

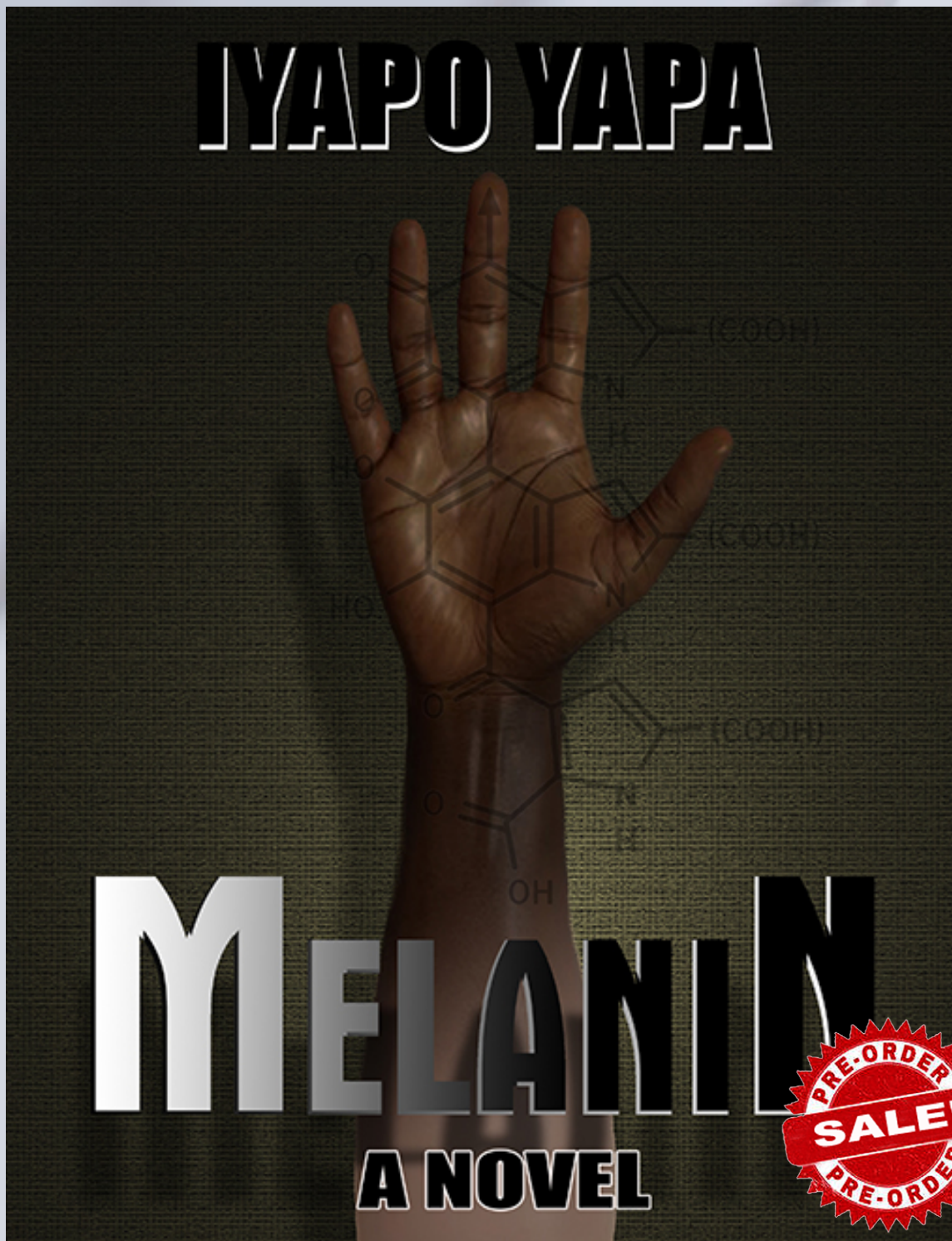
READING and WRITING in the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE:



IYAPO YAPA

Author of *MELANIN: A NOVEL*

"Melanin is an uncompromising and timely tale of speculative fiction, brimming with thought-provoking ideas and imaginative twists."

- Brandon Massey, award-winning author of *The Quiet Ones* and *Dark Corner*

And:

What do I think of the **WRITER'S LIFE?!**

News and Information about Completed and Upcoming Projects and MORE!



