more will be examined in BATTLEFIELDS: Melanin Book II Coming SOON!

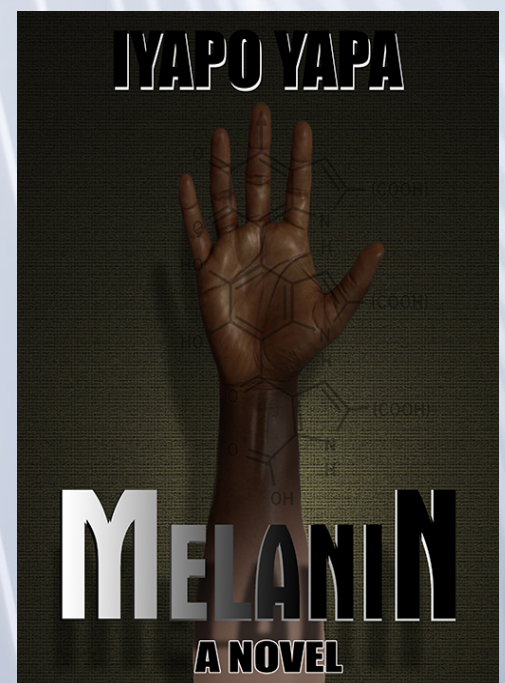
By the way, as sore and hurt as I was—when I got my skateboard, I went right back to the top of that hill and rode down again. That time I was not so cocky and reckless, knowing what to expect. And yes: I made it safely to the bottom, to the cheers of the young people who were with me. I know there’s a lesson in there somewhere. But let’s dig into that another day.



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MELANIN: A NOVEL

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visiting one of the retailers below.



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A Few Words About MOENEESUS the Oak Tree

So why in the world would I write a story about an oak tree as told by that oak tree? Frankly, I don't know.

Well, that isn't totally true. One day I was sitting and thinking about what our people have been through and all the atrocities we have had to suffer at the hands of a people who have no regard for us, our well-being (physical or mental), and our humanity.

There is a part of me that believes that even nature itself stands against these horrible acts as well as the entities who perpetrate them. That is the premise of another of my stories "An Oral History of Forgotten Cargo" (part of the Keepin' it a BUCK Series of 10 short stories available NOW on Amazon.com). I even explore some of these concepts in my new horror novel And What of the CARGO? (CARGO is also out right now and available digitally and in print—soft & hardcover—through amazon.com).

"Moeneesus the Oak Tree" is a story of friendship, tragedy, love, loyalty and hope that is sure to stir up emotions for you as you read it.

I am very proud of this story and that is why I offer it as a thank you gift to everyone who registers for this newsletter. (Be sure to tell your friends to get their copy by subscribing to READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter!) "Moeneesus the Oak Tree," in my opinion, is one of the best short stories I've ever written. ALL of the feedback I have gotten from people who have read it—and there have been a lot of people who have read it—is good. Most readers said that at some point the story made them cry. (Interestingly,

among the many who say that the story touched them that deeply, is the surprising fact that different people had very different places within the story that touched them deeply enough to make them shed tears.) If I'm to be completely honest, I actually shed a few as I was writing it.

Moeneesus was one of those stories I started writing and I knew exactly where I wanted to go with it, and ended up going there, even though the trip was far more emotional than I thought it would be.

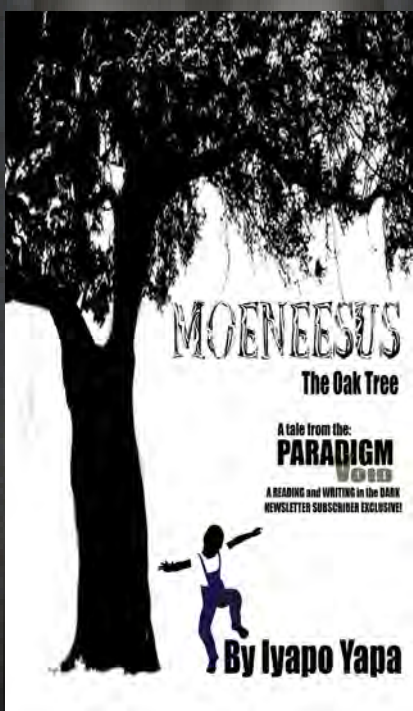
The little boy in the story, Kippy, was kind of an amalgamation of what I perceive our people to be: innocent, inquisitive, loving, caring, thoughtful, good natured, fun loving, creative and inventive. He is the type of little boy whom if I knew him in real life, I would think he was just about the most awesome child there was.

