

READING and WRITING in the

DARIK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE:
BREAKING
OUT OF
THE BLOCK!

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MELANIN: A Novel is **HERE!**
Now what? Iyapo takes a
DEEPER dive into the world
of **THEORETICAL EBON
FICTION** by
Venturing into the
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And:

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**News and Information about Completed and Up-
coming Projects and MORE!**



NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!

Before I write anything else, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has purchased MELANIN: A Novel, and even you who have not purchased it yet but will be doing so in the future! Thank you to everyone who has subscribed to the newsletter, and who listen to the Podcast that is its namesake and just for honoring me with your time and presence. I am genuinely humbled by it and appreciate it more than I can say (or write)!

I am proud and excited to say that as of August 31, 2022, my debut novel: MELANIN is out in the world for ALL to see! It has been a loooooong journey for me to bring this book to fruition and I couldn't have done it without the help and support of family, friends and loved ones, and of course The Most High Yah! I got the idea for the story almost thirty years ago after seeing a movie called "White Man's Burden" and being sorely disappointed by it. I wanted to write this story then, but I had neither the skills, consciousness nor experience to adequately put them down on paper. As of about four years ago, I did, and began writing the story. As time went by, it took twists and turns, and morphed, and at one point in the story, even I was surprised by something that happened! So, to those who've read MELANIN already, thank you, and to those who have yet to read it, I think you're in for a treat! I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it!

This issue I will also be talking about the upcoming PARADIGM VOID! So, I won't spend a lot of time on it here.

Last month I told you I am working on a project that I plan to publish on the Kindle Vella platform. I am still hard at work on it, and oddly enough, I wrote myself into a corner pretty quickly, but as with the heroes in this cliffhanger of a series, they me be in a situation in which they see no way out, but they ALWAYS WILL!

Maybe.



What are readers saying about 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*

"Iyapo Yapa has earned a place among the great science fiction writers with Melanin. The plot twists will keep you reading long after midnight. As well the imagery is captivating. Replicating the Black experience, you are drawn into the story as if you are there."
- T.J. Riley, author of *The Path to Brightness*

"The whole world needs to read this book!"
- M.A.D.M. Precious, author of *Michelle's Story* and *Loving Betrayal*

"Every Black person needs to read this book!"
- Gwen B

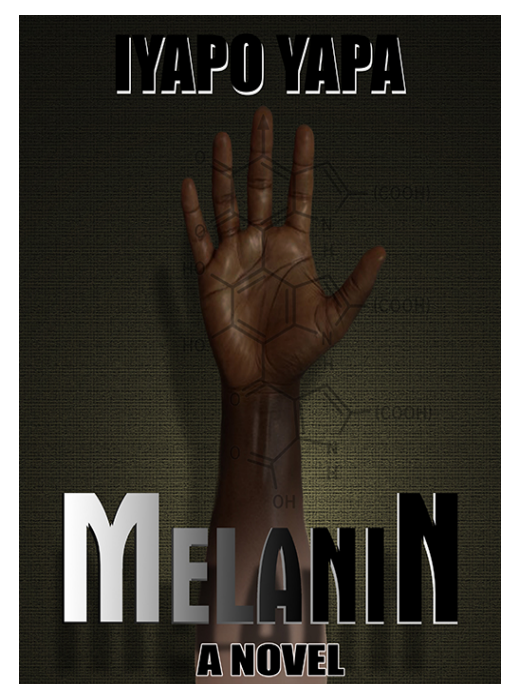
"It was exciting! I stayed up a few nights wanting to see what was coming!"
- Ayoka

AVAILABLE NOW!

MELANIN: A NOVEL

Buy it now by clicking the cover to the right
or

by clicking on the logo of one of the retailers below.



READING and WRITING in the

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Stepping into the PARADIGM VOID-

I've always been a fan of anthologies, whether written, or on television.

My introduction was The Twilight Zone in the 60s. I later discovered its forerunner, the original Outer Limits. In later years I religiously watched the various incarnations of the Twilight Zone from the 80s all the way to the new version hosted by Jordan Peele.

