

READING and WRITING in the  
**DARK**

*A space for avid Black readers and Black authors*

# NEWSLETTER

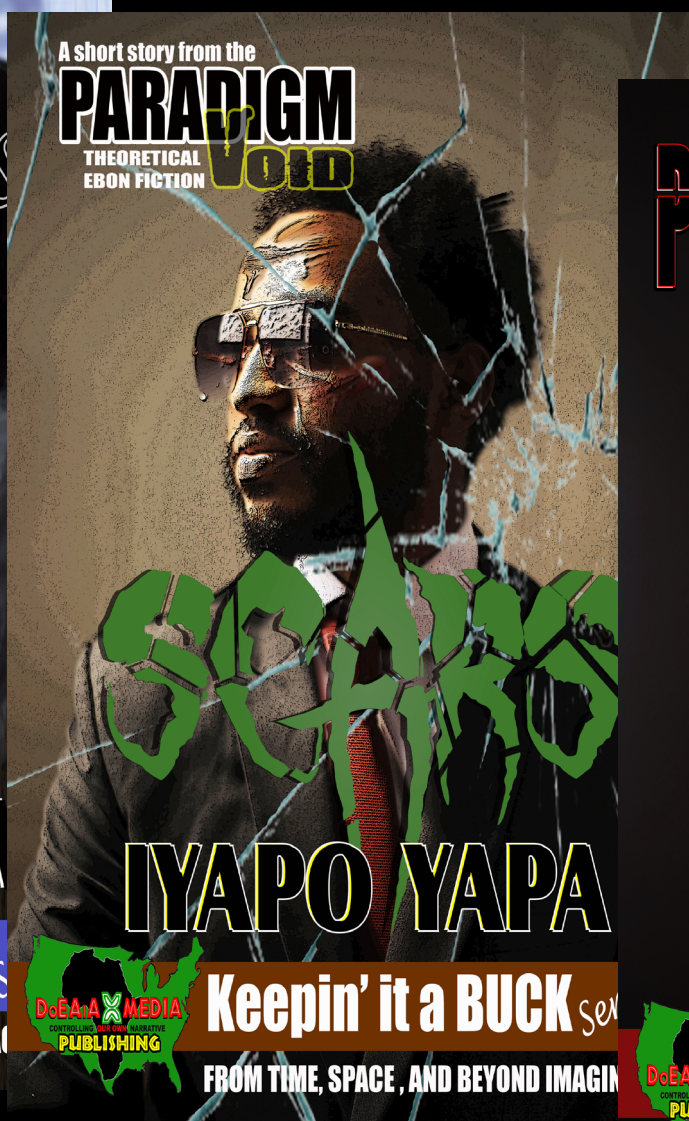
This issue: Iyapo's gonna be...



## Keepin' it a BUCK!

Iyapo explodes onto the scene with short stories from the Paradigm Void!

Page 3



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



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READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter  
Vol. 1 No. 5  
NOVEMBER 2022

Iyapo Yapa  
Writer/Layout/Editor In Chief

Angela Riley  
Copy Editor

### WELCOME BACK!

As a PRO BLACK writer, I sometimes ponder exactly what that means.

Lately I have been hearing more and more Black people either saying that being Pro Black isn't even a real thing, or that the entire movement/group who claim Pro Blackness are duplicitous at best. They claim that the "movement" (if indeed there IS one), is made up of Black people who don't understand there's actually no cohesion among our people and therefore makes the premise itself flawed; or that Black people who claim Pro Blackness are just hypocrites, many of whom claim to be "Pro Black while sleeping white" either literally or figuratively.

Admittedly, the majority of this narrative is relegated to social media spaces. One could argue that social media is not the real world - though it is undeniable that things that happen in social media spaces can have real world consequences. (Just ask someone who got scammed or catfished online, or who possibly even met their spouse, or built their living monetarily in online spaces). That said, I won't claim to have done the amount of research necessary to say one way or the other if this "anti-ProBlack" if you will, sentiment is something relegated predominantly to the realm of social media, and if even within that construct, has an even smaller footprint.

