

READING and WRITING in the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers of

THIS ISSUE:

NEWSLETTER

Daniela

&

LARKIN

see love

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Puzzle and the answer key
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**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. 5
MAY 2023

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Writer/Layout/Editor-In-Chief

Angela Riley
Copy Editor

WELCOME BACK!

It is May and *And What of the CARGO?* has been out for a while, and I’m still getting good feedback about *MELANIN: A Novel!* I want to thank each and every one of you who are making these books, and my short stories a success. I’m very happy to know that people are reading my work and really getting something out of it and I am truly humbled by it. Thank you!

I also hope sincerely that you are enjoying the newsletter. My wife Angela says it’s more like a magazine, but for someone who is “extra” like me, it’s still a newsletter. I just want to put out the best content I can and show my respect to our people by always giving 100%!

So, here is your newsletter for May and I hope you enjoy reading them and doing the puzzles as much as I enjoy creating them!

Iyapo Yapa



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!

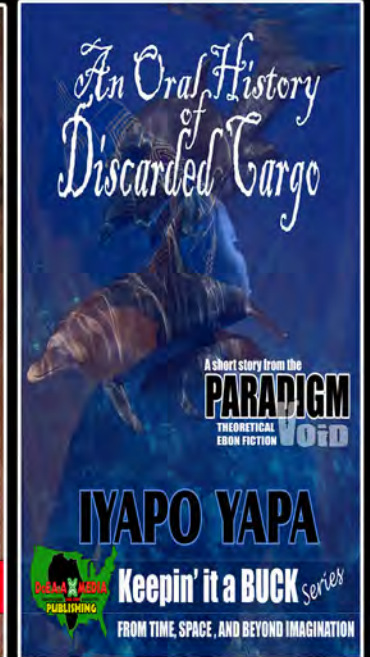
You don’t need a Kindle to read it, you can download the free Kindle app from your Android Store or from the Apple Store and read Kindle content on your favorite devices!



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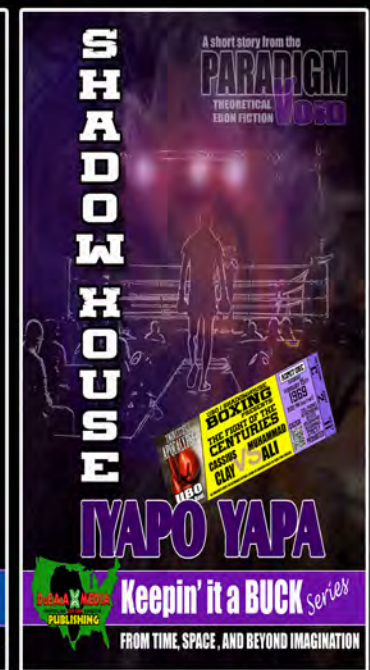
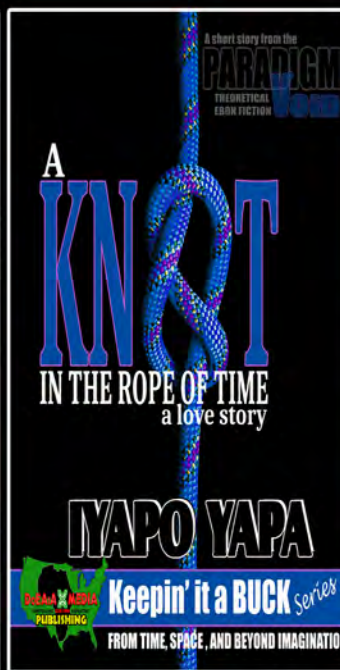


IT IS TIME TO JOURNEY INTO THE **PARADIGM VOID** ONE STEP AT A TIME.

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 is out NOW!



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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Danica & Larkin see love: Through A Glass Darkly

Most people won't know this: My newest novel, *And What of the CARGO?* is a spinoff of another story. The story is from the "Keepin' it a BUCK" Series (which is also part of the anthology book Paradigm VOID) and is called, "An Oral History of Forgotten Cargo". Now that I think about it, *And What of the CARGO?* has a spinoff of its own in the works, and it's a WESTERN no less.

I'm thinking about spinoffs because I have always found it interesting when a character or characters are introduced into a story and those characters elicit so much interest in me that I feel moved to give them their own stories.

Such is the case with *DANICA & LARKIN: Through A Glass Darkly*.

Danica and Larkin are characters from my Kindle Vella series *Surviving the WORST!* on Amazon. (Hmmm, I seem to have a thing about putting the last word of titles in all caps. I wonder why that is! Anyway...) The more I wrote the characters—especially the character of Danica—the more I liked them. From the beginning I had plans for the two of them, but they were only supposed to have been, basically, one shot characters who would show up for one or two episodes (maybe three), and then move on. But I was having so much fun with their personalities and the way they interacted with each other that I wanted to read more about them and know more about them which translates into writing about them.

From that came *DANICA & LARKIN: Through A Glass Darkly*.