JULY 2022 - Volume 1/Number 1

READING and WRITING in the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME To READING and WRITING in the DARK!

Before anything else, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to you for subscribing to the "READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter!" I am both honored and humbled that you are taking the time to read my work and consider the things I have to say, so again, thank you so very much!

This is the first issue of the newsletter and I will do my very best to produce one monthly as well as regular installments of the podcast of the same name. The difference between the newsletter and the podcast are that the podcasts will be more of a hodgepodge of subjects including discussions my own projects, works I have read or am reading, as well as interviews with other Black authors. Conversely, the newsletter will deal strictly with inside information on works I have completed and upcoming projects I'm working on.

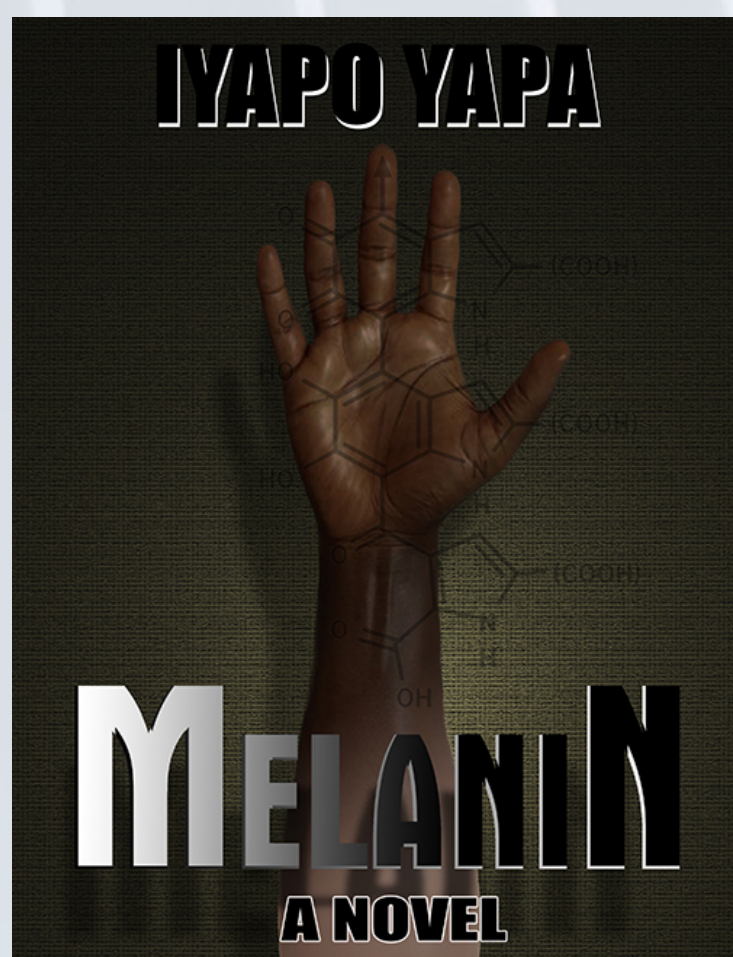
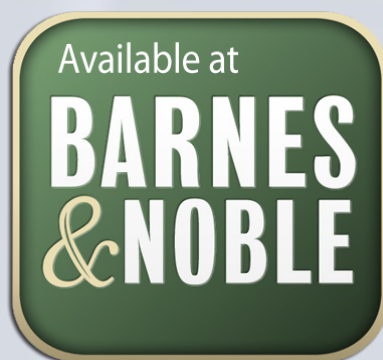
As you may or may not already know, I have completed my first novel *MELANIN: A NOVEL*, and it is up for pre-sale at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. The release date is August 31st 2022 and it will cost \$9.99 for the Kindle or Nook versions and \$19.99 for the physical paperback version. (Presently, we are looking into and discussing the pricing for a hard cover version.) Right now, if you pre-order *MELANIN: A NOVEL*, you can get it for the ridiculously low price of \$3.99! So you may consider skipping a cup of coffee at Starbucks and reserving YOUR copy while it is at that low price!