And then there's Moeneesus, who is everything that Kippy is and also full of wisdom and knowledge from all over the planet. How can an oak tree have wisdom and knowledge from all around the planet?

Give Moeneesus the Oak tree a quick read and find out. I'm sure you will love this short story if you haven't read it already.

Finally, I'd like to ask you a favor. If you've read "Moeneesus the Oak Tree" (or any of my work), please be sure to email me YOUR THOUGHTS at iyapo@iyapoyapa.

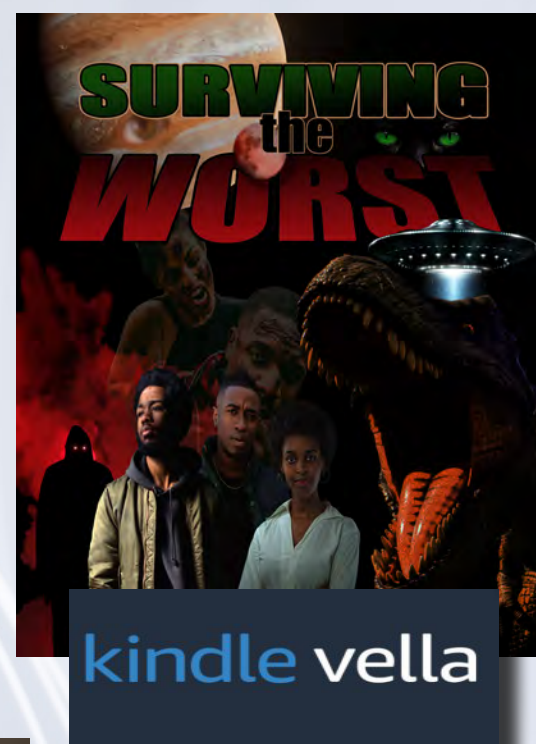
com. What did you enjoy most about the story? What surprised you? Did you cry? If so, when/where? I would love to hear from you! And... I might feature your review on my site.



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!



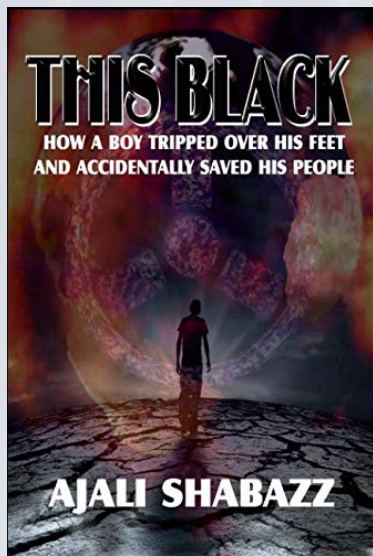
READING and WRITING in the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

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!

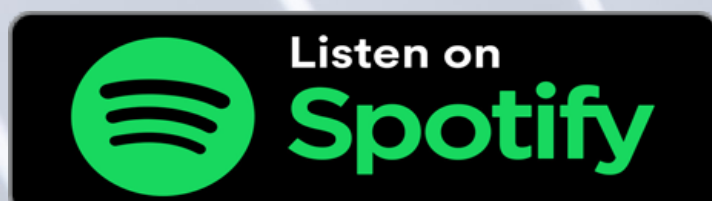
Listen to the interview on  by clicking the link below:

<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:



CLICK THIS BLOCK TO LISTEN TO THE

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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

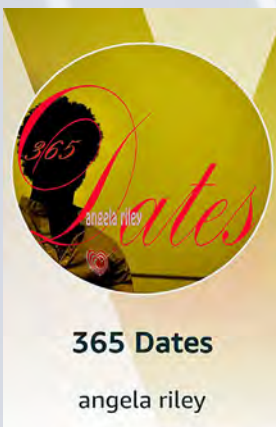
DeClaire and Tyrone meet and sparks fly. They fall in love with each other quick, fast, and in a hurry. It seems too good to be true. But is it? Is it safe to love? Are there any “good” rules when it comes to love? Do we have to fight for love? Are there always games being played when it comes to love?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



The Love X TamuTamu Agency

Angela Riley

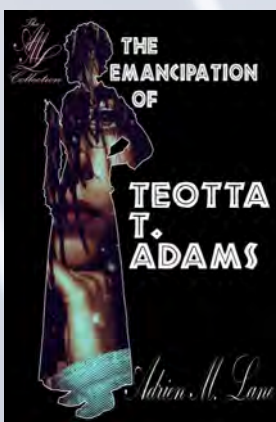
Love is natural but it ain't always easy. And Mama Tamu should know! She is a 91 year old match maker who has run “The Love X TamuTamu Agency” for FIFTY years. She has personally experienced and been a witness to all kinds of love. And, as she says, “Love is more than a notion!” Follow along as she stands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



