

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - United States, 2021-May-22— /ToStories/ - Multi-genre fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad announced the release of her second mystery/detective romance novel, *Murder By Dissent*. This novel features a major explosion, an interracial marriage and some determined detectives set to resolve a few murders amid the Civil Rights protests of the 1960s. It is an ode to the continuous issue of racial politics and unjust hatred which threatens the future of America. *Murder By Dissent*, however, contains a balm for this festering social disease; an example of true love between the "coloured" protagonist, Jacqueline and her Anglo-British husband, Thaddeus.

The 1960s witnessed hateful and malicious vitriol spewed at blacks who stood for American ideals encapsulated within the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It also saw how the inordinate American ideology of white supremacy became the soapbox upon which these violent perpetrators sought to disseminate their divisive message. Civil rights advocates countered this social threat with protests and marches. Civil unrest permeated American society. Teargas, bulldogs, salivating hatred and heartfelt pleas rose in pitch and fervor. Some hope their words reached the halls of Congress, perhaps even the President of the United States. Others had no care for the rights of others. Their vision deteriorated the true democratic principles the United States was founded upon. While the racial exchange continued, there were still some who lurked in the darkness, watching and planning their way to maneuver through the angst all the while fueling it. Some thought unjustifiable homicide to be the answer. A few murders became the center of one small precinct in New York. Rumour had it that the Klan had been involved. However, this was *Murder By Dissent*.

In a small precinct in New York, Lieutenant Davidson assigns Detective Jacqueline Sadie Thompson to investigate a few murders along with her station house partner, Sebastian Johnson. Both detectives had their personal lives. Jacqueline is married to a handsome Englishman, William. Sebastian is their ally when it involves racial politics, but he is also their friend. Johnson is married as well, but Jacqueline is not very well acquainted with his wife. Sebastian does not speak about her much. Some thought her behaviour in social gatherings especially odd. She ranted about her encounters with racial discrimination though she never had to pass the "paperbag test." Nevertheless, everyone knows who Jacqueline's husband is. William made a point of it. Johnson and Thompson decide to visit the scene of their murder cases in the rear of a local Woolworth building. Jacqueline's husband accompanies his wife, breaching her work protocol. This was one thing she silently admired about him, though she would never say. Nonetheless, William believes he is the only one capable of properly safeguarding his wife no matter where she is. He is right. Jacqueline, William and Sebastian arrive at the scene. Someone in the near distance hurls a glass bottle. It shatters against the brick façade. It explodes. The detectives are unsure who is the target. Perhaps their cover is blown. William instinctively grabs his wife, saving her, as they tumble away and onto the ground. Mortar, brick and dust crumble from above. They are separated from Sebastian. William and Jacqueline hurriedly leave the property. Jacqueline wonders if Sebastian he has survived. She returns to work to learn her colleague is in a coma at the hospital.

After a fainting bout at the precinct, her lieutenant orders her to take sick leave. William is always present to care for her and this time was no different. Jacqueline wants to