In the episodic Kindle Vella series *Surviving the WORST!*, part of the story focuses on a book that was handed down from generation to generation, finally landing in the hands of one of the main characters, Carl Stouffer. As I worked through the generations I got to Danica Robeson and Larkin Stouffer. I already had it in mind that the relationship would follow the trope of the man who was very interested from the start, but a woman who wasn't giving him the time of day. As I went forward with writing and fleshing out the characters, especially Danica, I watched her personality develop along with the way she handled herself with young Larkin, and especially the way she handled herself when it came to the creature they faced together on their first "date".

The banter between them made me smile and really appreciate the nuance of the way some relationships develop. I have seen a lot of 'love at first sight' stories, and just as many he or she doesn't like him or her, but they end up hopelessly in love sto-

ries too. I knew this was going to shape up to be one of the latter kind.

My goal in *Surviving the WORST* was to attempt to trick the reader into thinking there was absolutely no way these two would end up as a couple, but my wife pointed out that CLEARLY, they were going to end up together. She told me that was one of the oldest tropes in romance stories so if I was going to

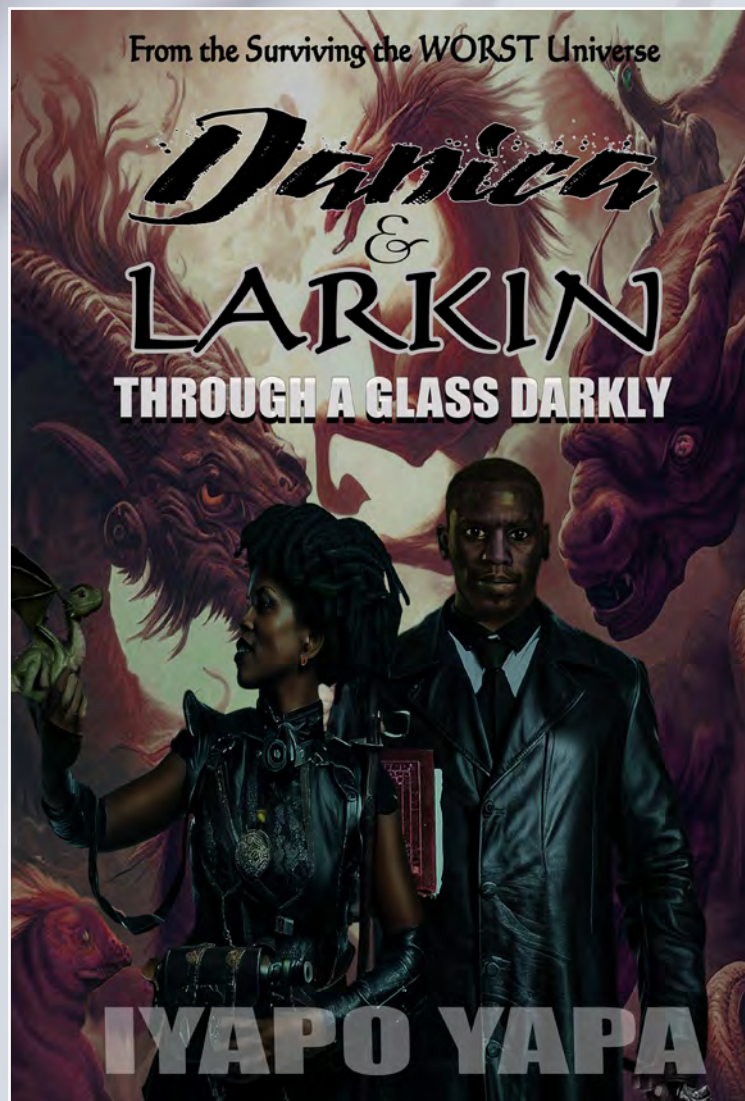
try to fool the audience into not seeing that those two were going to eventually become an item, I'd have to exhibit some story telling acrobatics that may be beyond my present skill level. (This is ME saying that, not my wife). So in lieu of trying to have a romance that just comes out of nowhere and takes the reader by surprise, I opted for just letting the reader see the natural conclusion of Danica and Larkin's interactions (in terms of the *Surviving the WORST* story line), and then flesh the whole thing out within the construct of their own spinoff.

"... I was having so much fun with their personalities and the way they interacted with each other that I wanted to read more about them and know more about them which translates into writing more about them."

The more I wrote the character, the more I REALLY started to like that Danica person (I liked Larkin too, but there was something about Danica that I found really fascinating and fun to write, I think that so far she may be my favorite character in all of my works). So I knew that I wanted to make these characters something more than a "one and done", I wanted to see more of them and the way their relationship developed. The problem with that was that I didn't want to derail the Kindle Vella series and take it too off track, as well as extending it beyond what I had planned originally for the story, (keeping in mind that the writing on that story is kind of fluid and free form, but I still needed to keep it centered).

So, as I said at the beginning, I decided to give Danica and Larkin their own series. (I originally kicked around the idea of just making their adventures into a novella and still may, but I'm presently leaning toward making it a Vella series.) That way, I can give them all the time they need to have adventures, encounter new creatures and eventually fall in love, and I can take it nice and sloooooow.

I'm hoping you will enjoy their exploits as much as I do!



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TALES of the MONKEY'S PAW

Ok. I've read two stories in my entire life that actually either scared me or made me feel so uneasy that I had to stop reading.