One way or the other, for right now at least, I consider myself to be ProBlack and a few years back I wrote an article about it in UP Magazine (my and my wife's own ProBlack magazine) "What it means to be ProBlack!" You can read the article and the entire magazine for FREE at: <https://doeaiamedia.com/page-2.html>.

And with THAT, 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*

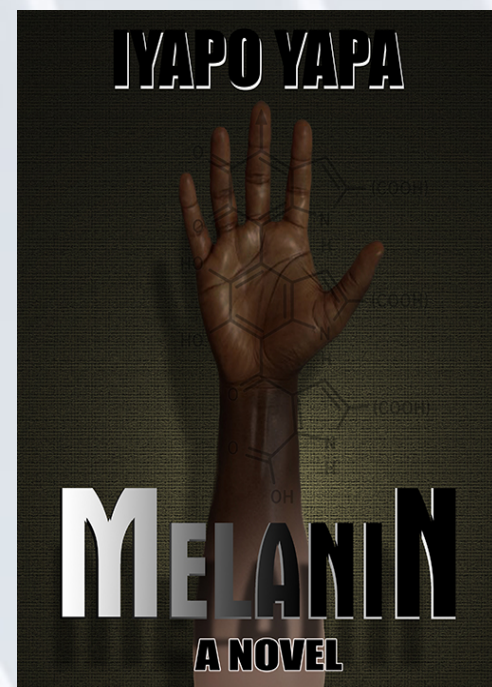
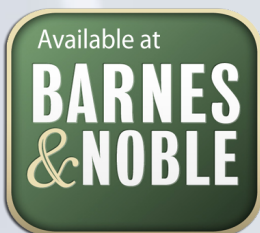
"Every Black person needs to read this book!"  
- Gwen B

"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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## Iyapo's Keepin' it a BUCK!



I'm looking SO forward to the release of my next book *Paradigm VOID* which is a compilation of (what was), ten short stories, which will now be expanded to eleven, all in the realm of **THEORETICAL EBON FICTION**. While working through the initial edits of the book I thought about it and kept saying to myself, "Why don't I release these as individual short stories? Then at the end, just put the entire thing out as a compilation?" So that's what I did! So now I am proudly presenting the "Keepin' it a BUCK Series", tales from the *Paradigm Void* and the world of *Theoretical Ebon Fiction*.

All the stories are short reads (relatively speaking). None of them are over a hundred pages in length and most are between thirty and fifty pages.

The great thing about the *Keepin' it a BUCK Series* is that each story "keeps it a buck" both literally and figuratively. At a dollar per story, it certainly won't break the bank for anyone who is looking for Pro Black content to read and enjoy, and the tales also keep it a buck in terms of

subject matter and the presentation of our people TO our people.

Another great aspect of these releases is that if you have Amazon's Kindle Unlimited, you are able to read each and every story in the series for FREE! (Yeah, I know, you're paying monthly for the Kindle Unlimited service if you want to get technical, but this is a great way to read each of the short stories in the series without investing more money.)

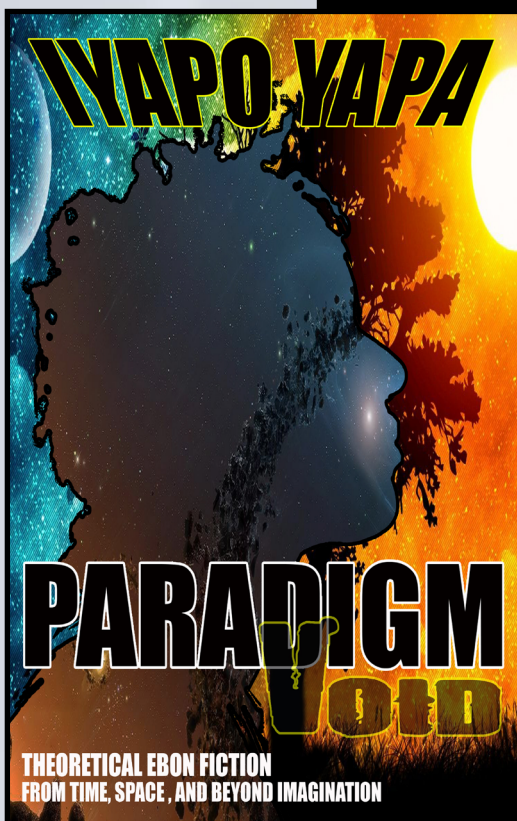
**"The great thing about the *Keepin' it a BUCK Series* is that each story 'keeps it a buck' both literally and figuratively."**