resolve the cases while she recuperates. Her husband refuses to allow her to do any work at home. William and Jacqueline use this time to convalesce. Her husband watches over her incessantly. They physically express their affection for one another often. Jacqueline and William find each other irresistible, appreciating every moment they have to share. Their passionate kisses, her husband's sweet caresses, William's need to feel the curvatures of his wife's body and Jacqueline's need to hear his voice, to feel her husband's body pressed against hers does not leave them much time for anything else. Full-time domestic life suits Jacqueline more than she anticipated. Eventually William's wife returns to work. She visits Sebastian at the hospital, only after enlisting the help of another colleague of the hesitant Mark. Thompsons' intention is not only to see that he is well, but for him to assist further with their investigations. Sebastian awakens from his coma. Their lieutenant accepts the responsibility to investigate the explosion. Theories abound. Forensics is helpful. Margaret's wife also died at that scene of the explosion. Thompson felt sorrow for Johnson. He now had dual trauma. Margaret was shot in the back while Sebastian maneuvered to survive the falling debris. No one, not even Sebastian, knew she would be there. Margaret had an identity crisis. She wished she could be truly courageous like others. Margaret seemed polite. However, she was incapable of doing right by others. Sebastian maybe ignored the signs until it was too late. It nearly cost him his life. However, the investigations must continue. The detectives seek to find out who tossed the Molotov cocktail and who shot Sebastian's wife and for what reason. A seeming symbol of the economic disparity in the 1960s. Where many seek to drown their despair at the bottom of a liquor bottle, obscuring what they hold in a plain paperbag. Their inebriation breaks the otherwise social shield which veils others and institution to the bubbling hopelessness that sometimes spill into the streets. Yet, they are not the only ones who attempt to conceal something. Sebastian holds back a secret. Perhaps he knew all along who his wife was, who the murderers were. Jacqueline questions Sebastian for confirmation as she puts the blurry pieces of the bloody puzzle together. The identity of at least one suspect has become clear, yet the motive has not. Jacqueline believes Sebastian holds the key to this. He is understandably traumatized. Thompson believes that only when Johnson is ready to admit what else he knows, no matter how close it is to him, will he be able to accelerate his healing. Sebastian does his own investigation from his hospital bed, requesting the help of his cousins. Sebastian carefully instructs him to retrieve a book. His cousin complies, carefully hiding the book in a brown paperbag. Johnson debates whether he will share this other piece of evidence with his co-detectives. He could trust Jacqueline for certain. Sebastian also wanted to protect her and her husband. Two innocents caught in the crossfire of racist "blacks". How was Thompson to know? She lived her life of happiness with her husband and somehow it became an affront to the unsettling minds of strangers. Sebastian's physical and mental pain is nearly too great for him to bear. Thompson confronts him again. She begins to understand who was involved and their motive. One death was at least justifiable and it was not either Johnson's or Thompson's case. Yes, race did play a key role in these murders, but it is not what the detectives initially assumed at all. A person who can pass the "paperbag test" may easily slip in and out of two racial circles at will. Yet, those who are not of sound mind and who lack social maturity are unable to escape from the unfortunate circumstance of their own conflicting racial identity. Not everything is black and white. This is the political veil some *blacks* use to unjustifiably harm members of their own "race". These are the same ones who loudly plea for justice at the door of institutional discrimination, assuming that all have accepted their self-indulgent role as spokesperson for all *blacks*. They too

wallow in their identity crises. They hate because regardless of what is external of them, whether it is the racial, social, political or economic climate, they have no peace. They unjustly besmirch the reputation of a black woman whom they do not know, who is married to an Englishman. They are the purveyors of hateful, sorted tales against those who live their lives in peace. Their haughtiness is a weak shield for the lack of strength to choose happiness in their own lives. Multiple surprises await Thompson and Johnson as they continue their investigation. The paperbag is not just a symbol of inner racism. In this case, it contains the answers as to who the murderers are. Not all is black and white. Sometimes it is the unreasonable "blacks" against an innocent "black", but most of the time it is envy.

Murder By Dissent* is now available for purchase as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08ZDG8JVH
Barnes & Noble: 2940164853396
Kobo ISBN: 9781005363420
Google Play: GGKEY:97REGREFLTHE
Smashwords: 9781005363420
Thalia.de EAN: 9783752138429
Apple Books: N/A
DriveThru Fiction: N/A
Lulu: N/A

About the Author: Patricia M. Muhammad is a multi-genre fiction author. She writes in science-fiction/fantasy, fantasy, contemporary romance crossover, historical romance and mystery/detective romance genres. Patricia often includes multi-racial characters and interracial relationships in her books. She has written 20 novels. Patricia is currently based in the United States.

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***CONTENT WARNING:** Mild note: The protagonist and her husband share intimate moments-often. Although there is only mention of legs, arms, embraces and kisses, the remaining descriptions I use allegory and references to nature to describe their intimacy. This may be considered mild to moderately "Steamy" depending on the potential reader's inclination.

Moderate to severe discretion (abridged): This book is a work of fiction. However, the author intended to create characters and settings historically accurate to the era it takes place in, the racially tumultuous 1960s. Certain terms used as racial descriptions now considered archaic, outdated or even offensive are used to reflect the past usage by both black and white Americans of that era.

Additional note: A portion of the main plot revolves a pivotal scene in which a few people are injured due to an explosion which destroys a building. This notice is to advise those who may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD") concerning traumatic

events based the recollection of certain sounds or the imagery which may encompass them both.