

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — United States, 2021-July-08—/ToStories/ — genre fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad publishes *The Speakeasy Murders*, a mystery/detective romance novel.

Even when they considered the possibility of race as the motive in their murder cases, Williams easily dismissed it. The murders were not a case of black and white. It was all a matter of greed.

She is a professional. Helen would consider suggestions and all possible angles to close her case assignments. Her co-detectives admire her for her detail and often consult with her for her insight. One night her lieutenant calls her in to help investigate a string of murders. A body is found in a field. Helen presumes it is used as the criminal mastermind's dumping ground. After a couple of days of discussing similar cases with her colleagues, Helen realizes that these murders lead to an underground nightclub.

Lieutenant Johnson partners Williams with another detective, Stephen Patterson, to go undercover and further investigate the homicides. Stephen and Helen get on well, though he teases her about some of her mannerisms. Williams is from the suburbs. Some of her ancestors are well educated. She doesn't know much about the underground clubs or how to present herself there. Patterson introduces Williams to his sister Ruby to help her transform into a flapper. Williams admits that her new hairstyle and dress would take some time to adapt to. Helen believes the dresses are too extravagant, but knows she must play the part. The detective only feels comfortable wearing a cardigan with any of the dresses, thinking this odd accessory would not prevent her from blending in. Her station house brother teases her even about this, but Williams is adamant is about the sweater. Neither she nor Stephen has ever been to a speakeasy. Helen hopes that no one will notice how uncomfortable she is being there. Williams observes her surroundings, taking note of the people and any strange behavior. It is actually all quite odd to her. 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 a genuine interest in becoming better acquainted with her. She is polite but concentrates on the investigation. The detective does not wish to spend more time at the seedy club than necessary. The sooner the case is resolved, the quicker she could return to her normal clothes and life—above ground. 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 has a genuine interest in 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. Helen maintains her courteous nature, but 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. 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 Stephen appears. Patterson nearly pummels the primary assailant. The British patron, Thaddeus, handles the second criminal, who dies. Thaddeus carries her away and brings her to his flat. She is shy and cautious. He understands that the night went awry, but had it not been for Thaddeus, it could have been worse. She stands before her beau no longer a gun-toting detective. Helen is vulnerable. The events that night happened so quickly. She was part of a social whirlwind in which her gentleman patron had to whisk her away from it all. Helen was grateful, but she was also tired. As much as she desires to be comforted, Helen must take care for herself. She settles in with Thaddeus as circumstance dictates. Her current state allows for Thaddeus to gain a greater understanding of who this sweet young woman is. Helen notices that the Englishman is very protective of her. Over time they increase in natural affection towards one another. The Englishman proposes to Helen and she accepts. The detective had not let the opinions of others or the incessant racial strife within American society deter her. She discovered happiness with the gentleman who noticed her first.

Their affection for one another saw no colour. Had any of those determined to fan the flames of racial hatred had any sort of inclined heart, perhaps the massacre in the South would not have happened. 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. 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:

Amazon ASIN: B08Y751JKQ  
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

About the Author: Patricia M. Muhammad is a multi-genre fiction author. She writes in science-fiction/fantasy, fantasy, contemporary romance crossover, historical romance and mystery/detective romance genres. Patricia often includes multi-racial characters and interracial relationships in her books. She has written 20 novels. Patricia is currently based in the United States.

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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.