Clicking on the image of the cover will take you to the "MELANIN" page on my website:
<https://www.iyapoyapa.com>

On that page, there is also a link where you can read an excerpt from *MELANIN* – the COMPLETE second chapter as a matter of fact! So you may want to get on over there and give it a read so you can get more of a feel from the story itself, as well as my writing style (which you may have already gotten from reading "Moenessus the Oak Tree").

I'm ALWAYS happy to get feedback and hear CONSTRUCTIVE criticism of my work; after reading the excerpt and after reading "Moenessus," let me know what you think! You can do so by contacting me at: feedback@iyapoyapa.com. (Please put the story about which you are providing the feedback in the subject line.) I look forward to hearing from you!

You can find
MELANIN: A NOVEL
at:



READING and WRITING in the DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

Well, it's July already and though I've been writing all my life, I really put my head down, my fingers on the keyboard and started writing in earnest in October/November of last year, 2021. After having done that for several months I can only say this:

It's definitely "the writer's life" for me!

I can think of few better ways to spend my time (unless it's drawing or making music). When it comes down to it, I'd rather be writing that pretty much anything! I have also gained a love for reading. I have recently completed reading several books and am currently reading one called *GOLIATH* by Tochi Onyebuchi. I am enjoying it so far: it is filled with strong ideas and concepts! I'm also reading Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamozov*. For me, admittedly, it is a bit of a slow read, and definitely a daunting book (Though it isn't *War and Peace* or *Atlas Shrugged* by any stretch of the imagination, it is definitely going to take me some time to get through this one.)

I'm also reading, *Plague Birds* by Jason Sanfoi, and rounding it out with *Quantum Physics For Beginners*. (I am reading the physics book just because that has always been one of my interests, and I feel that the more I learn about REAL science, the better I can become at writing **Theoretical Ebon Fiction!**)

Having completed two novels, a compilation of short stories and a novella I learned this about myself:

I tend to read the same way I write... working on several things at once.

The books I'm working on now are:

The INTERCEDERS

Further Journeys into the PARADIGM VOID

WE-STORY A.R.

and

The Dreams of a Restless God.



Be sure to take some time to visit my website at:

<https://www.iyapoyapa.com> - or just click the image to the right!

There are a LOT of things to see and interact with! There are also a couple special surprises hidden in the site. They aren't marked, but if you take a little time to search for them, you'll definitely be pleasantly surprised!



READING and WRITING in the

DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

Discovering the boundaries of imagination and then breaking through them is the thought behind *PARADIGM VOID*! The short story collection (written by yours truly, Iyapo Yapa), examines concepts and situations that stretch the limits of the mind and push through those envelopes to examine the infinite possibilities beyond what we know, what we think we know, and what we can imagine.