The first was a story by H.P. Lovecraft. (Don't ask me the title because there is no way I could tell you; it was a long time ago. Although I don't remember what it was called, I DO very distinctly remember how it made me feel. Like I said: SCARED.) I read that one all the way though because it was a short story that someone suggested to me. I remember I started reading it at the start of my lunch hour and it only took me about a half hour or so to read (and I was a slow reader—still am). The story was simple, it was about a man going down into a hole and once down there something in the darkness started holding a conversation with him. The entity was never described in the story, nor did it kill the man it was talking to, but CRAP! the way it was written scared the livin' daylights outta me. That story had my neck on a swivel for about two hours after I read it and it was one something in the afternoon, in broad daylight.

Next came, *I am Legend* by Richard Matheson. It bore little resemblance to the Will Smith version, but the Vincent Price black and white telling was way closer. The book was very atmospheric and left me in a state of unease every night as I read it. (That was my first mistake: I kept reading it at night right before going to bed; not the wisest thing to do.) The book started giving me nightmares and I abandoned it about three quarters of the way through. I may yet go back to it one day.

Finally, there was *CUJO* by Stephen King. The book was about a rabid St. Bernard. Nothing really scary about that if you really look at it. (Kind of like *Jaws*. Stay out the water. Everything's fine.) The book didn't end like the movie and was far more nuanced. By the time I finished with it I was nervous about walking down the freakin' street.

So now, with my *Tales of the Monkey's Paw* series, my goal is to write something thought provoking, suspenseful and yes... SCARY (at

times). I look at other works that are scary to me and attempt to put those elements into my new horror/supense "Keepin' it a BUCK Series". As outlined in my article in the January 2023 issue of READING and WRITING in the DARK the stories are inspired by the original 1902 story "The Monkey's Paw" by William Wymark Jacobs. The story closed and that was the end of it, but I always thought that something like that needed to be examined further, so here we are.



"The way it was written scared the livin' crap outta me. That story had my neck on a swivel for about two hours after I read it..."

At its heart "The Monkey's Paw" is based on one of my favorite tropes: the Faustian Bargain. But there won't be any outright soul selling going on here. Instead, these stories deal with wishes and the endless number of ways they can go sideways!

Can. And do.

As always, the stories will be centered on Black us and presenting our people the way we really are, the good, the bad and the ugly. But ALWAYS from a standpoint of fairness, love, honor and respect. And yes, sometimes I may be a little bit hurt by the predicaments some of our protagonists may find themselves in, but if they didn't get into trouble what fun would THAT be?

Interestingly enough, it's not **always** guaranteed that things will go wrong for our heroes... But you never know.

You'll have to read them to find out.

And remember, ALL the short stories in the "Keepin' it a BUCK Series" are always ONE DOLLAR! Wow! All that entertainment for a BUCK! Who could ask for anything more?!



MAY IS THE MONTH! As part of the Keepin' it a BUCK HORROR/SUSPENCE Series!



And don't forget to check out the original Keepin' It a BUCK Series featuring tales of **Theoretical Ebon Fiction!**

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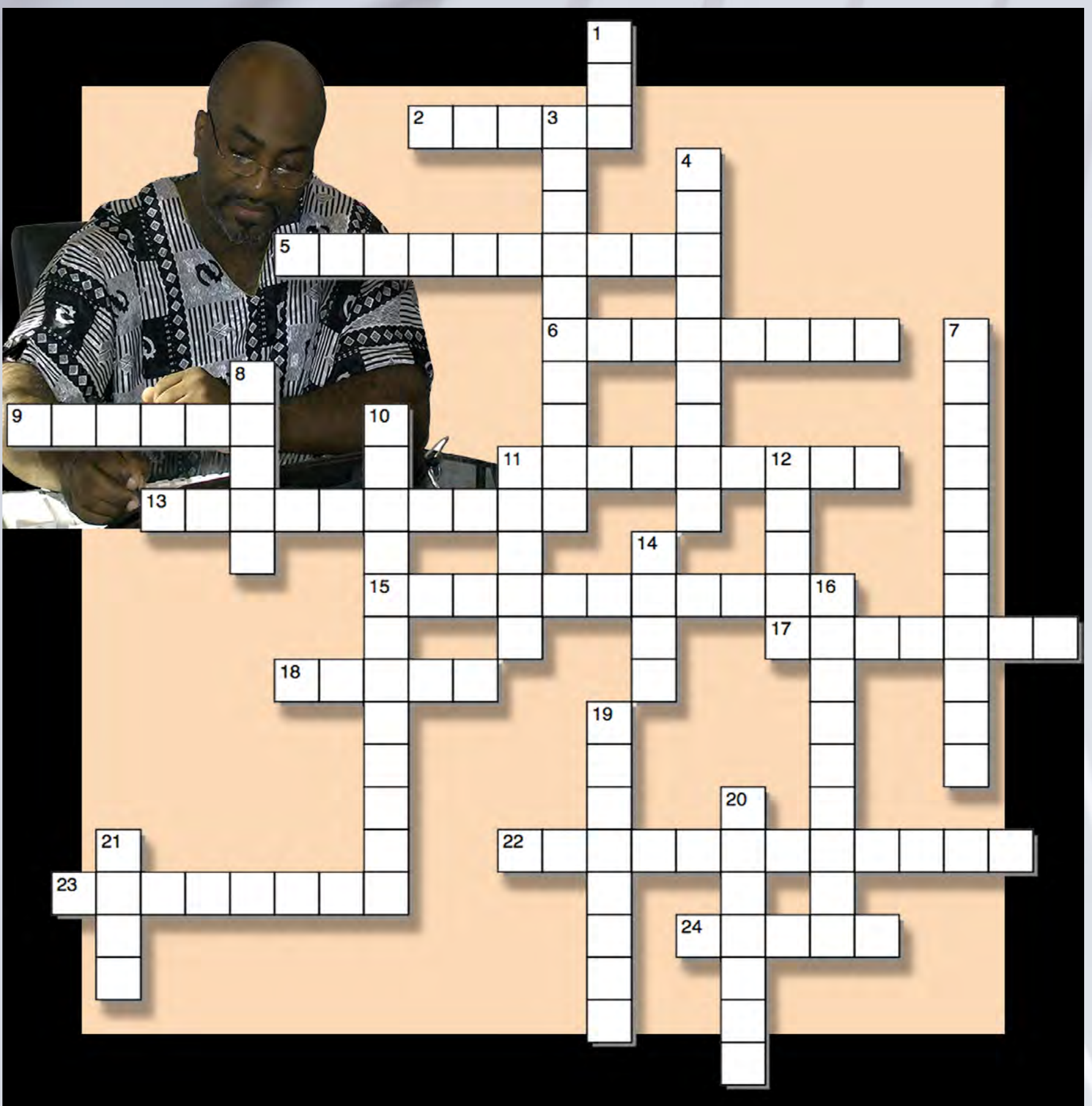
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MAY CROSSWORD: TITLES!