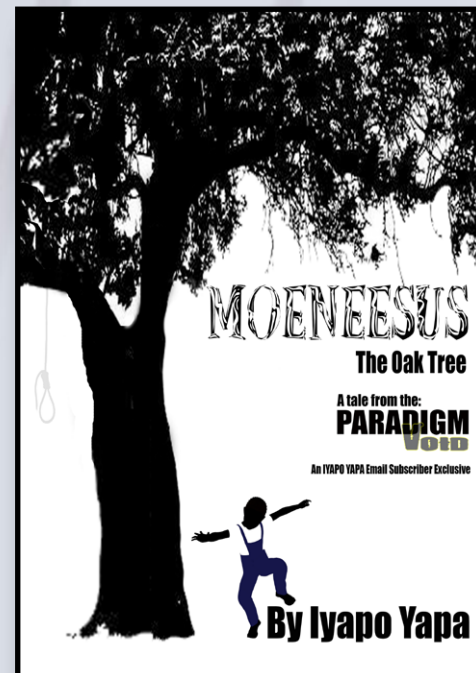
I also enjoyed shows like Masters of Horror, Masters of Science Fiction, Night Visions and so on. If the series consisted of different stories, by different writers and were different every week, I was there! I even enjoyed the George Burns Comedy Week, a COMEDY anthology series (if anyone remembers THAT show).

I like the fact that the stories are short (relatively), and to the point. I also like that when watching or reading an anthology or collection of short stories, as with something like the series 'Writers of the Future' (a collection of stories by L. Ron Hubbard contest winners), the tone and subject matter of the stories can vary wildly, but it is all still within the parameters of the same genre.

With Paradigm Void I have taken my short stories within the Theoretical Ebon Fiction genre and put together a book where the stories will take the readers to highs and lows, laughter and tears, and at some points a lot of anger and hope! When you signed up for the Reading and Writing in the Dark newsletter, you should have received a link to the story: Moenessus The Oak Tree. Moenessus is a story from the Paradigm Void, but if you are trying to gauge the subject matter or tone of the other stories, sorry, this won't help you.

Some of the stories could be read by young teens and others are strictly for adult, with parental discretion advised.

No story within Paradigm Void is like the other, the only consistency being that they ALL have Black us at their center, and they are all rooted in Theoretical Ebon Fiction. Each story is so different than the other there is no way to take any one of them and determine overall what is happening in the book, except that each story is HIGHLY entertaining and many times, thought provoking.



The book is presently in the editorial stage and will be released soon. In the meantime, you may want to pick up a copy of MELANIN A Novel to tide you over until it does. There are already several books I have waiting in the wings. At one point I had discussed with my wife if we should just have released them all at once but decided against it so that each book can have a chance to find its audience and stand on its own before the next one comes out.

Don't worry though, for lovers of short stories that take your mind to places you've never been the wait won't be long, Paradigm Void will be here before you know it!



If you're needing to get your **THEORETICAL EBON FICTION** fix, THIS is the place to go!

PARADIGM VOID is a collection of short stories written by Iyapo Yapa, one of the new leaders in the field of Black Science Fiction and Speculative Fiction. Each story explores possibilities and concepts that were not long ago only within the domain of the standard Sci-Fi reader.

Now, with the insurgence of Black writers of T.E.F., Iyapo is adding his powerful voice to the chorus, and moving at full speed to work in our people taking control of our narrative!

In PARADIGM VOID, Iyapo explores things like:

- What if somewhere in the universe numerous alien races observed earth and concluded that there is a faction on the planet that in no way should ever be allowed to reach out beyond the bounds of its own atmosphere?
- What if the universe itself started taking measures to correct and bring balance to itself in terms of justice?
- What if time slowed down nearly to a stop ... but only for YOU?

PARADIGM VOID is presently in the editorial stages and will soon be available at your favorite book seller!

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BREAKING OUT OF THE BLOCK!

What I do when confronted with the dreaded
WRITER'S BLOCK!!!

Writers block.

All writers get it.

All writers DREAD it.



What causes it? I've read articles on it. I've been reading them since the days when I had a subscription to the "Writer's Digest" way back in the day. They were talking about it then, and way before then, because it is so common.