At the bottom of this page is a small advertisement for the upcoming *Paradigm VOID* and it gives a idea of what's inside and the additional stories that will be soon coming in the *Keepin' it a BUCK* series. The short stories drop each Friday for ten weeks (meaning the final story will be published on December 16! Shortly after that the FULL collection of *Paradigm VOID* will be released with one more never before published short story!

I'm really excited to be releasing the book, and if you can keep a secret, lean in a little closer...

I am already well into the SECOND installment in the *Paradigm VOID* short story series *FURTHER JOURNEYS into the Paradigm VOID!* It is already halfway done and I'm just as excited about the release of that book. Depending on how well the "Keepin' it a BUCK" series does, I may use the same format for the release of the second book.

Even before that, you will want to keep a sharp eye out for my second full novel: *And What of the CARGO?* Another EXCELLENT read, even if I DO say so myself!



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:

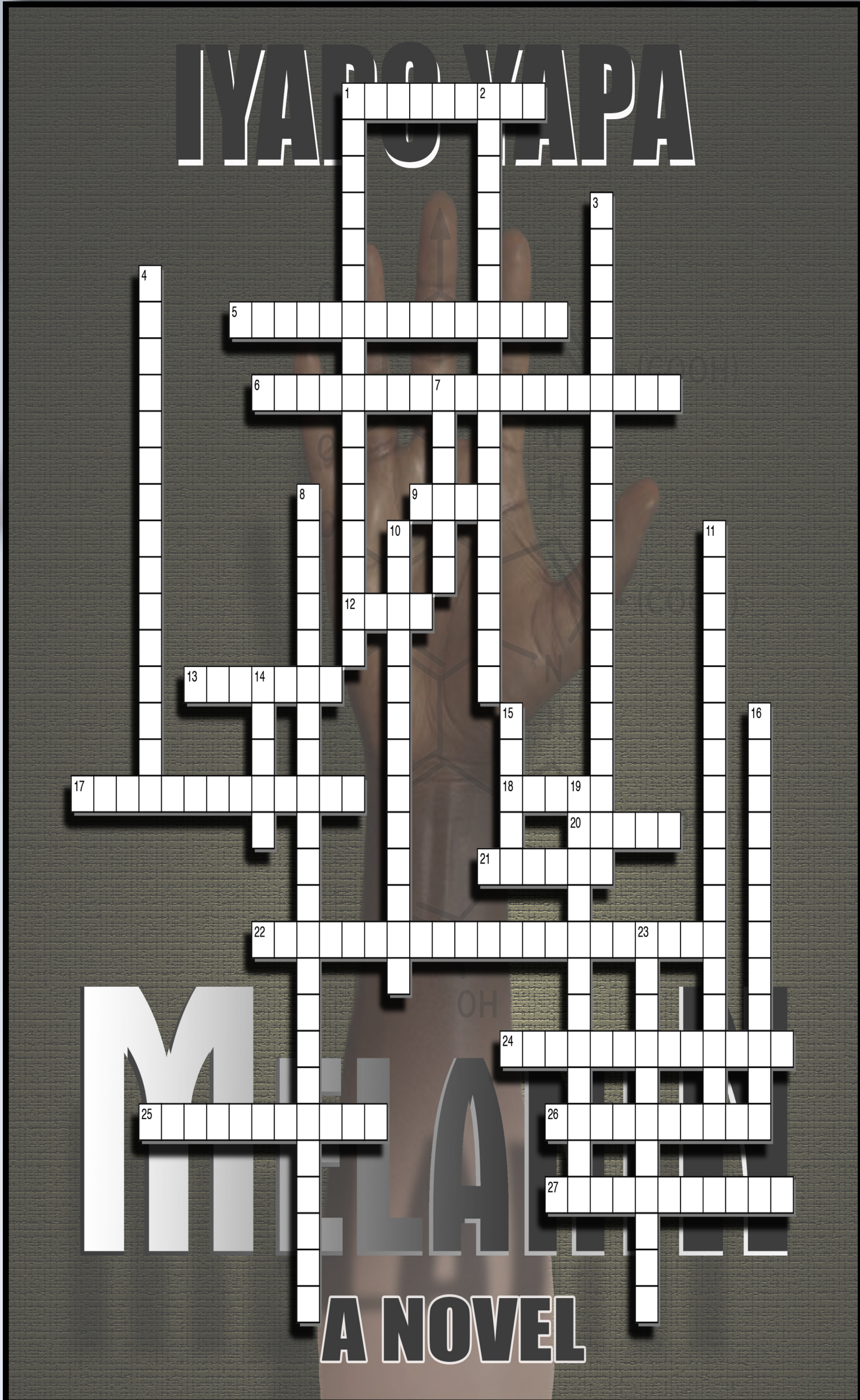
- What if somewhere in the universe numerous alien races observed earth and concluded that there is a faction on the planet that in no way should ever be allowed to reach out beyond the bounds of its own atmosphere?
- What if the universe itself started taking measures to correct and bring balance to 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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CLICK ON THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ABOVE  
TO DOWNLOAD A **PRINTABLE COPY!**

