

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-May-04— /ToStories/-Multi-genre fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her first mystery/detective romance novel, *The Speakeasy Murders* and interracial relationships.

Recent years have seen a resurgence of interracial relationships featuring a black woman and a white or European man. Female authors have exemplified the normalcy of these relationships in contemporary romance novels. What may strike the reader is that these relationships naturally unfold, are not an intentional affront to the inverse of similar relationships nor do they necessarily entail a political message. The plot may be amusing, the characters natural with their quirks and peeves. The good thing: these stories aren't contrived. What it translates to? A recipe which allows for readers to see the humanistic and naturally flowing aspect of these relationships. Perhaps they are two whimsical hearts, or one is a genuine disaster who needs a little guidance and encounters a man who is a stickler for perfection. Their worlds collide, and their hearts become unwittingly entangled into a heartfelt romance. These are the stories that allow for black women to explore themselves naturally and shed the façade of superficial racial expectations often imposed on them by society and their "own" people. Some authors who have contributed to this racial reawakening are: Talia Hibbert, Crystal Bright, and Jasmine Guillory. Each one is a contemporary romance author. Yet, interracial relationships aren't a new phenomenon in America. The 1920s had its controversy. Decadence juxtaposed to extreme poverty, mob violence, and the underground world of crime. However, there existed one prominent figure in music and entertainment who lived her life as she chose. Her name was Josephine Baker. A black American woman who had the love of an Italian count. Her life was colourful, glamorous though she experienced tragedy. Nonetheless, she lived her life on her own terms. She nor her husband cared what colour their love appeared before them as. It transcended the racial tumult of America. Josephine Baker, an American legend treated poorly in her own country, the United States, found happiness abroad with her European husband. These narratives aren't reserved for only the famous. One undercover detective shares a similar story with this starlet. One by the name Helen Williams.

She is a professional. Her colleagues admire her for her detail and often consult with her for her insight. Helen is called in one night to help investigate a string of murders. A body is found in a field. Helen presumes it is used as the criminal mastermind's dumping ground. After a couple of days of discussing similar cases with her colleagues, Helen realizes that these murders lead to an underground nightclub.

Lieutenant Johnson partners Williams with another detective, Stephen Patterson, to further investigate the murders stemming from the speakeasy. Stephen introduces Helen to his sister Ruby to help her transform into a flapper. Williams admits that her new hairstyle and dress would take some time getting used to. Helen believes the dresses are too extravagant, but knows she must play the part. The detective only feels comfortable wearing a cardigan with any of the dresses, thinking this odd accessory would not prevent her from blending in. Her station house brother teases her, but Williams is adamant is about the sweater. Neither she nor Stephen has ever been to a speakeasy. Helen hopes that no one will notice how uncomfortable she is. An Englishman, Thaddeus, notices her beauty and her being distracted—and none of it has to do with dance or music. Thaddeus is able to garner her attention with a genuine interest in becoming better acquainted with her. She is polite but concentrates on the investigation. The detective does not wish to

spend more time at the seedy club than necessary. The sooner the case is resolved, the quicker she could return to her normal clothes and life—above ground. However, Helen surprisingly realizes that Thaddeus is very much the gentleman though a bit assertive. The Brit has already decided Helen is the only woman he could have henceforth. Helen maintains her courteous nature, but is still unsure of Thaddeus' intentions.

One night at the speakeasy, Helen is assaulted and nearly raped by a Negro male in one of the bigger rooms to the left of the main floor. His African male accomplice waits at the threshold of the room's door to make sure the job is done. Of all the years she has been on the job and the nice neighbourhood that she lived, Williams had never experienced such violence before. Helen was able to maneuver and defend herself until Stephen appears. Patterson nearly pummels the assailant. The British patron, Thaddeus carries her away and brings her to his flat. She is shy and cautious. Thaddeus understands that the night went awry and for Williams, but could have been worst. She stands before her beau no longer a gun-toting detective. Helen is vulnerable. The events that night happened so quickly, she was part of a social whirlwind in which her gentleman patron had to whisk her away from it all. As much as she desires to be comforted, Helen must take care for herself. She settles in with Thaddeus as circumstance dictates. Her current state allows for Thaddeus to gain a greater understanding of who this sweet young woman is. Helen notices that the Englishman is very protective of her. Over time they increase in natural affection towards one another. The Englishman proposes to Helen and she accepts. Yet the investigation must continue. One night at the speakeasy, Helen discovers a secret stairwell. It would be the gateway which leads her to solve the murders. To whom it leads is still anyone's guess. No one knows who will leave alive.

The Speakeasy Murders* is now available for purchase as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08Y751JKQ
Barnes & Noble: 2940162220978
Kobo ISBN: 1230004607311
Google Play: GGKEY:KFFB1XXWEAH E
Smashwords: 9781005999629
Thalia.de EAN: 9783752137118
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:** 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 1920s. 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. Particular themes regarding race, references to certain crimes such as murder and sexual assault are included as part of the fictional plot. The author provides this content description for any potential reader who may consider any of these subject matters or references too sensitive to consider.