

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-May-09 — /ToStories/-American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her debut historical romance novel, *Love Captured*.

Connivance. Conspiracy, false rumours. This is the arsenal of the heartless. These are the weapons of the unscrupulous. Their target, an innocent young woman whom they wish not to be content with what Providence has destined for her in the form of a handsome gentleman, a duke no less. There is a reality that so often is overshadowed by absolutes in how envy is the primary motive against an innocent. Women are often the avowed enemy of other women when they see the destiny of another they believe should have been theirs. What causes such hateful blindness by complete strangers? It is possible that their target really has not much to do with their misplaced abhorrence of a future they cannot claim. It is just that. An unfair, imbalanced projection in which an innocent woman must maneuver, rely on the assistance of her intended and know that the hand of Providence will ensure that she and her betrothed are wed and have the future they have worked for. Though the reader can apply this understanding to the modern world, there is a story in which one, or perhaps even two women have conspired against an innocent. This conspirator desires to be the center of attention. This woman hoped for the affection of a duke that was not meant for her. She was a conniving courtier. Her name was Lady Edna. She, of course, had to have assistance. Yet in all of her vicious endeavours, none, no not even she could prevent what Providence caused to be for Emmeline and John. They had their proper end, for they were wed as bliss was theirs to claim. Lady Edna received exactly what destiny meted out for her. So how did this story all begin?

It all began with a multi-racial maiden, a young woman sheltered under the roof a plantation mansion in the North Carolina colony during the 18th century. Emmeline understood that her future could no longer be in the very place that she had known all her life. She holds on to the clue from her dying mother so that she may 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. A duchess by the name of Lady Edna, the very woman that Emmeline noticed had kept track of her whereabouts. The same courtier who happen to be in her presence when she had left the benevolent society. Emmeline was correct to be suspicious. Despite what she and John had been searching for and found in each other, they had to take care. Their happiness was the envy of so many others. Their joy somehow insulted the eyes and minds of those who could never experience what Emmeline and John naturally shared. Lady Edna was one of these who despised John and Emmeline's relationship. She knew they were to be wed. She was aware that John had no interest in her. Perhaps this fueled her insecurity and her vitriol against the innocent Emmeline. Nonetheless, she would work with another to cause harm to her and John. Lady Edna was beyond reproach. However, John and Emmeline continued to secure their relationship, their safety and their intended marriage. Yet, Lady Edna would not be the only one whose rage would blind her to her wickedness. Envious maidens sought to hurl never-ending obstacles to their newfound happiness. Despite this, eyes from above watched. Destiny would always be stronger and Providence would be Emmeline and John's guarantee. Duke John's servant Nathaniel warned John 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 is shocked to learn that she has become the center of undesired attention as several maidens have learned of her presence in England and of her relationship with Duke John. As a result, Emmeline is kidnapped. John is able to find her, but he is attacked as well. Once they are rescued, they convalesce in the mansion. 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 their charges adjudicated before the king. His Majesty noted that some matters, especially involving the ennobled remained under his sole authority. Envy and hatred failed. Emmeline and John captured each other's heart. They both find their freedom within one another.

Love Captured is available as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08KB34F57
Barnes & Noble: 2940164274597
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About the author: Patricia M. Muhammad is a multi-genre fiction author of crossover

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