

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-July-07 – /ToStories/-American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her fifth historical romance novel, *The House of Marchesi*.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines freedom as the "liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another: INDEPENDENCE"

Recently, the United States celebrated its freedom from the purported tyrannical rule of the British. The promulgators of the drafted declaration emphasized freedom as the foremost right of the people, though several did not intend to include all people within this budding nation's boundaries. A person may experience freedom on different levels at varying stages of their lives. Some argue for social freedom while oppressing others' basic right of assembly. Others favour political freedom while using their unfounded ideology to torment and commit other acts of aggression against those who hold steadfast to their individual perspective. These are the ones who will not allow themselves to be subject to violent 'groupthink' mentality in which the herd act on a much lesser sense of awareness when confronted with the seemingly oddity. Freedom is also ideal for those innocents who seek to live traditional lives, unencumbered by the newly established status quo. These individuals have become the consistent targets of those who tout freedom—as long as those who exercise it, appear as, think as and believe as they do.

What of those who were had recently become aware that several persons connived to restrict an innocent's freedom by way of 'blacklisting', kidnapping and false imprisonment? They had not known these strangers. They may be of a beauty that attracted the most deviant who could never intimately partake. These targets are of intellect, but also of a precious naiveté. They chose a traditional path of love and affection in which their innocence laid the foundation and the hand of Providence had intervened. They had found their freedom, but not before a few events had begun to unfold. It would be the devoted servants of both houses who would unravel the conspiracy; and the strength of the duca and duchessa who held onto the only thing they could—each other.

While the colonies were declaring their freedom during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a more intimate tale of freedom had begun to unfold in 18th century Milan, then a city-state. It all began when a young maiden, a beautiful duchessa by the name of Lilliana is thrust from her horse and into the estate of another esteemed member of the king's court. Duchessa Lilliana is unable to remember her accident or her identity. Her father, Duca Emmanuele notices that Duchessa Rosetta is complacent about their daughter's absence from the House of Montanari, especially when it extends far beyond what no caring father wished for. When he searches the Montanari estate in the hopes of finding his daughter, Lilliana's father finds a gold charm. This jewel is part of a bracelet that still adorns the duchessa. He clings to it as a sign of hope that she is alive and well. During the duchessa's convalescence, she attempts to identify herself. Lilliana examines the furnishes of *The House of Marchesi* as they remind her of the place she had once called home. She and the lord of the manor, Duca Alessandro increase in affection towards one another. The maidservant of the House of Montanari, Noemi, silently volunteers to help locate and retrieve the missing duchessa. She recruits her fellow maidservant, Gabriella to assist. Noemi then leaves the House of Montanari and begins her trek to locate Duchessa Lilliana. While on her journey, she finds a gold charm that she believes

belongs to the duchessa. This is the second piece of jewelry which has broken from Duchessa Lilliana's bracelet and still links the duchessa to the House of Montanari. Noemi encounters a proud vendor of pomegranates. He speaks of a tale of a fallen maiden taken into the care of a duca. He guides her to the House of Marchesi. When Noemi discovers Lilliana's location she meets with a trusted servant of that house, Rinaldi. Rinaldi presents her to the duca. Duca Alessandro allows for Noemi to see Duchessa Lilliana. Noemi asks that the duca give the charm to the duchessa. The duchessa finally recalls her father's identity. The piece of jewelry bridged who she was from the House of Montanari to whom she was becoming while in the company of the master of the House of Marchesi. The duchessa wishes to learn more of the lord of the manor. Duca Alessandro introduces her to various chambers of the Marchesi mansion. The king and queen hear of a conspiracy against the ennobled which originated from no other than another member of the king's court. The Crown gathers evidence and secures it in the royal vault regarding a conspiracy to kidnap and harm Duchessa Lilliana. As she and the duca continue their courtship under unusual circumstances, the duca can no longer withhold the extent of his affection for her. Alessandro proposes to her. Lilliana accepts. The Crown decides to proceed with the planned royal ball. Noemi visits the House of Marchesi once more, this time with a Tahitian pearl necklace that Duca Emmanuele secured away from Duchessa Lilliana's mother who intended to steal it. All of the esteemed of the Milanese king's court are to attend the royal ball. The night of the grand affair arrives. The servants from the House of Marchesi assist Duchessa Lilliana to prepare for the elaborate soiree. Her duca watches over with protective eyes as they continuously drape her in the extravagant pearl necklace. Lilliana believes that the pearls are too heavy but wears them along with a necklace Duca Alessandro gifted to her. She remains true to who she is, but now has become the lady of the House of Marchesi. Yet, she still honours her father by wearing the heirloom of the House of Montanari. During the ball, the servants of the Houses of Montanari and Marchesi work together to ensure that Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana's future is forever secured. They enter the royal palace with the assistance of a servant. In separate royal chambers, the king and queen officiate Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana's nuptials. Duca Emmanuele is right to be concerned for his daughter, for someone has conspired a dastardly plan against the duchessa, but who? Duchessa Lilliana reunites with her father, Duca Emmanuele. Duca Alessandro stands close at his betrothed's side. She reveals the charm bracelet which she has pinned as an adornment within her hair. Lilliana had not worn it as she did before. This piece of jewelry has taken a different meaning. The duchessa explains to her father that she is now a part of The House of Marchesi. The king and queen reveal who sought to harm Duchessa Lilliana before the king's court. The Crown asks for Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana to stand with them on the platform while the perpetrator is adjudged. Lilliana is at the side of her fiancé laden with the pearl necklace. It is no longer a burden, but her crown in the moment that she witnesses justice.

The House of Marchesi is currently available for purchase as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08VGSWDSH  
Barnes & Noble: 2940162505693  
Smashwords: 9781005567330  
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**About the Author:** Patricia M. Muhammad is an American multi-genre fiction author of crossover contemporary romance/science fiction, science fiction/fantasy, mystery/detective and historical romance genres. She has written 20 novels. Patricia is currently based in the United States.

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