I suspect that if we went back and looked at cave paintings, the painting would flow until it got to a bison or something and there would only be half a painting of the bison.

The reasons we experience writer's block are as varied as individual writers. More important than how we GET it (because it seems almost unavoidable), is what we do to get past it. As I wrote a moment ago, there are literally THOUSANDS of articles out there about overcoming writer's block and I personally don't believe there is a one size fits all solution for it.

(Full disclosure: I stopped writing the article at the point just before this and came back to it today. Guess why?!)

What I think is most helpful are some of the things I do to get past writer's block. I hasten to add that these are the techniques I use and may or may not work for YOU dear reader, because all of our motivations, inspirations and frankly, work ethics (in terms of writing) can vary so widely.

One of the things I do (not so much as a strategy, but as I've done since I was young when creating comic books and writing my little children's books), is that at any given time, I'm working on several

writing projects. If I get stuck on one (or just at a point where I'm a little bogged down with the story), I'll jump to another in a completely different book, article, story or commentary.

My other strategy goes hand in hand with that one, which is that if I want to work on a story, and want it to progress, but hit the dreaded 'block', then I will go someplace else within that story where I have a little better handle of what's going on and begin writing there. Eventually, I can go back to the place in which I got stuck and connect it. Sometimes, when working that way, it ends up taking the work in a completely unexpected direction!

Which I like very much.

Another way I get past writer's block is to completely step away from the work for a time. There is definitely a such thing as sometimes being too close to a problem. Sometimes, when I walk away from a certain story and then come back a day, week or even a month or more later, the solution to the problem seems clear as day!

"I suspect that if we went back and looked at cave paintings, the painting would flow until it got to a bison or something and there would be only half a painting of the bison."

The final strategy I seldom use because it employs Captain James T. Kirk's approach to the Kobayashi Maru – the Starfleet test based upon a "no win scenario". Kirk beat the test by changing the parameters of the test. Such might be the approach to having "written myself into a corner", thus creating my own Kobayashi Maru. It is at that point that I just go backward in the story as far as necessary and change the parameters that got me to the point of the no win scenario, and from there, continue to move forward. The only caution with using that strategy is that at times, if employing that tactic, it could affect the overall story line and cause other problems down the line if there is a very specific story you were intending to tell, and now the change might have a cumulative effect and end up taking it in a totally different direction, which is something that might not be all bad—as I implied earlier. That, however, is highly subjective and fully on the shoulders of the writer.

YOU know what you mean to say, and how you mean to say it.

So, there it is.

Some of the ways in which I get past writer's block. I hope you've found it helpful, and even if you don't feel there are any of these strategies you can use yourself, perhaps it may have at least caused you to examine your own struggles with writer's block in a different way so that you might come up with your own creative ways of getting past it.



Poems, Thoughts and Machinations

What is good poetry, and WHO decides?

I struggle with poetry.