This month's Crossword Puzzle is short, sweet and to the point. All the questions are the titles of my published and upcoming works. Nope, it isn't as difficult as it may seem. ALL the answers are either on my website: <https://www.iyapoyapa.com>, on my Amazon author profile page or in the pages of the back issues of this newsletter series, READING and WRITING in the DARK. The answer key to last month's word search is at the back of the newsletter, and the answers for this issue's crossword, as always, will be in next month's edition of the READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter. HAVE FUN!

CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE COPY OF THE PUZZLE!



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE QUESTIONS

Across

2. A spinoff from the MELANIN universe: *We-_____ A.R.*
5. 8th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "Frozen _____".
6. First collection of short stories: _____ *VOID*.
9. Upcoming story that is a spinoff of *Surviving the WORST! Danica & Larkin: Through a Glass _____*.
11. Short story that is a gift for registering for the newsletter: "_____ the Oak Tree".
13. 7th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "_____".
15. Title of the upcoming western: *The _____*.
17. 6th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "_____ Town".
18. 3rd story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series. "A _____ of Darkness".
22. The sequel to *MELANIN: A Novel*: _____ *MELANIN Book Two*.
23. Upcoming second book of short stories: *Further _____ into the Paradigm VOID*.
24. Second novel released by Iyapo Yapa: *And What of the _____?*

Down

1. Upcoming book of Micro Sci-Fi: *Sci-Fi on the _____*.
3. First novella to be released soon *The _____ of Maxine Allison*.
4. 5th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "An Oral History of _____ Cargo".
7. 10th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series. "_____".
8. 4th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "The Eyes of the _____".
10. Upcoming book of poems and observations: *Poems, Thoughts and _____*.
11. Children's book written by T.J. Riley and illustrated by Iyapo Yapa: *The _____ Tree*.
12. 2nd story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series: "_____".
14. 1st story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series. "Person _____".
16. Iyapo's first Kindle Vella Series: "_____ the WORST"!
19. Upcoming mind bending novel: *The Dreams of a _____ God*.
20. First novel released by Iyapo Yapa: _____ : *A Novel*.
21. 9th story in the Keepin' it a BUCK Series. "A Knot in the _____ of Time".



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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Book Review: Storm Over South Central

Ask an American who has never been out of the country about Ghana and he or she will tell you about Ghana (or their perception of Ghana). Ask a Jamaican about United States, and they will do the same. Ask someone from Florida about what it's like to live in Alaska and they'll tell you what they think.

Some of what they say may be accurate, some of it not. We have all seen movies that are supposed to be set in specific cities, but those who live there know some of the landmarks are out of place, non-existent or from another city altogether.

So, how can we get a real feeling for life in another place—a place we have never visited or may never visit?

When it comes to South Central L.A., Charles L. Chatmon takes us there by way of his book *Storm Over South Central*.

I was made aware of Mr. Chatmon's work through a YouTube Channel called: GoldenBlackOne89. On it the host read several of his poems, and I became intrigued, so I found his channel and immediately purchased one of his books.