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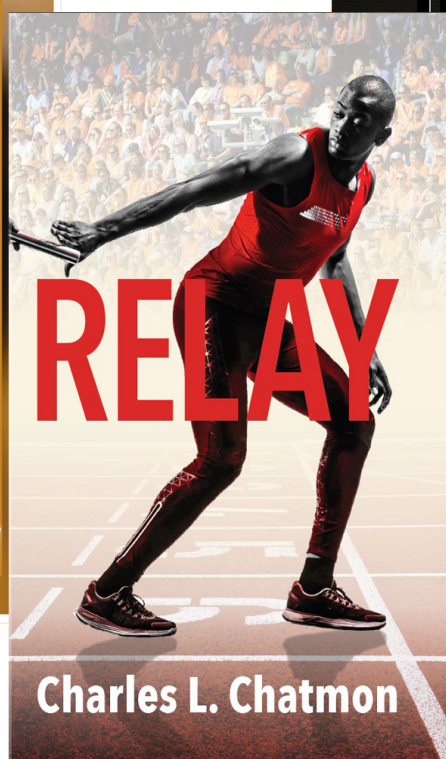
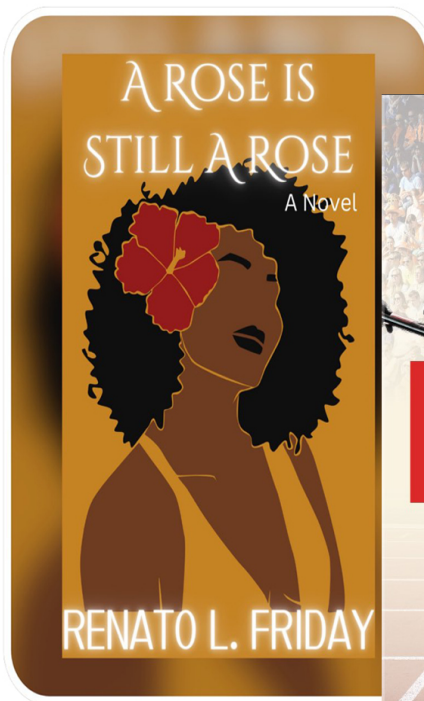
## Across

