

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-United States, 2021-June 14— /ToStories/-American fiction author Patricia M. Muhammad discusses her historical romance novel, *Hidden Valor*.

Historical romance novels and historical fiction have been touted as the most popular genre in fiction. Though some dispute this categorization with the counterargument that mystery novels remain the foremost choice for ardent readers, none can deny the general popularity historical romance books have. From the 19th century onward, readership of historical novels has demonstrated a consistent interest in a form of literary transport to another time. Readers may enjoy the dress, art and general culture of an era and country that reality is not able to afford them. Herein some have argued the importance of accurate research to reflect the time and people within a given storyline. Recently, the *Journal of Victorian Culture* entitled "The Rise and Fall of the Historical Novel?"* At first glance, the title implies that interest in historical romance and the broader genre of historical fiction has lost momentum in readership interest. However, upon further reading, the authors assert that the implied decline in the historical/historical romance novel refers to the quality of content. This primarily concerns the accuracy of authors' research and the readers' willingness to overlook such errors in order to enjoy the storyline. Based on research regarding 19th century historical literature, the authors conclude that readers have generally positive responses towards the genre. Those who lament the few historical fiction books containing inaccurate historical references naturally provided negative responses. The study found that these negative reviews were rare, once again supporting the general acknowledgment that historical fiction is a favorable and widely popular genre. Historical romance fiction found its greatest surge in the 1990s, a decade where mass paperbacks also became more readily available. In today's market, historical romance novels, especially those that still depict the Regency era of England are proven to be a commercial staple in the broader fiction market. Though not a novel set in the Regency period, Patricia M. Muhammad's novel, *Hidden Valor* is yet another contribution to this unwavering reception to historical romance fiction, set in London, England.

The story involves a beautiful duchess, Arabella who has recently become of age. She steals away from her House of Wellington one night and encounters another courtier, a handsome gentleman, who finds her presence in a public area, unescorted, intriguing. On another occasion, Arabella leaves for the king's court without notice or permission. While present on the Crown's estate, two murders take place within the royal palace. Duke Everett, an aristocrat who only some time earlier the same day lost a land dispute presented before the throne, is accused amongst the courtiers. The king and queen order any members of the gentry to remain on the regal property until further notice. Early on during his stay he notices Duchess Arabella's beauty and her piqued curiosity in the paintings which adorn the palace walls. Arabella is also among those sequestered on the royal grounds. She and Duke Everett's circumstances forces the duke and duchess to become more acquainted with each other. He realizes that despite the fortress she has built around herself, that he is actually quite fond of her. Arabella and Everett continue to spend time with one another which results in a formal courtship. He and the duchess are among the first to be exonerated. Yet the Crown orders them to remain on the palace grounds until the king and queen can solve the murders. After some time has passed, the king and queen allow for the duke and duchess leave for the House of Carrington, only for the Crown to summon Duke Everett to serve as a royal advisor. A third murder

happens. Duchess Arabella refuses to leave her fiancé's side and presents herself at his service, and thus to the service of the Crown. The king and queen grant her permission to remain as long as the duke is able to perform the duties assigned to him. Arabella's fiancé's family name and revered House is at stake—and so is their future. The primary witness to one of the murders is Duke Everett's unknown cousin, Duke Gideon. Duke Everett works diligently, seeking the counsel of his dear Arabella in the process to finally resolve all the murders. Thereafter, Everett and Arabella are now free to wed and remain as honourable members of the king's court. All of them, especially the king and queen, are surprised as the identity of the conspirators are revealed. Yet beyond the subject decedents, not all depart from the royal palace unscathed.

Hidden Valor is a historical romance novel set in 18th century England. The author, Patricia M. Muhammad focuses on the characters oftentimes more than the environment. However, the dress and culture of the ennobled are interwoven within the broad imagery to evoke an era in which none of us present will ever be able to experience firsthand.

Hidden Valor is currently available for purchase as an ebook at these online retailers:

Amazon ASIN: B08K9H2X5H
Barnes & Noble: 2940163078301
Smashwords: 9781005473990
Tolino Media: 9783752117790
Thalia EAN: 9783752117790
Kobo ISBN: 1230004260349
Google Play: GGKEY:D1L2J86DC8W
Lulu: N/A
Apple Books: N/A
DriveThru Fiction: N/A

*See "The rise and fall of the historical novel?", Helen Kingstone and Jonathan Taylor, 26:2 *Journal of Victorian Culture* (online) (2020).

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

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