

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — United States, 2021-July-24—/ToStories/ — genre fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad publishes *The Speakeasy Murders*, a mystery/detective romance novel.

Interracial relationships are nothing new in the western hemisphere. They appear to be accepted by the masses when one of the persons involved is of acceptable notoriety either due to fame, political position or fortune. Some have been rejected exactly because of these factors due to the unsophisticated and immature minds of envious spectators. Civility is not included in their repertoire which exacerbates their own misery, seeking to destroy the happiness of complete strangers because an interracial couple does not fit within the confines of their hateful, social perspective. Nonetheless, those in traditional have exercised their right to be content with the mate of their choosing—even if their chosen partner happen to be from another ethnicity. These sorts of couples choose their own happiness which has been curated by destiny for them to enjoy only with one another, because it was created only for these two. This shroud of amazing felicity becomes the fortress that protects their sacred bond and allows for them to continue building their exclusive refuge.

The mystery surrounding these circumstances arises when they must identify any encroaching harm which seeks to threaten what is ordained for them to have. Some have conspired with wicked intent to put asunder their ethereal bond whether it is for sport or based in their erroneous ideology that they seek to impose on others. Such malice is easily witnessed as they connive kidnapping or perhaps even murder. They have obscured reality through their conjured belief that their hateful thoughts are the standard by which strangers should adhere to. This grants them a delusional comfort. Their target is anyone who does not believe as they and their purpose to upend any remnants of civility left in the society in which they live. So how do they seek to achieve this? There are a few methods other than the physical ones. They use threat, intimidation and propaganda, usually some form of slander to achieve their nefarious ends. The racial divide has been a long-standing issue within the United States. Lynchings, kidnappings, torment, and murder are the sinister ammunition that these race baiters build in their social arsenal. Yet, with all that have conspired in great numbers, none can outwit the greatest Power that sees from above. None can diminish the beautiful affection that has been already ordained for these two. This has been written within the stars and interwoven in the blanket of the bright day sky.

Murder is no less a treacherous act then all the slander, interference and mockery that those who seek to misguide into joining their groupthink mentality have committed. Yet the motives for some murders may not be so apparent. Members of the underground world are known for committing homicides and other crimes such as kidnapping and rape against innocents, the very ones who are not and never were a part of their world. The extent of their reach is becoming more readily seen as they seek to overthrow structure and replace it with chaos and anarchy. Abusing the delicate status of American race relations to serve their own purpose is yet another manner in which they hope to accomplish this.

It was 1920s Chicago it was no different. This is when similar murders happened. They appeared to be solely the business of the world below, until the dead bodies started piling up and nearer to those who lived as a part of civilized society—above ground. One detective would witness first-hand the gruesome nature of these people. She would not know that those who committed these murders used them as a cover, because she was their ultimate target. It all began one night when Lieutenant Johnson calls in some of his detectives for another murder. The offenders dumped the decedent in a vast field. The method of killing was different, but it would not take long before some of the detectives realized that they were all part of one criminal scheme, including Detective Helen Williams.

Her lieutenant partners Helen Williams with another detective, Stephen Patterson, to go undercover to further investigate the homicides. Williams is from the suburbs. Some of her

ancestors are well-educated. Helen is not acquainted with the underground world, not even as a detective. She must undergo a transformation in order to blend in amongst the regulars. Patterson introduces Williams to his sister Ruby to help her. Williams admits that her new hairstyle and dress would take some time to adapt to. She adorns herself with a cardigan each time she is to wear any of the flapper dresses. Neither she nor Stephen has ever been to a speakeasy. Helen hopes that no one will notice how uncomfortable she is being there. Williams notes any oddities each time she is present at the speakeasy. She and Stephen have now entered a new world—the world underground. An Englishman, Thaddeus, notices her beauty as well as her being distracted—and none of it has to do with dance or music. Thaddeus is able to garner her attention with genuine interest. She is polite but concentrates on the investigation. The sooner the case is resolved, the quicker she could return to her normal clothes and life—above ground. Helen Williams questions Thaddeus Nottingham about his being present at the speakeasy. He does the same. She is curious about him, just as much as he is of her. To her surprise, Helen 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. Williams is not the only one who notices his cordial approach. Unbeknownst to her, she is now in further danger. However, Helen maintains her courteous nature though she is still unsure of Thaddeus' intentions.

On another 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. They observed her and Thaddeus becoming better acquainted with one another. This was to the strangers' displeasure. These strangers who were black racists, sought to 'teach her a lesson'. They sought to impose their sexual deviancy, criminal intent and woeful ideology onto a stranger because they viewed this detective, this coloured woman as their racial property. 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 her partner, Stephen, appears. Patterson nearly pummels the primary assailant. Helen is like a sister to him. One Negro male had already robbed his actual sister of her virtue and her life; and he was not to allow it to happen again if he could prevent it. The British patron, Thaddeus, handles the second criminal, who dies from an injury. Thaddeus carries Helen away and brings her to his flat. Despite the harrowing incident at the speakeasy, she is still shy and cautious around him. Thaddeus understands that the night went awry, but had it not been for him it could have been worse. She stands before her beau no longer a detective exhibiting self-defense tactics. Helen is vulnerable. The events that night happened were nearly a blur. The detective was part of a social whirlwind in which her gentleman patron had to steal her away from it all. Yet that was only a prelude. A greater threat is steered towards the detective and Thaddeus. Their lives and their future are now at stake. Nonetheless, Helen was grateful. As much as she desires to be comforted, Helen must take care for herself. She settles in with Thaddeus as circumstance dictates. Thaddeus' patience allows for him to understand better who this sweet young woman is. Helen notices that the Englishman is very protective of her. Over time they increase in affection towards one another. This increases the anger and determination of the criminals underground. Somehow they have settled on the warped belief that Helen and Thaddeus' decision to be together somehow affects these strangers' lives and therefore they must be punished. The Englishman cares not for their insidious intent. He only wishes to protect Helen. He proposes to Helen and she accepts. The detective did not let the opinions of others or the incessant racial strife within American society deter her either. America's racial divide had no bearing on the pure love shared between Thaddeus and Helen. She discovered happiness with the gentleman destined for her. Their genuine adoration for one another saw no colour. Yet Detective Williams must continue her investigation. It will likely be her last, but not for the reason one may assume. 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. Those responsible for the murders and the greater connivance to harm Thaddeus and Helen are identified. No one knows who will leave alive, not even Helen.

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

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

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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.