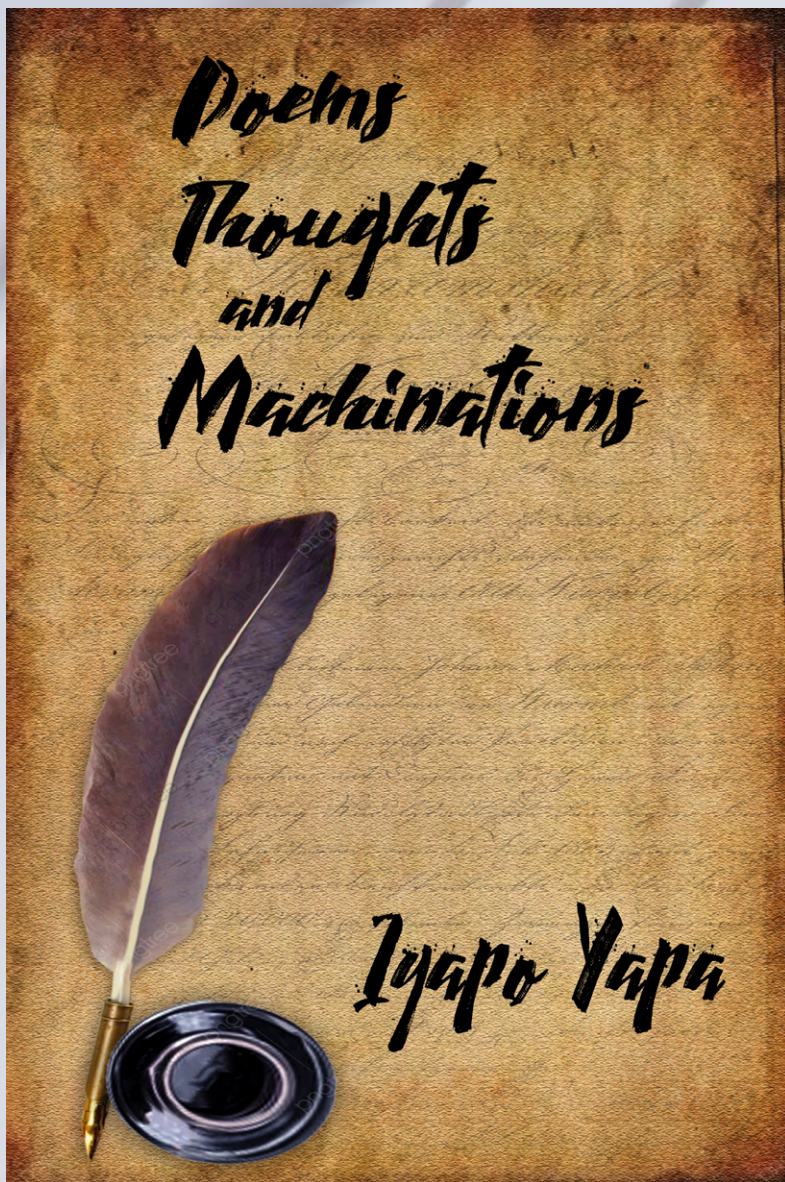
There, I said it.

I think a lot of people (myself included), say they like to write poetry, and I guess that's fair. As I think about poetry however, sometimes I catch feelings. I have read many articles and watched a lot of videos about poetry and what makes a good poem.

I read recently that poems that rhyme are now trite and seem 'dated', and that most people who read them don't consider it serious poetry anymore. Fair enough. I don't see rap necessarily as "poetry" or many songs for that matter, but when strictly looking at the lyrics a LOT of people seem to like it and the fact that it rhymes. I have to admit that in pop music, something like, say, Take The Long Way Home from Supertramp's Breakfast in America Album is one of the most poetic pieces I've ever read.

I and an author friend of mine were discussing writing, as we often do, and she talked about someone in particular (a white man), who insisted that if she wanted to be a good writer, she would need to first become familiar with the works of Agatha Christie and other such writers. For what she writes, and the way she writes, and especially her target audience, she didn't see a lot of use in such a thing, and I agree.

So yes, we can study Shakespeare, Longfellow, Bryant and Post, or even Angelou, Hughes, or Rita Dove and Tracy K. Smith, but ultimately the power of a poem is going to be decided first, in my opinion, by the poet who wrote it, and then, by those who read or hear it, and it will be their decision as to the validity of the work.



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!



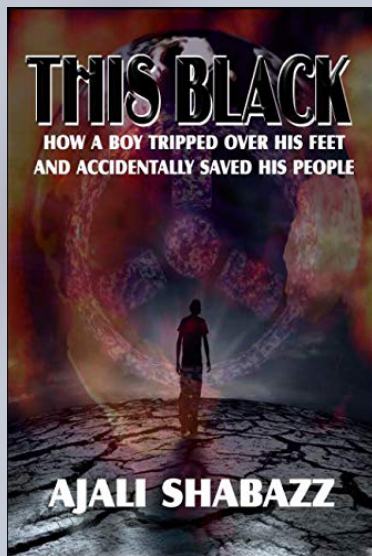
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COMING THIS MONTH!