- 1) The first novel by author Ajali Shabazz
- 5) First story published by author Ayoka B. on the Kindle Vella platform
- 6) The first non-fiction book by author Ajali Shabazz
- 9) Number of epilogues in Iyapo Yapa's *MELANIN: A Novel*
- 12) Author Brandon Massey's latest Novel (as of November 2022): *The \_\_\_\_\_*
- 13) Authors Angela Riley and Renato L. Friday are from the same city. What city is it?
- 17) Wrote the novels: *Nana*, *Frenzied* and *The Other Brother*
- 18) Name of the main character in the *This Black* series
- 20) Author of *Longing for the Night*
- 21) One of the editors of *MELANIN: A Novel*: Ivy \_\_\_\_\_ Riley
- 22) The second collection of poems and thoughts by author Charles L. Chatmon
- 24) The first novel by author Iyapo Yapa
- 25) Iyapo Yapa is an acronym for If You Aren't \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) The first novel published by M.A.D.M. Precious: \_\_\_\_\_ *Story*
- 27) Author of the Kindle Vella series: "The Love X Tamu Tamu Agency"

## Down

- 1) The name of author Ajali Shabazz's YouTube channel
- 2) What is the name of Iyapo Yapa's upcoming novel?
- 3) The first novel published by author T.J. Riley
- 4) The second Novel by author Ajali Shabazz
- 7) Name of the main character in author T.J. Riley's novel *The Path to Brightness*
- 8) The first book of poems and thoughts by author Charles L. Chatmon
- 10) The title of the FIRST Kindle Vella book ever released by author Angela Riley
- 11) First novel released by author Renato L. Friday
- 14) Name of the upcoming novel by author Charles L. Chatmon
- 15) Second story published by author Ayoka B. on the Kindle Vella Platform
- 16) Name of author Ms. KJ's online persona
- 19) The first story published by author Adrien M. Lane on the Kindle Vella platform: "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Teotta T. Adams"
- 23) The name of author Brandon Massey's first novel