When I purchased this work, I thought it was purely a book of poetry, but found to my surprise and delight that the piece is so much more. *Storm Over South Central* is a collection of poems, thoughts, asides and short stories that all paint a picture of life in South Central in general and the world of the author specifically. Mr. Chatmon's prose is tight without pretense. It is straight forward with a kind of diplomacy that has become far too rare in the present world. It is obvious he is a man of deep passions, emotion and thought while still

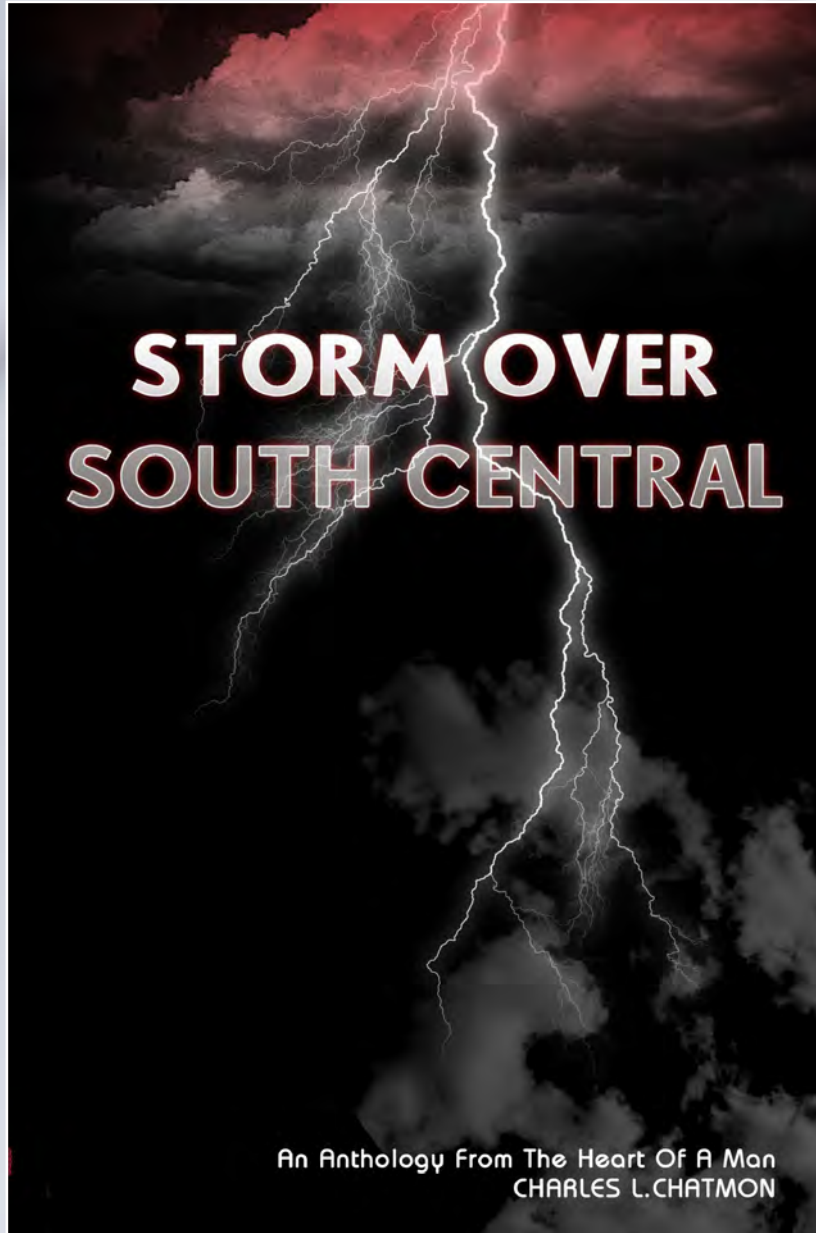
being what could be deemed in the vernacular a "stand up" guy. You in no way get the impression Mr. Chatmon is some kind of pushover.

Along with being well written and well thought out, his positions are well defended. *Storm Over South Central* is filled with thought provoking nuggets of truth and wisdom. One may or may not agree with everything in the book, but this much is certain: after reading the final sentence, you will have a deeper understanding of life in South Central and have a more rounded sense of the difficulties and triumphs of life there.

"When I purchased this work, I thought it was purely a book of poetry, but found to my surprise and delight that the piece is so much more."

Charles L. Chatmon is your pilot, and he does an excellent job navigating us safely through the STORM OVER SOUTH CENTRAL and into blue skies. Any library that does not have this work as a part of it's collection can't help but be somehow incomplete.

I am presently reading his new novel, *RELAY* and am enjoying it very much. Chatmon also has a new book of short sci-fi stories titled *Strange Tales of Science Fiction* coming soon.



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

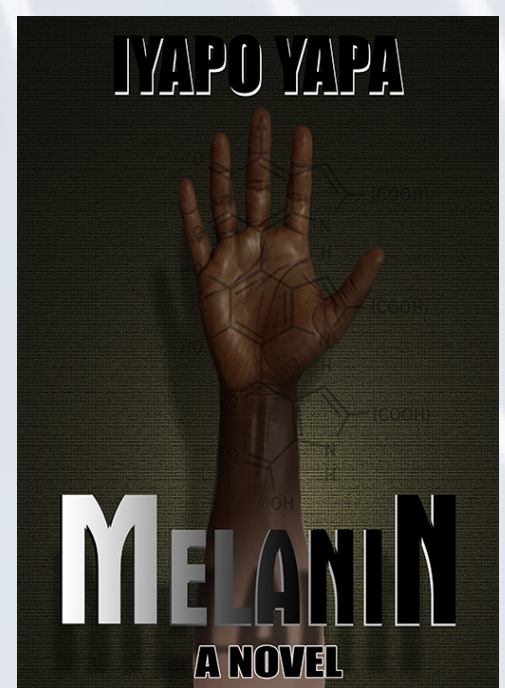
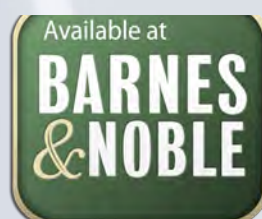
"It was exciting! I stayed up a few nights wanting to see what was coming!"