AJALI SHABAZZ



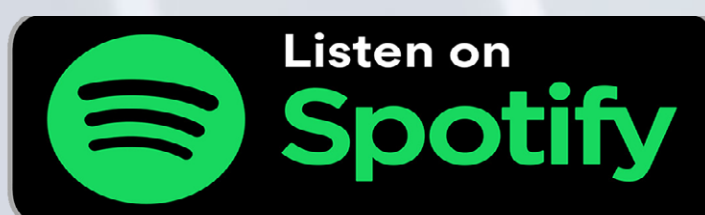
Author of: *This Black - This Black NATION* and *Furnace of Affliction!*
The Reading and Writing in the DARK Podcast Interview!

You don't want to miss this interview with this new POWERFUL voice
in the genre of Theoretical Ebon Fiction, and Non Fiction!



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
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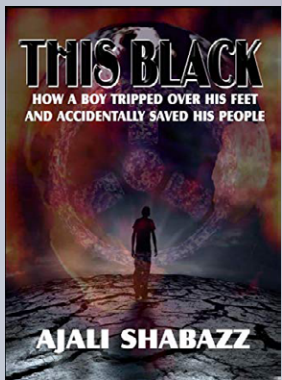
podcast!

listen on Spreaker
LISTEN ON iHeartRADIO
Listen on Spotify



Alright, enough about ME!

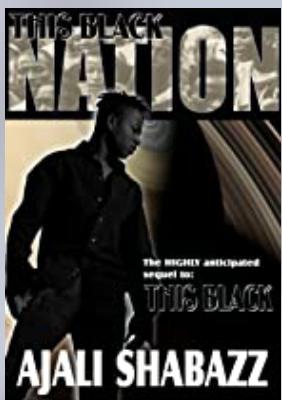
Below are books by some authors I know! Just click the the book cover to purchase their book.



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

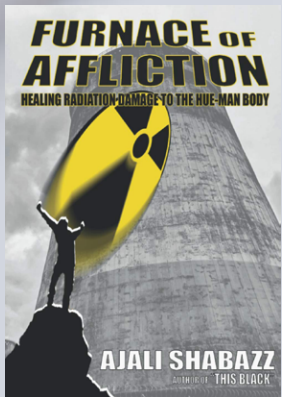


THIS BLACK NATION

Ajali Shabazz

The highly anticipated follow-up to 'This Black', 'This Black Nation' continues the saga of Tyree's determination to achieve victory against the increasingly radioactive reality we each face, and his growing precision in defeating his people's enemies. But, first? He has to defeat his own self-doubt. Good thing this time? He has a few hundred thousand friends.

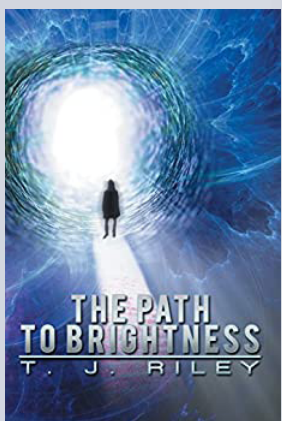
'This Black' is vital Pro-Black-Speculative fiction, which delivers a passionate clarion call to Our Family, intended to educate us about the dire nonstop hemorrhage of radiation from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant that is still spewing unchecked deadly isotopes, every minute of every day. By transforming the specter of a frightening catastrophe into nail biting great storytelling, this work increases common knowledge of that real time disaster, so we can employ the proven methods that will protect and repair this wounded planet, which is the only planet we have to call our home.



FURNACE of AFFLICTION

Ajali Shabazz

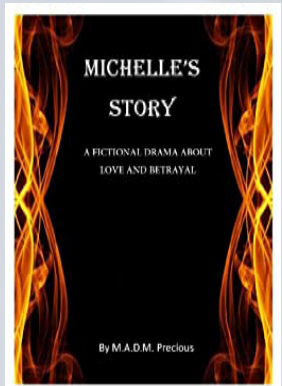
Following this book's guidance for withstanding the radioactive scourge of Fukushima Fallout and all things nuclear (turns out there's quite a LOT of sources of man-made radiation, with all of it deadly, down to a single atom or ionizing wave) - taking the enclosed steps as your new life enhancing permanent 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!