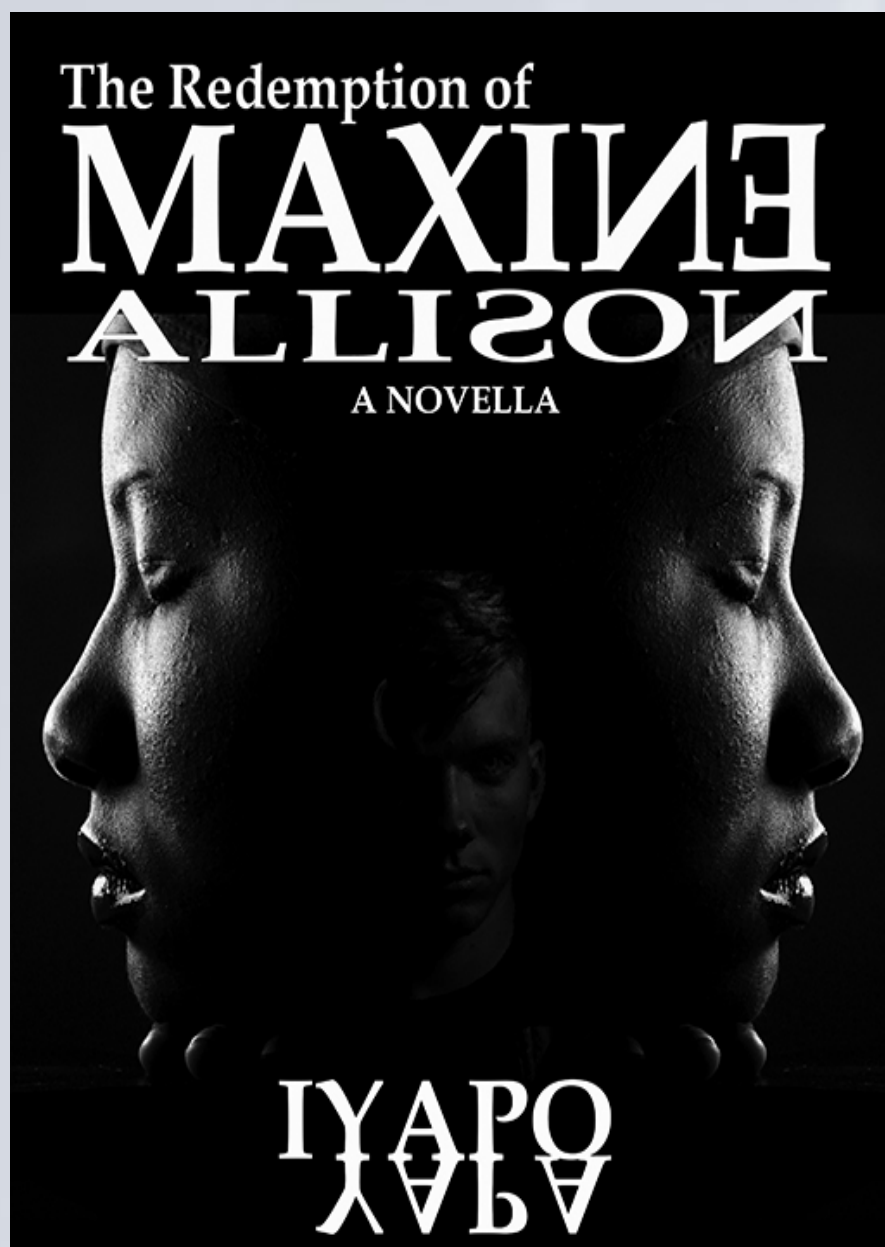
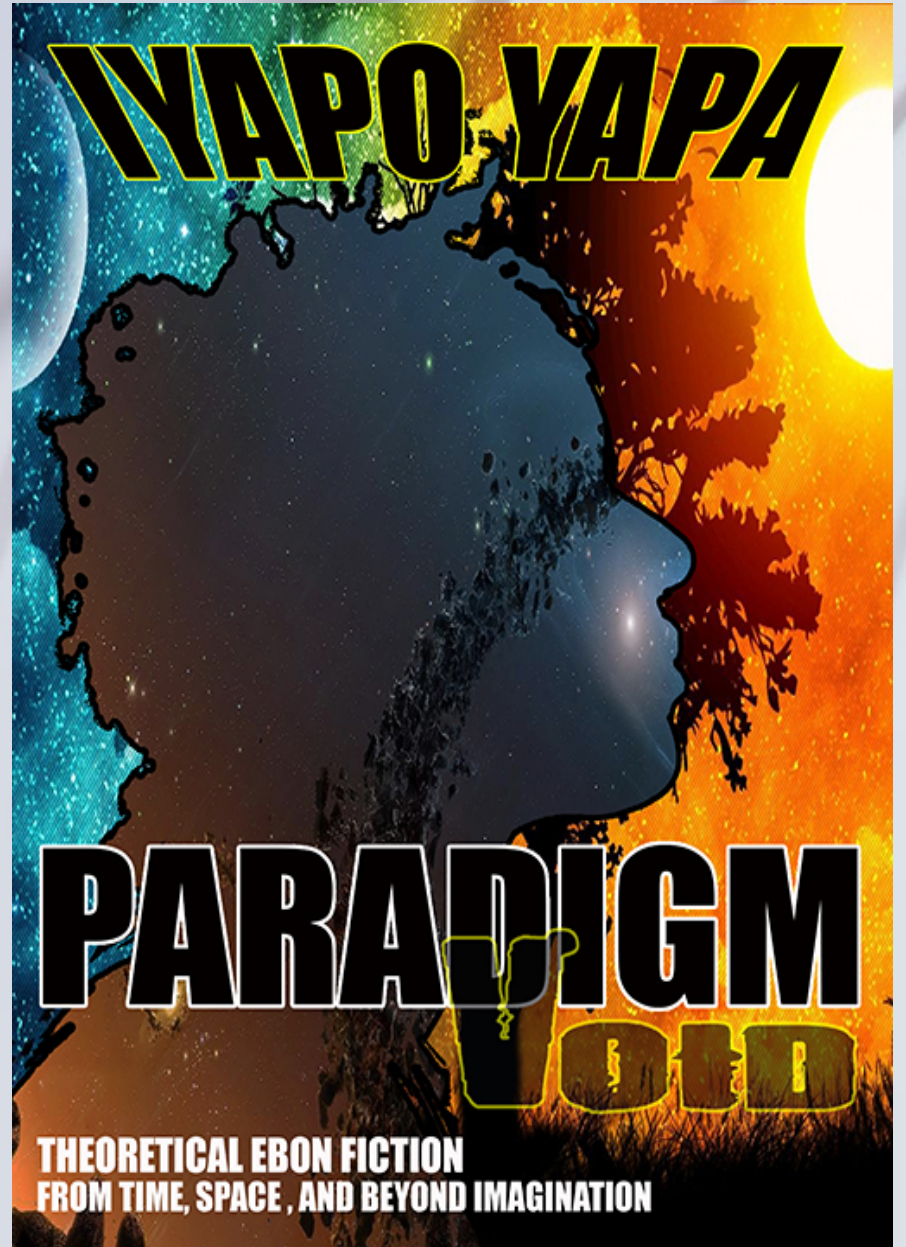
Each story in *Paradigm Void* is unique unto itself and complete, no cliffhangers here. Though once a reader becomes familiar with my other works, there are – at least in some of the stories – hidden clues referencing the fact that the particular story exist within the same universe as another in one of my novels or novellas.