- Ayoka B.

AVAILABLE NOW!

MELANIN: A NOVEL

Buy it now by visiting one of the retailers below.



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What's with all the CONSPIRACY THEROISTS?!

From IYAPO'S BLOG Tue, 12 Jul 2022

People who demonize or ridicule “conspiracy theorists” have, in my opinion aimed their sights in the wrong direction.

What creates a conspiracy theory?

Obfuscation, misdirection, gas lighting and outright lies.

I would suggest that conspiracy theories are not and were not rampant among Black people until we came in contact with Europeans. When living in a society where yes is yes, no is no, and truth is truth (NOT subjective – MY truth and YOUR truth), then there is absolutely no need for “conspiracy theories” because the person or populace knows fairly accurately, what's ACTUALLY going on.

I believe conspiracy and conspiracy theories are European and Western constructs – or byproducts if you will of societies that at their foundation are built upon and revere untruths, falsehoods and lies.

Some theories turn out to be pure B.S. and others turn out to be true (a phenomenon that is becoming far more prevalent). But what is true about ALL of them is that the root of the theories are ALL the same! The pursuit of the TRUTH, or put another way, a desire to make something make sense that, according the narrative we are given, makes ABSOLUTELY no sense whatsoever!

Example (in terms of Black people, we repeat the mantra):

“The police are here to protect and serve.”

Therefore we are COMPLETELY LOST when it comes to reconciling that narrative with their ACTIONS! For example, filling an unarmed Black man (Jayland Walker), with SIXTY bullets in SIX seconds, and then handcuffed him as he lay dead or dying – while bringing in alive a white man who had just murdered SEVEN people and wounded over TWO DOZEN others.

Or

“Justice is blind and we are all the same in the eyes of the law.”

Same principle of confusion as stated about the police.

The problem is the foundational premise, which is the narrative itself. If the narrative is accepted, then NOTHING ANY of these entities do will EVER make, even REMOTELY, any kind of sense!

“If one's foundational premise is flawed, then anything that comes FROM that premise will be equally flawed if not more so.”

But...

Try replacing THAT foundational premise with THIS one:

“When it comes to the police and the “justice” systems; their jobs are to terrorize, harm, subjugate, oppress and murder Black people.”



“I believe conspiracy and conspiracy theories are European and Western constructs – or byproducts if you will of societies that at their foundation are built upon and revere untruths, falsehoods and lies.”

SUDDENLY, like a thousand watt bulb turning on at once in a room that was originally pitch black - their actions make ABSOLUTE SENSE and LINE UP based upon THAT premise!

Let's say for the sake of argument that what I've stated above about the purposes of those entities is not what was stated (though I personally believe it TOTALLY is), then that doesn't change the fact that many

Black people will develop alternate theories about the purposes and goals, NOT based upon a desire to create something out of whole cloth or thin air, but to somehow reconcile what we've been taught with what we experience, for the purposes of congruence.

The other option being of course, the cognitive dissonance that many of our people experience unfortunately.

I once heard someone say (I can't recall whom), that “If you want to know the GOALS of an organization, DO NOT go by, or pay attention to their stated goals, charter or mission statement - look at their consistent outcomes, and I emphasize – CONSISTENT OUTCOMES – and you will know the ACTUAL goal and purpose of the organization.”

Hopefully, as you consider this and various areas of life, whether on a micro or macro level, another thousand watt bulb just went off. You can read more of my blog posts by clicking the image below.



BLOG

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Black Writers
Retreat



& cultural Exploration

Take a "Kwanzaa Pause" in...

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Tuesday, December 26, 2023 ~ Monday, January 1, 2024

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CLICK ANYWHERE ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO GO TO THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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In he mood for a little MICRO Sci-Fi?! Here is: *MUSIC APPRECIATION*

'...as he rises to her apology, anybody else would surely know...'

"Nelson."

'He's watching her go,'

"Nelson! Turn that down a little bit please!"

'But what a fool believes ... He sees ... No wise man has the power, To reason away,'

"Just a second Honey!"

'What seems ... To be ... Is always better than nothing,

There's nothing at all, But what a fool believes ...

He sees...'

Satisfied, Nelson grabbed the remote, and lowered the stereo volume. He loved that song.

The subtle strings floating in as the chorus started, the high notes sung at the end.

Awesome!

Debbie almost never asked him to turn down his music. If she did, their daughter Lois was trying to sleep.

Nelson clicked to another track, this time preparing for Jimmy Page's "Kashmir".

Bass drum, heavy snare and power chords came in soft - NO! "Kashmir" had to be listened to at full volume! Nelson pointed the remote at his stereo with purpose

and turned the volume from 27 to 89. The music thundered!