365 Dates

Angela Riley

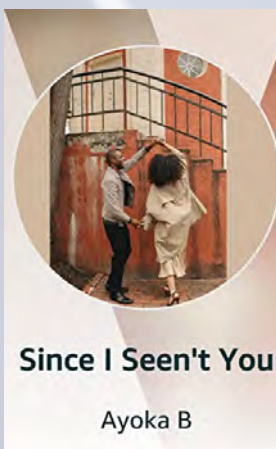
Single again, after my first divorce, one day I had a new thought: I WANT TO DATE. And... NOTHING. No one came knocking on my door to woo me. No one approached me when I was out wanting to court me. Nobody asked friends/family to be set up with me. Just crickets! So, thinking that maybe my goal was to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

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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 cover art to purchase their book.



Affirming Self Love (*Graphic Non-Fiction SERIES*)

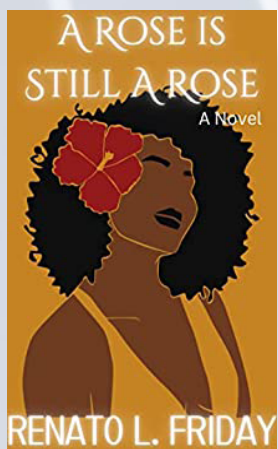
angela riley

SelfLOVE Meditation, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS Series...

Episode 1: *Following The Happy*

Episode 2: *Being Wanted*

Episode 3: *GOoD Lawd!*



A Rose is Still a Rose

Renato L. Friday

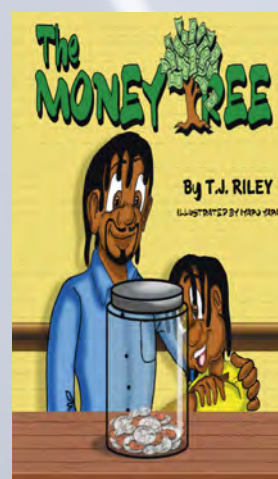
Rose thought life was going great: she was engaged, had a beautiful set of twin girls, a recent trade school graduate, and a new job right around the corner. Unfortunately, her fiancé, David, turned out to not be what she needed, and she chose to break things off. In the midst of her failing relationship,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

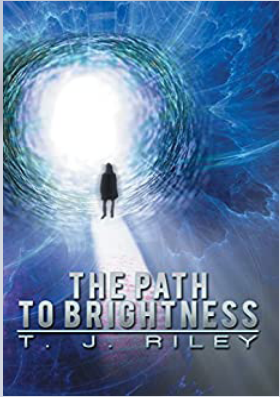
T.J. Riley / Illustrated by Iyapo Yapa

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.

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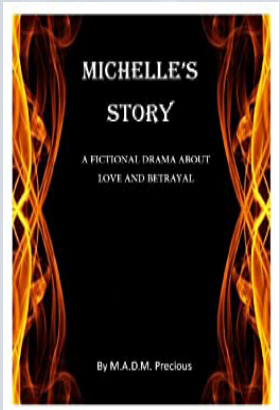
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THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

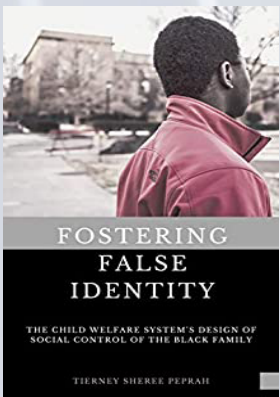
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince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

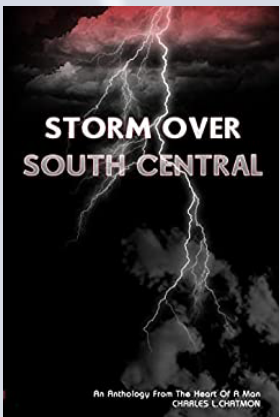
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



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

TAKE CONTROL OF OUR NARRATIVE!

THANK YOU for subscribing to the newsletter, I genuinely appreciate it! Be sure and spread the word about my work by telling others about my website, books, podcasts and such at: <https://www.iyapoyapa.com>

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WAPDO WAPDA

Tales of the
MONKEY'S PAW



NOT EVERY WISH GRANTED MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

IN 2023
BE CAREFUL WHAT
YOU WISH FOR!



Keepin' it a BUCK *series*

SHORT STORIES of HORROR and SUSPENSE