Paradigm Void includes ten stories, some with parental advisories, some tame enough for an adolescent or young teen to read. All of them are entertaining, and thought provoking, and most of all, they feature BLACK US!

The stories that make up *Paradigm Void* are:

- Person Zero
- The Darkness
- Scars
- The Eyes of the Dying
- An Oral History of Forgotten Cargo
- Sundown Town
- Conviction
- Frozen Heartbeats
- Moeneesus the Oak Tree
- SHADOWHOUSE

I have completed writing the book and it is now in the editorial stages. Once that process is done, the book will be available for pre-sale!



To say anything at all about the Novella, *The Redemption of Maxine Allison* would be to give too much away. I can say that it is an intricately woven story of mistakes made that seem as if they can never be undone, and a woman desperately seeking her road to redemption even as those against her are determined to secure her demise.

The novella is a story of love, hate, loss, betrayal and a journey into the unbelievable. The tale contains all the twists and turns that readers will have come to expect from an Iyapo Yapa book, along with a plot line that **must** be paid close attention to in order to keep up!

The Redemption of Maxine Allison will have you on the edge of your seat, waiting to see what is going to happen next, and how things will unfold, even as you find yourself at first possibly disliking Maxine, but in the end, rooting for her!

The Redemption of Maxine Allison, also in the editorial phase, will available soon at:

Barnes & Noble
and
Amazon

READING and WRITING in the

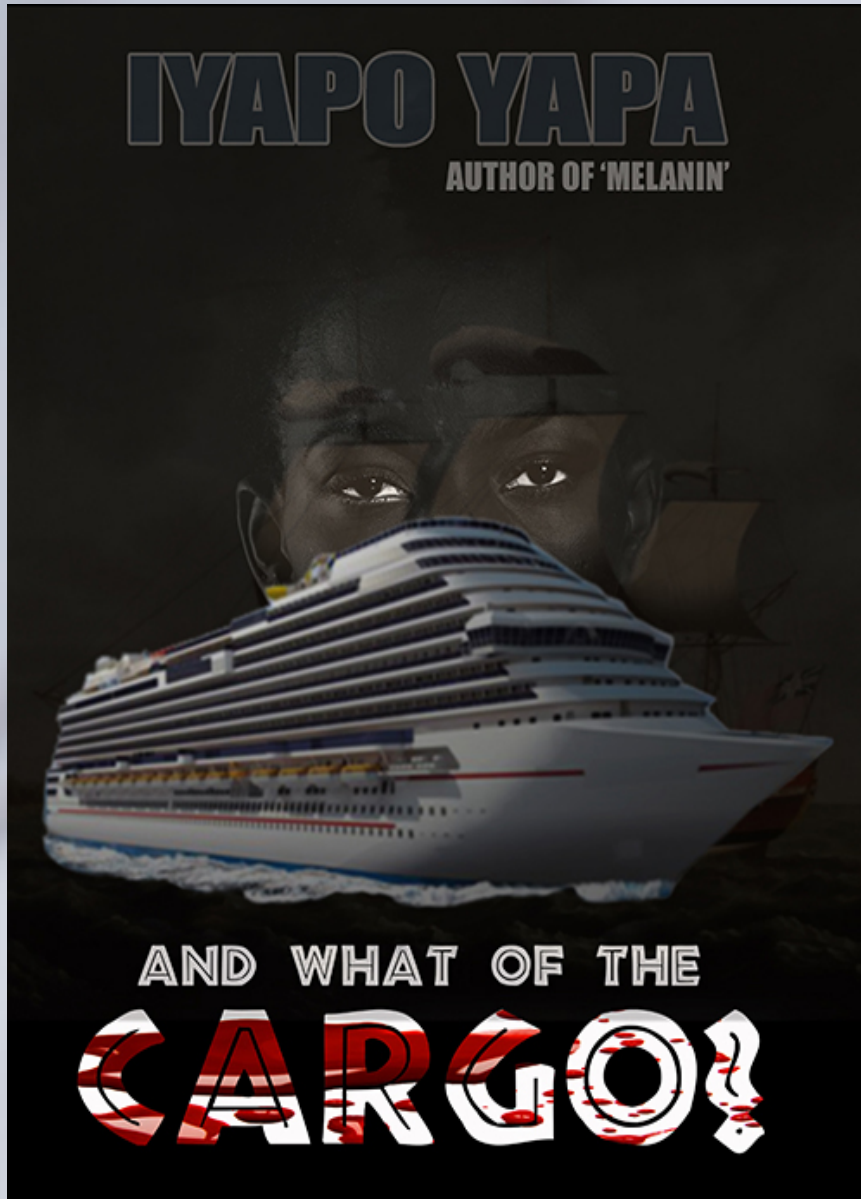
DARK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

READING and
WRITING in the DARK
Newsletter
Vol. 1 No. 1
July 2022

Iyapo Yapa
Writer/Editor/Layout

Angela Yapa
Copy editor



I have to admit that when I started writing *And What of the CARGO?* I was aiming to write a straight horror/thriller. *Cargo* definitely has those elements, but unexpectedly, it turned into a story that filled me with pride and a lot of emotion that I hadn't counted on.

Kylah Mbaye of the Zahnoka people, lay as silently and still as she could, halfheartedly petitioning the ancestors that at least for one night she would not be spirited away and taken above deck to endure yet another in a procession of endless rapes. Another woman would have long ago given in to despair--but Kylah--in the face of such crushing odds against her and her people within the bowels of this floating nightmare, knew that eventually, this voyage would not end well..... for her captors.

And so it began.

And What of the CARGO? is a tale of love and hate, tears and triumph, suspense and horror that leads to an unimaginable conclusion.

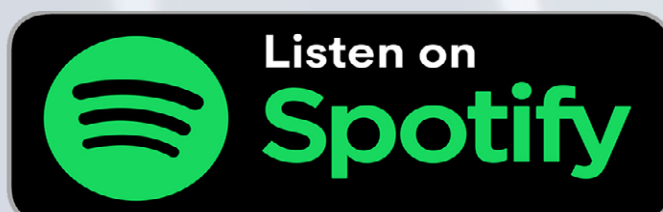
And What of the CARGO?, available soon at:

Barnes & Noble
and
Amazon



Did you know there is also a **READING and WRITING in the DARK PODCAST?!** Well there IS and you can tune in to it and listen just by clicking the block to the right.