"NELSON!"

Nelson felt himself being shaken. Suddenly, the world became empty.

He opened his eyes to see his wife smiling at him, her mouth moving in a familiar pantomime.

"Wake - up - time - to - get - dressed - for - work."

Her exaggerated lip movements corresponded with her hand gestures.

She pointed to the alarm clock.

6:07 am.

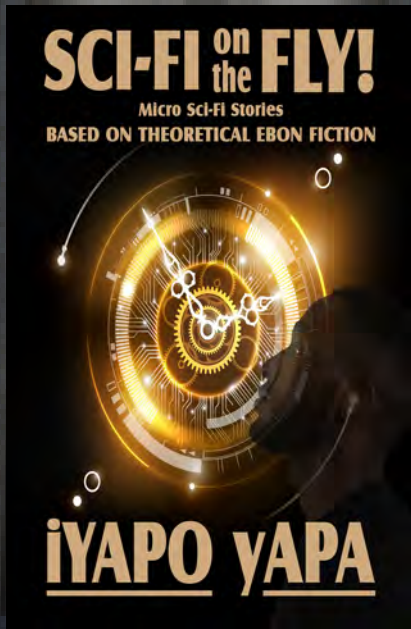
Debbie kissed Nelson on the lips and signed to him: *Breakfast is almost ready.*

Thanks. Nelson signed back.

As he showered, Nelson now 37, who had gone completely deaf at 23, contemplated.

Experiencing things, you can't hear is like eating things you can't smell. "Guess I'll just have to finish listening to 'Epic' when I go to sleep." Then chuckling, "I wonder what Deb actually sounds like?"

(A Micro Story from the upcoming *SCI-FI on the FLY!*)



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!



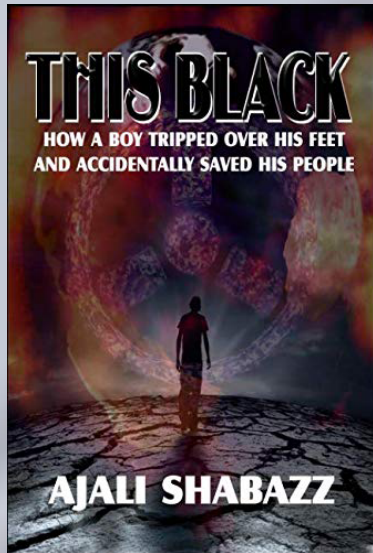
READING and WRITING in the

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

READING and WRITING in 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

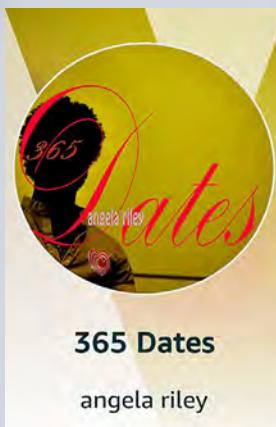
DeClaire and Tyrone meet and sparks fly. They fall in love with each other quick, fast, and in a hurry. It seems too good to be true. But is it? Is it safe to love? Are there any “good” rules when it comes to love? Do we have to fight for love? Are there always games being played when it comes to love?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



The Love X TamuTamu Agency

Angela Riley

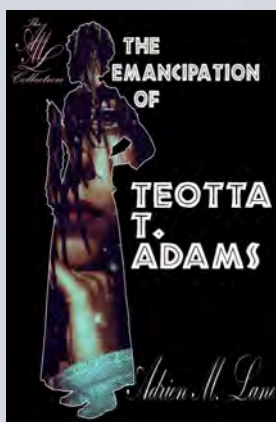
Love is natural but it ain't always easy. And Mama Tamu should know! She is a 91 year old match maker who has run “The Love X TamuTamu Agency” for FIFTY years. She has personally experienced and been a witness to all kinds of love. And, as she says, “Love is more than a notion!” Follow along as she stands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



365 Dates

Angela Riley

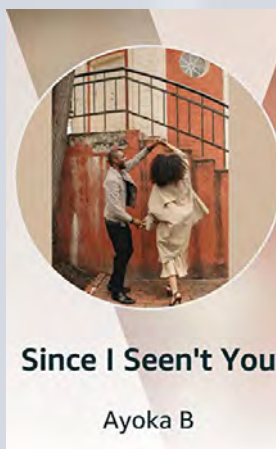
Single again, after my first divorce, one day I had a new thought: I WANT TO DATE. And... NOTHING. No one came knocking on my door to woo me. No one approached me when I was out wanting to court me. Nobody asked friends/family to be set up with me. Just crickets! So, thinking that maybe my goal was to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



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)