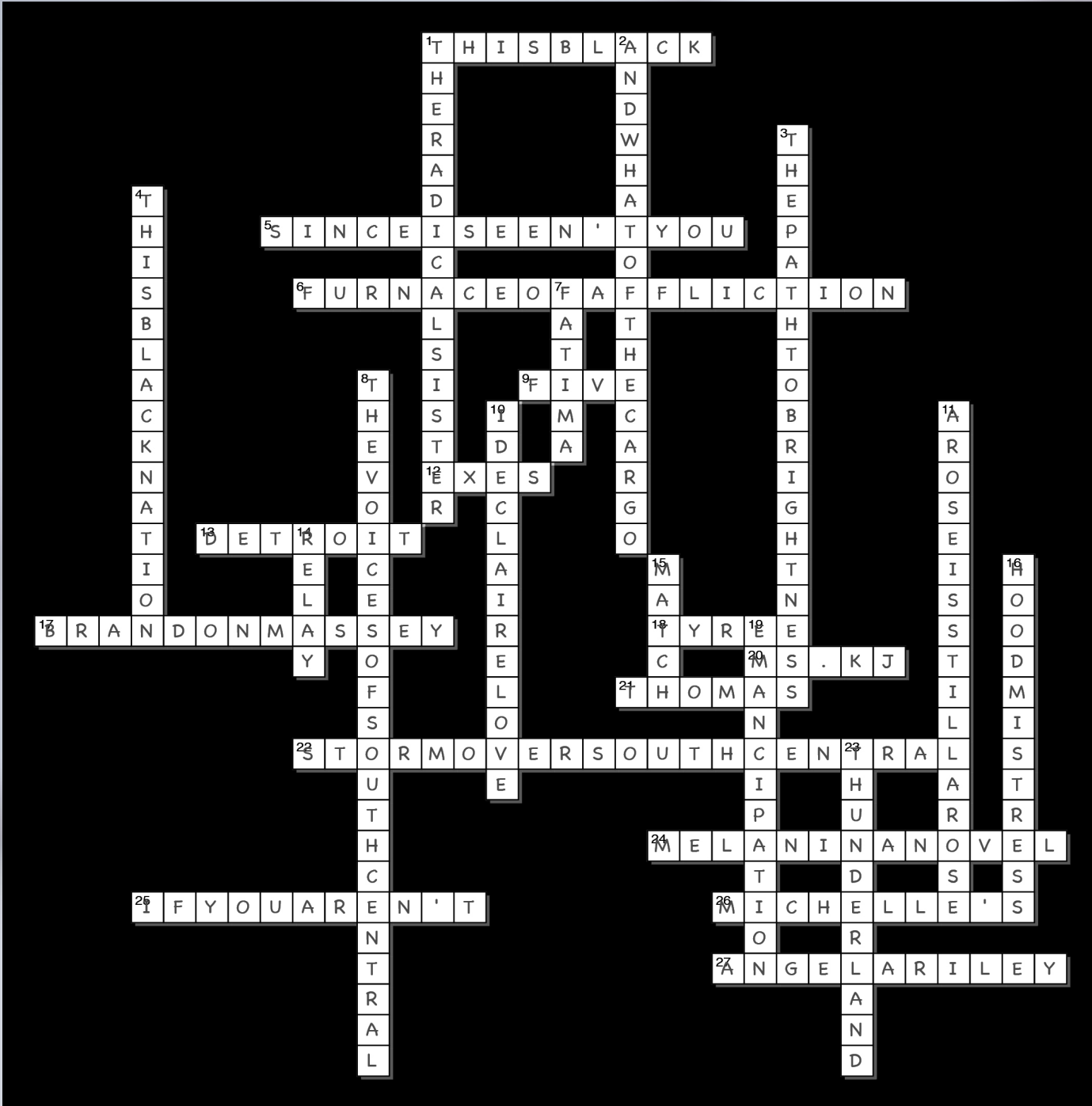
NOVEMBER  
CROSSWORD



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## NOVEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

How many did you already know?

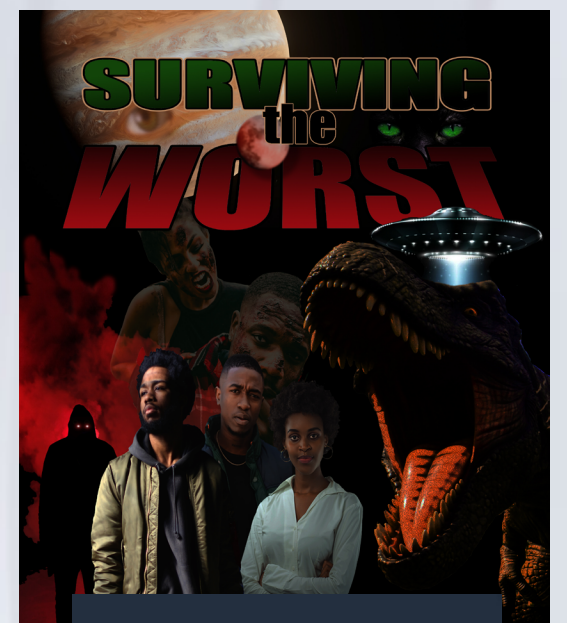
How many did you have to research?

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

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

comments@iyapoyapa.com

Subject line: crossword puzzle



kindle vella



Be sure to take some time to visit my website at:

<https://www.iyapoyapa.com> - or just click the image to the right!

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



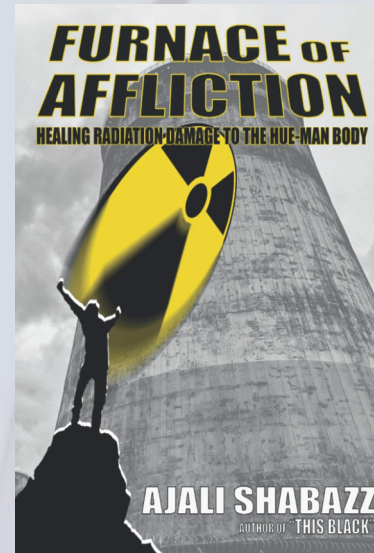
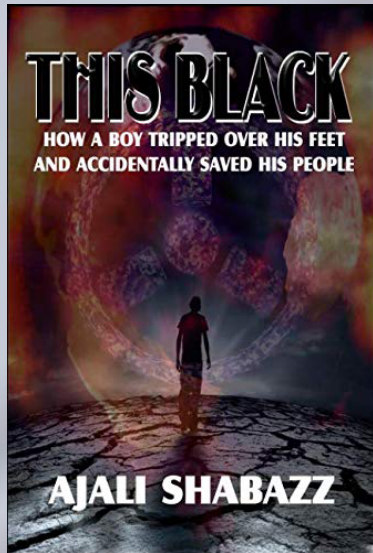
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COMING THIS MONTH!