You can also hear the **READING and WRITING in the DARK** podcast on:



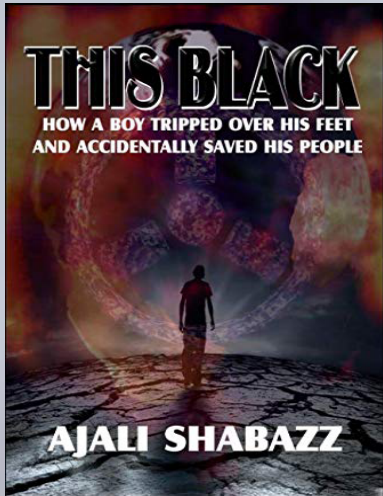
CLICK THIS BLOCK TO LISTEN TO THE
READING and WRITING in the
DARK
A space for avid Black readers and Black authors
podcast!

listen on Spreaker
LISTEN ON iHeartRADIO
Listen on Spotify



Alright, enough about ME!

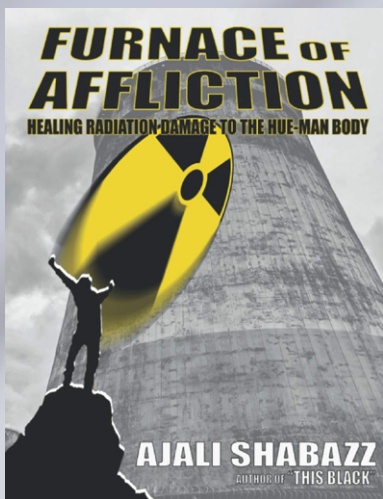
Below are books by some authors I know! Just click the the book cover to purchase their book.



THIS BLACK

Ajali Shabazz

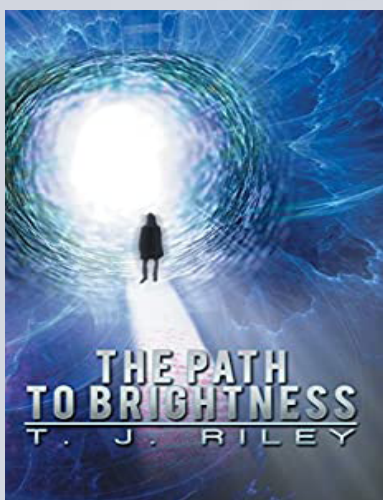
This Black' is the opening story of how Black People permanently freed themselves, and thus the world, from the grips of any persons who brought lies, and thus brought global oppression. An oppression which has, in real time, ground the entire planet to the brink of extinction through the ongoing hemorrhage of radiation from Fukushima Fallout. This work is designed to spread vital knowledge in an edge of your seat adventure, brimming with conflict, treachery, triumph, and fantastical scenarios. It's true Black history made irresistible, spanning thousands and thousands of years and millions of lives. Written for any age, from 12 to infinity, this tale depicts the Black Community as it actually is - in an ongoing process of freeing Ourselves from Mental Slavery



FURNACE of AFFLICTION

Ajali Shabazz

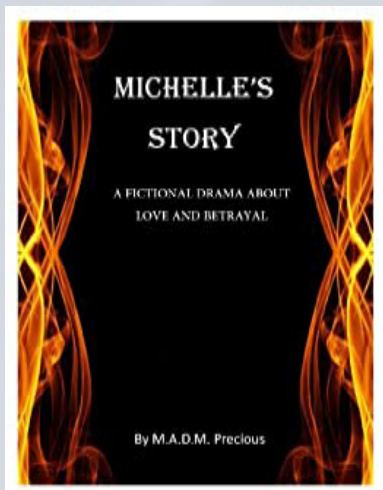
Following this book's guidance for withstanding the radioactive scourge of Fukushima Fallout and all things nuclear (turns out there's quite a LOT of sources of man-made radiation, with all of it deadly, down to a single atom or ionizing wave) – taking the enclosed steps as your new life enhancing permanent endeavors will eventually lead to many of your family, friends and even your coworkers (share it with just the ones you like) – eventually seeing you withstanding even the common cold, let alone the inevitable organ eviscerating carnage caused by this invisible atomic sized dagger.



THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatimas journey as she tries to convince others of the astounding esoteric knowledge she has brought back from beyond the veil. However, there are some that wish to stop her from sharing an ancient secret. A secret that will change life on earth, forever.



MICHELLE'S STORY

M.A.D.M. Precious

When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...

THANK YOU for subscribing to the newsletter, I genuinely appreciate it! Be sure and spread the word about my work by telling others about my website, books, podcasts and such at:

<https://www.iyapoyapa.com>

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!