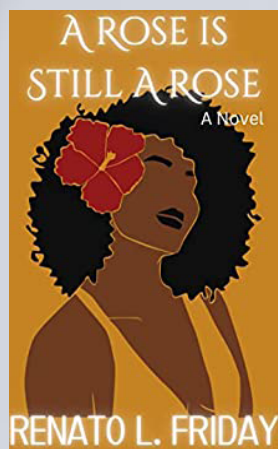
angela riley

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

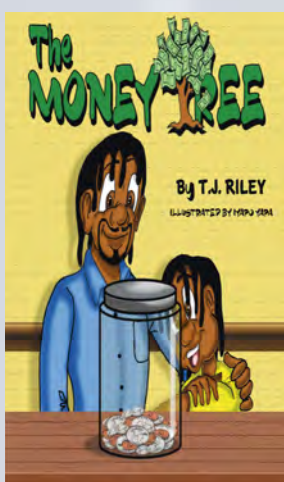
Rose thought life was going great: she was engaged, had a beautiful set of twin girls, a recent trade school graduate, and a new job right around the corner. Unfortunately, her fiancé, David, turned out to not be what she needed, and she chose to break things off. In the midst of her failing relationship,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

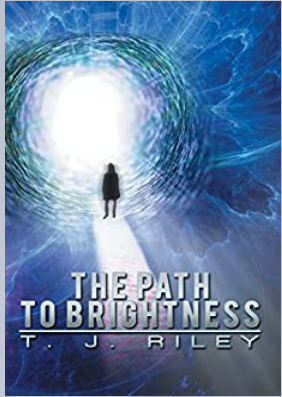
Inspired by the poem Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti, two young sisters face the trials and tribulations of the hood in this coming-of-age story about the harshness of living in South Central Los Angeles.



The Money Tree

T.J. Riley / Illustrated by Iyapo Yapa

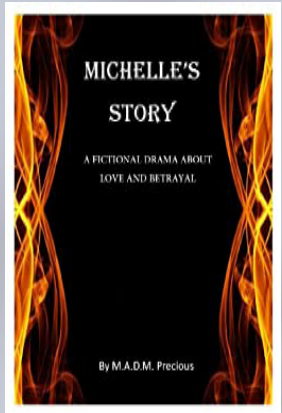
Every child wants money to buy something, right? Our hero does too. But, his father has a surprise, a Money Tree. Join the fun journey to find out how to grow your own money tree.



THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

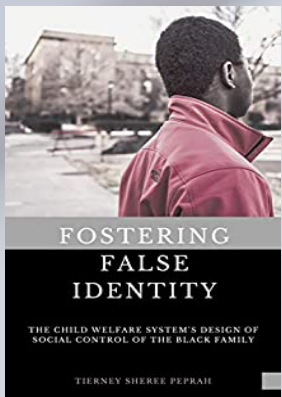
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince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

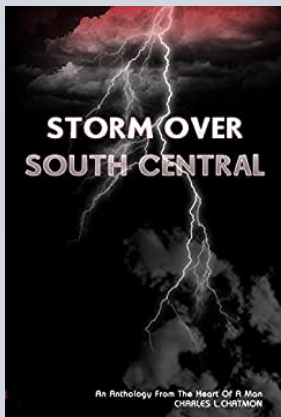
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self-esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



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.

A 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>

You can also find Iyapo Yapa on:

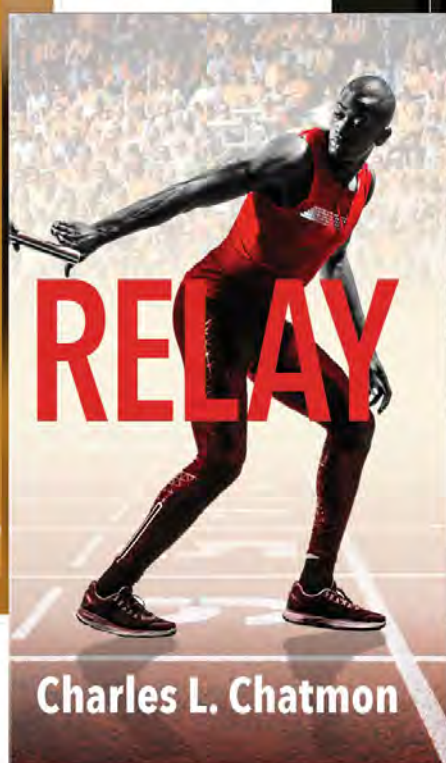
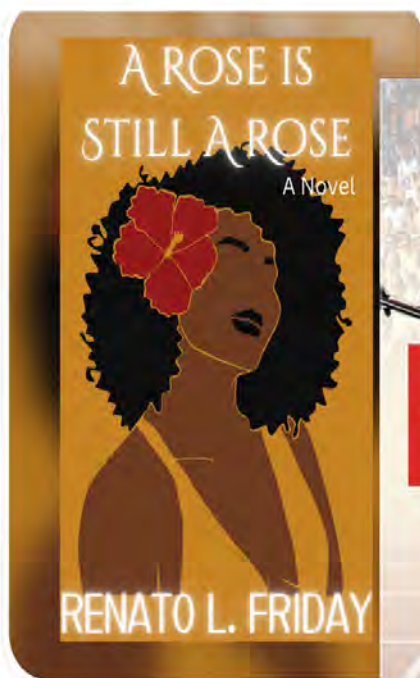


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HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S WORD SEARCH PUZZLE!



AND CHECK OUT THE WORK OF THESE FANTASTIC AUTHORS!

WADO WADA

Tales of the
MONKEY'S



NOT EVERY WISH GRANTED MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

BE CAREFUL WHAT
YOU WISH FOR!



Keepin' it a BUCK *series*

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