

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-May-01 — /ToStories/-American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her debut historical romance novel, *Love Captured*.

In 18<sup>th</sup> century England, the monarchy reigned over two aspects of social and political life. One was the king's court, the other known as the Court of the King's Bench. Within each, aristocrats sought favour from the king, whether it was a greater title of ennoblement or a ruling to their benefit. Though royal hierarchy naturally existed among the courtiers, many solidified their place among their fellow aristocrats through accumulated wealth and land ownership. This often gave rise to land disputes which the king arbitrated. However, it was not only land that British subjects presented of before the king. The King's Bench was based on common law and it had a history as a consequence of natural law. Within this context both the person and the concept of property collided and melded the borders between the king's court and the King's Bench. During the mid-to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, both the King and Queen's court heard cases regarding slavery. During this time England extoled the natural law that every man was born free and from this established common law recognizing this. Anyone who had reached the shores of England was deemed a free man. Before the legal court, slaveowners or their assigns, usually those who transported their human cargo via schooners argued that a slave had escaped from their brig and pled for the return of their property. Oft times these courts ruled against the claimant citing English common law. These disputes garner international attention and helped other nations to abolish the international slave trade. However, rulings were inconsistent because a nation state could exert their rights to commerce under maritime law in which the waters beyond the shores of its land were considered a part of that country. Freedom manifests in different forms. The freedom to associate, assemble and even those times, to be in an interracial relationship. Though the King's court and the King's Bench would seemingly be two separate historical British institutions, there would be one young woman who would find herself present in both. This is the story of Emmeline.

Emmeline is not a slave. She is of, at minimum, biracial lineage. A young woman sheltered under the roof a plantation mansion in the North Carolina colony during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Emmeline understands that her future could no longer be in the very place that she had known all her life. She accepts the suggestion of her dying mother to find where she belongs, wherever it leads. Emmeline tells no one of her plans. Late one night, when all the candles are no longer lit, the footsteps of the servants can no longer be heard and the watchful eyes of others have shuddered for slumber, Emmeline leaves the mansion. She takes the clues which her mother gave her and decides that she must sail to England. Her resources are limited though in estate she is rich. Emmeline becomes a stowaway across the tumultuous tides of the Atlantic Ocean to her arrival at the shantytown of Liverpool, England. The purpose of her visit she keeps secret, yet it is inevitable that she has to rely on someone and eventually she does. From the kindness of strangers who give her food and scraps of shelter to her enlistment of a benevolent society to help her uncover the truth about her heritage. Emmeline seeks her own 'freedom', but has to ensure her efforts aren't thwarted, even by a handsome duke, John, who attempts to befriend her. Perhaps she could have taken solace in knowing that although she was born a free person in the colony, she was truly free once she landed at the docks of Liverpool. No one could force her return, no one could try to claim her. The natural law of England is clear and so is Emmeline's determination. Though she had yet to know it, the courtier she encounters

is sheltered as well, though he seeks to chart his own path, to be his own man, free from the influence of his mother and father. Emmeline accepts the duke as her suitor. He asks for Emmeline to accompany him to a social gathering his mother is to host in his father's honour. He enjoys as Emmeline is hesitant. He explains that he will take care of everything, her dress, jewelry, whatever is necessary, but most of all, her. She agrees. It is here that Duke John announces his engagement to Emmeline sending the envious maidens into a tizzy. Among the gentry are a few who connived against John and Emmeline. They realize that what they searched for was each another. As they endeavour to secure their relationship and marriage, envious maidens and her heritage seem to be unrelenting obstacles to their newfound happiness. Nevertheless, John invites Emmeline to stay with him at the estate. His servant Nathaniel warned him to be careful. The duke decided that if he would not allow for his mother and father to take hold of his future, than surely he would not let the superficial of the ennobled to do the same. Emmeline enlists the help of a benevolent society. Emmeline discovers that several maidens have learned of her presence in England and Duke John's interest in her. Emmeline is kidnapped. John is able to find her, but he is attacked as well. Emmeline resumes her pursuit to have the answers which set her on this path. The benevolent society is able to secure a solicitor on her behalf. John accompanies Emmeline to the King's Bench. The case is presented on her behalf. Emmeline is declared a citizen of England. It further issued that since she was deprived of her due rights, that she has been granted the title of duchess and is to present herself before the royal king's court. A conspirator in her kidnapping and Duke John's assault was to have the charge adjudicated before the king. His Majesty noted that some matters, especially involving the ennobled remained under his sole authority. Will John and Emmeline still be wed?

Love Captured is one of five historical romance novels Patricia has written and published. Love Captured is available as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08KB34F57  
Barnes & Noble: 2940164274597  
Smashwords: 9781005676650  
Tolino Media: 9783752117707  
Thalia EAN: 9783752117707  
Kobo ISBN: 1230004259497  
Google Play: GGKEY:TU2BD6X8HEW  
DriveThru Fiction: N/A  
Apple Books: N/A  
Lulu: N/A

About the author: Patricia M. Muhammad is an American multi-genre fiction author of crossover contemporary romance/science fiction, science fiction/fantasy, mystery and historical romance genres. She has currently written 20 novels. Many of her characters are of multi-racial lineage or part of interracial relationships. Patricia is currently based in the United States.