

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-July 04 — /ToStories/ — American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her first historical romance novel, *Love Captured*.

On July 4, 1776, the American colonies declared its freedom from the purported tyranny of British rule. Those who touted the virtuous ideals contained within the Declaration of Independence exalted the notion that this land on the opposite side of the Atlantic Ocean from England would become the beacon of freedom. In so doing, it would guide other countries to emulate its exemplary example of a new horizon. Yet, not all could celebrate this freedom with the American colonies. Many would not be able to experience even a portion of this "freedom" at least for another century. Slaves witnessed this hypocrisy on a daily basis as they nearly broke their backs from sunrise to sundown to continue to toil for oppressors who derived benefit from another's work. They endured the social and mental incapacitation through laws that society, comprised of slavemasters, their mistresses, merchants, governors and local legislators, that prohibited slaves to move about freely. This is obviously counter to the U.S. Constitution that would be adopted a decade later. Even still, Black Codes, Jim Crow, de jure discrimination, usually with the voluntary assistance of other blacks as the agents of black masses' misery were the primary features which characterized the lives of black slaves and often times black "freedmen". Freedom of movement would not be the only restriction that characterized the eventual United States into a conglomerate of contradictory ideology—though it would proclaim itself as the nation with the higher moral ground than any other in pursuit of democracy. Freedom of assembly was also a trait reserved for the few, while blacks were continuously monitored, whether free or enslaved. Blacks had to "show their papers" whenever encounter by whites or be subjected to enslavement, torment or lynching. Other blacks joined with the racist whites and in certain areas became hunters of other blacks to enjoy a bounty which was not theirs to claim in the first. It became the reciprocal measure of the lack of manhood among these blacks which originated from African monarchs who sold their neighbouring Africans as well as members of their own tribe or clan for a temporal material gain. This all the while losing a foothold within their own nation and diminishing any respect from both their European counterparts as well as their 'own people'.

Of course, freedom can be defined in various ways. During this same century, one young maiden decided to discover her own freedom. Her name was Emmeline. She was not a slave. However, her freedom of movement was restricted. Emmeline was treated as an adornment within the very home she was raised, but never feeling fully a part of the household. She was intelligent, beautiful, and a bit bashful—but most of all, she was determined. Emmeline wished to understand a freedom that she knew she could never fully exercise in the land from which she originated, the North Carolina colony. It was the one clue that her mother, Permillia, provided her before she died in which she believe she would discover the answer.

Emmeline understood that her future could no longer be in the very place that she had known all her life. She accepts what has been ordained for her, wherever she must go. Emmeline tells no one of her plans. Late one night, when all the candles are no longer lit, the footsteps of the household servants can no longer be heard, and the watchful eyes of others have shuddered for slumber, Emmeline leaves the mansion. She voyages to England as a stowaway in a schooner set to sail the tumultuous tides of the Atlantic Ocean. A seaman discovers her on board and brings her to the captain. The captain demands to see her travel papers. Emmeline is reluctant to respond. The captain and his crew show mercy and allow her to pursue her voyage though she must earn her keep. Upon her arrival at the shantytown of Liverpool, England, she must decide where she may now take refuge and keep the purpose of her visit secret. Emmeline's destiny calls for an opening as she must somehow rely on the kindness of strangers. Some provide her with food and scraps of shelter. A benevolent society helps her with her quest. Emmeline seeks her own 'freedom', a sort she had never experienced before. One that is not promised to her in a scroll or parchment whom she had never met and who would have likely have no care to encounter one such as her. The maiden has to ensure her efforts aren't thwarted, even by a

handsome duke, John, who attempts to befriend her. Though she was born a free person in the North Carolina colony, she was truly free once she landed at the docks of Liverpool, England. No one could force her return, no one had a right to claim her as they never had before. The natural law of England, some of which was based in religious doctrine, is clear and so is Emmeline's determination. All men are born free, despite what centuries of self-declared racial superiors have wretchedly implemented as institutions to facilitate crimes against humanity within and external of its borders. Nonetheless, Duke John endeavours 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. She agrees. It is here that Duke John announces his engagement to Emmeline, sending the envious maidens into obvious disarray. Among the gentry are a few who connived against John and Emmeline. Despite what she and John had been searching for and found in each other, they had to take care. Their mutual elation 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 those who despised John and Emmeline's relationship. Had Lady Edna lived, she would have also loathed Duke John and Emmeline's 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 nor the criminal idiosyncrasies of corrupt strangers to do the same. John and Emmeline continued to secure their relationship, their safety and their intended marriage. 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 each other.

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 contemporary romance/science fiction, science fiction/fantasy, mystery and historical romance genres. She has currently written 20 novels. Patricia is currently based in the United States.