

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-June 27— /ToStories/-Fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her romance novel, *Stolen Grace*.

France. It became known as the epicenter of romance. Paris became its beacon of the Enlightenment period in which other Europeans became artistically interested. It of course had its downside, mainly squalor and poverty. The wealthy could boast of a drink of clean water, while the impecunious hoped to have a meal for the day. Art and socioeconomic status were not the only cultural factors that defined this bustling 18<sup>th</sup> century city. A part of Paris became the gathering for those inquisitive minds. Those who sought the news of the day, whether it be politics, idle talk or even crime. Surprisingly, some French women joined in this impromptu newsroom—which was nothing more than a select few who chose a meeting place, usually outside to exchange what they claimed to know. There were some who traveled from other cities, including Versailles in order to have their curiosity satiated. One man, Gustav, was on perhaps a different mission. He traveled from Versailles to Paris on an investigative assignment he accepted from an old friend. It all began with the royal theft at the Crown's palace in Versailles. Rumours soon spread that the likely perpetrator hailed from the House of Moreau. Of course, the ennobled gossiped about one another, whether based in fact or their own envious conjecture. Yet the House of Moreau became the unfortunate target on the tongues of many quite soon.

The Moreau name was prestigious in its own royal right. Penelope is the daughter of the patriarch and his wife. She is Armand's older sister. The maiden, as well as the rest of her family are Creole courtiers. The story begins with Penelope's quest to exonerate her brother and clear her family's name. The only clue she has is a paper given to her with the name "Phillipe J." The patrician believes this is the person responsible for the royal theft—and probably the source of the false accusation against her brother. Pierre LeMercier is also an aristocrat of the king's court and is fascinated by Penelope's rare beauty. He encountered her on the occasion she searched for her brother, Armand, near the shops, hoping to retrieve him from the public. Pierre was quickly observant and easily enthralled by her beauty. Though Penelope initially resisted his interest in her, she eventually allows for Pierre to become her suitor. He vows to assist her in her worthy endeavours. One day while Penelope and Pierre are at a park, they as well as a few other courtiers are attacked. Pierre takes Penelope to his manor to care for her until Armand is sent word. Upon arrival, Armand is eagerly greeted by Pierre's younger sister, Guinevere. Count Alexandre Montegeau, a friend of Penelope and Armand's mother and father, to help with her investigation. He hires another man to search for information by the name of Gustav. This is where Versailles meets Paris, where the clash of the seemingly withheld tongues encounter danger. At the gathering place under the Parisian tree, no one knows the motive of the other. They seek only information, exchange and the appearance of cordiality. However, it is in Versailles that Count Montegeau is murdered while in the peculiar company of mademoiselle Charlotte of whom Armand has only met once. Penelope's brother feels the pressure of a formal royal allegation to be levied against him. Guinevere debuts as a lady in waiting accompanied by Pierre and Penelope as they arrive at the masquerade ball at the king's court. Drinks are served, idle talk is the norm and robust activity including dance continue with a rehearsed fervor. A strange man approaches Guinevere and kidnaps her into private chambers. She barely escapes. The chandeliers are bright, blinding others to the machinations that some of the other courtiers continue to engage in. The festivities are set to continue throughout the

night. Servants interweave themselves amongst the crowd to execute their duties. Others stand near columns in the exterior corridors, hoping to get a glimpse of scandal outside the sand-coloured castle. Charlotte displays her jealousy of Armand and François' relationship and confronts François. While outside Château Versailles, Armand is struck in the foot with an arrow from a longbow. The night seems to have an unending spin of madness. Penelope wonders if they will find more evidence in time. All that they have discovered thus far leads to the royal palace. Only someone close to the king could have committed the theft. Pierre knows that he and Penelope cannot have the life they wish for until the thief is revealed. But who is the culprit and will they be caught in time?

Stolen Grace may be purchased as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08JHJFNCQ  
Barnes & Noble: 2940162703129  
Smashwords: 9781005885045  
Thalia EAN: 9783752117813  
Kobo ISBN: 9781005885045  
Google Play: GGKEY:KCWCECT3E5ZE  
DriveThru Fiction: N/A  
Apple Books: N/A  
Lulu: N/A

Connect with Patricia:

Social Media: @pmmuhammadbooks  
Press: permissionsp@gmail.com