**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!

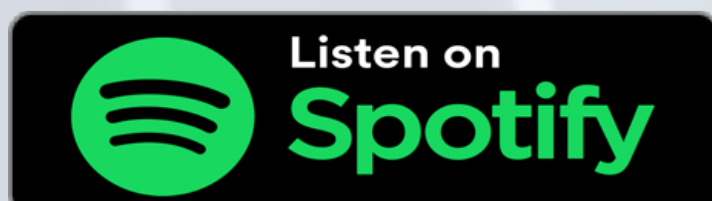
Listen to the interview on  by clicking the link below:

<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!**

listen on  LISTEN ON   
Listen on 

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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 the cover art to be transported to their stories!

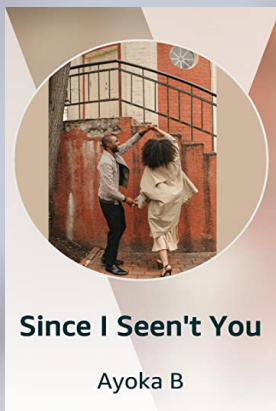
And remember, the first THREE episodes are FREE to read!



### I DeClaire Love

Angela Riley

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



### 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 Love X TamuTamu Agency

Angela Riley

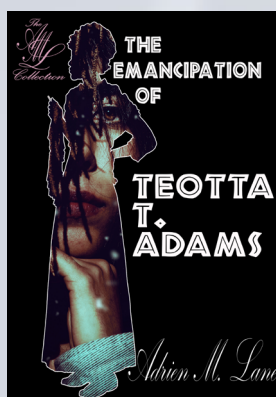
Tamu makes Black Love matches. Follow along as she stands up for and works to support the natural flow of Black Love.



### 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?



### 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.

**ALSO AVAILABLE on AMAZON and OTHER PLATFORMS!**

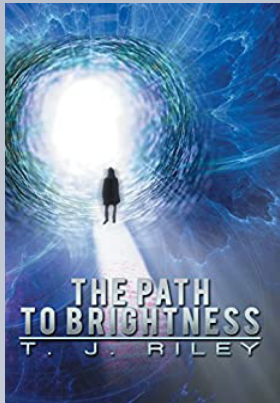
**Below are stories and books by some authors I know!**

**Just click the the cover art to purchase their book.**

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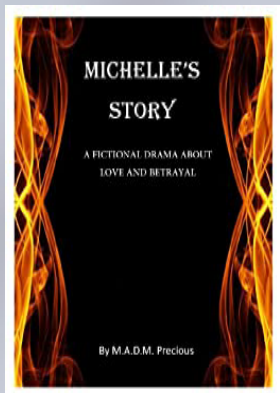
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## THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

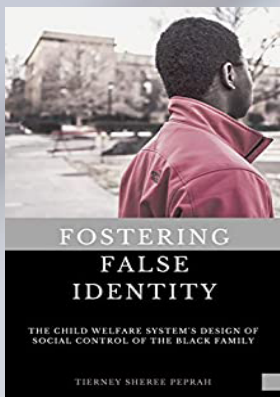
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince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

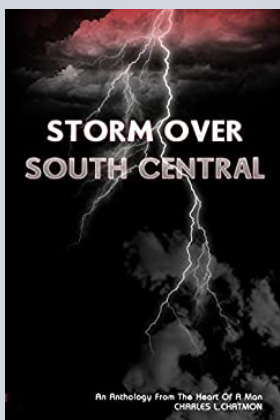
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



## 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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