

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-May-07 – /ToStories/-American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her fifth historical romance novel, *The House of Marchesi*.

Clues have often been used as the handle for which authors hope readers will take hold to solve a crime in a mystery/detective novel. They are also used in science fiction fantasy as a hint for someone to discover another world or a power that lied within. Authors use objects, such as intangible portals, wands, or an ethereal weapon to signify the transformation of a given character. They demonstrate a connection between a character's past self to his or her newest or purest form. These objects become the bridge which merge two selves into a cohesive whole or even lay aside the character's past as an opening to a grand future. Sometimes the object themselves do not possess any inherent power. It is only by the holder of the object that it has a greater meaning. Beyond these genres, objects have their place even in historical romance. Jewelry among members of the 18th century gentry were lavish, often heaped on as a display of one's wealth in attending a grand affair. Centuries prior, even some male aristocrats decorated their hats with jewels. Thus, jewelry is not always just for adornment or for sentimental value. This is where the author possesses the creative innovation to use a gem or a piece of jewelry to display the next stage in a protagonist's life, the release of the past, the annihilation of an enemy, and to represent the culmination of triumph. It is this moment that becomes the character's 'crowning' achievement. It is in *The House of Marchesi* that fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad does just that.

Set in 18th century Milan, a duchessa is thrust from her horse and into the estate of another esteemed member of the king's court. Duchessa Lilliana is unable to remember her accident or her identity. Duca Emmanuele notices that Duchessa Rosetta is complacent about their daughter's absence from the House of Montanari. Lilliana's father finds a gold charm while he searches the estate for his missing daughter. This piece of jewelry is part of a bracelet that still adorns the duchessa. He clings to it as a sign of hope that she is alive and well. During the duchessa's convalescence, she and the duca grow in affection towards one another. The maidservant, Noemi of the House of Montanari silently volunteers to help locate and retrieve the missing duchessa. Noemi enlists the help of her fellow maidservant, Gabriella. Noemi leaves the House of Montanari and begins her trek to locate Duchessa Lilliana. While on her journey, she finds a gold charm that she believes belongs to the duchessa. This is the second piece of jewelry which has broken from her bracelet and still links the duchessa to the House of Montanari. Noemi also encounters a proud vendor of pomegranates. He speaks of a tale of a fallen maiden taken into the care of a duca. He guides her to the House of Marchesi. When Noemi discovers Lilliana's location she meets with a trusted servant of that house, Rinaldi. Rinaldi presents her to the duca. Duca Alessandro allows for Noemi to see Lilliana. Noemi asks that the duca give the charm to the duchessa. The duchessa finally recalls her father's identity. The piece of jewelry bridged who she was from the House of Montanari to whom she was becoming while in the company of the master of the House of Marchesi. The duchessa wishes to learn more of the duca. He introduces her to various quarters of the Marchesi mansion. The king and queen gather evidence and secure it in the royal vault regarding a conspiracy to kidnap and harm Duchessa Lilliana. As she and the duca continue their courtship under unusual circumstances, the duca can no longer withhold the extent of his affection for her. Alessandro proposes to her. Lilliana accepts. The Crown decides to proceed with the planned royal ball. Noemi visits again, this time

with a Tahitian pearl necklace that Duca Emmanuele secured away from Duchessa Lilliana's mother who intended to steal it. All of the esteemed of the Milanese king's court are to attend. The night of the royal grand affair arrives. The servants from the House of Marchesi assist Duchessa Lilliana to prepare for the grand affair. Her duca watches as they continuously drape her in the extravagant pearl necklace. Lilliana believes that the pearls are too heavy but wears them along with a necklace Duca Alessandro gifted to her. She remains true to who she is, but now has become the lady of the House of Marchesi. Yet, she still honours her father by wearing the heirloom of the House of Montanari. During the ball, servants of the Houses of Montanari and Marchesi work together to ensure that Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana's future is forever secured. They enter the royal palace with the assistance of a servant. In separate royal chambers, the king and queen officiate Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana's nuptials. Duca Emmanuele is right to be concerned for his daughter, for someone has conspired a dastardly plan against the duchessa, but who? Duchessa Lilliana reunites with her father, Duca Emmanuele. Duca Alessandro stands close at his betrothed's side. She reveals the charm bracelet which she has pinned as an adornment within her hair. Lilliana had not worn it as she did before. This piece of jewelry has taken a different meaning. The duchessa explains to her father that she is now a part of The House of Marchesi. The king and queen reveals who sought to harm Duchessa Lilliana before the king's court. The Crown asks for Duca Alessandro and Duchessa Lilliana to stand with them on the platform while the perpetrator is adjudged. Lilliana is at the side of her fiancé laden with the pearl necklace. It is no longer a burden, but her crown in the moment that she witnesses justice.

The House of Marchesi is currently available for purchase as an ebook from these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08VGSWDSH
Barnes & Noble: 2940162505693
Smashwords: 9781005567330
Tolino Media: 9783752132892
Thalia EAN: 9783752132892
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Google Play: GGKEY:4K2HUAB6KAH
Apple Books: N/A
DriveThru Fiction: N/A
Lulu: N/A

About the Author: Patricia M. Muhammad is an American multi-genre fiction author of crossover contemporary romance/science fiction, science fiction/fantasy, mystery/detective and historical romance genres. She has written 20 novels. Patricia is currently based in the United States.

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