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Published book tells a tale that challenges the bonds of friendship and family relationships

“Pearl” A Caribbean Story” by Melanie R. Springer is set for a new marketing campaign

ST. PHILIP, Barbados – Inspired by the cultural diversity of the Caribbean people and the many countries in which she has lived, Melanie R. Springer releases her novel “Pearl: A Caribbean Story” ([published by iUniverse](#) in March 2009), a poetic, coming of age about a misunderstood teenage girl, and her meddlesome 10-year-old brother wrapped in a dramatic blend of Afro-Caribbean culture, and post-colonial superstition.

A playful attempt by three young friends to exact revenge on a pesky older sister takes an astonishing turn. Could their fooling around with obeah/voodoo actually have worked? In a tale that will challenge the bonds of friendship and family relationships, the stage is set for an extraordinary coming of age.

A dark comedy, with its action hinging around the mysterious passing of a teenage girl named Pearl. It is about everyone except Pearl; about her mother Loretta, and brother Omar - A little boy whose mischievous exploits finally get the better of him.

“This book champions the carefree nature of childhood. It respects the difficulty of parenthood. It addresses the evolution of Caribbean societal constructs post colonialism. It touches on race and gender issues. One cannot help but identify with the feeling of utter dread that immobilizes us, when a prank goes horribly wrong,” Springer says.

When asked what she wants readers to take away from the book, Springer answers, “The struggles of family, and love, right of place, right to hold space. That individual and collective value are universal themes, and Caribbean people are no different.”

“Pearl: A Caribbean Story”

By Melanie R. Springer

Softcover | 5 x 8in | 334 pages | ISBN 9781440122712

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Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble

About the Author

Melanie R. Springer was born in St. Johns Antigua in 1971. At the age of 3, she relocated with her mother and sister to Barbados – the birthplace of her father. In the summer of 1988, she moved to Puerto Rico to live with her father and pursue her studies in Visual Arts. Her later qualifications in Art Education would be put to good use while she worked with various cultural organizations in Barbados. Inspired by the multicultural beauty of the Caribbean, her interest in the arts would lead her to Martinique where she studied French while working as an Au-Pair with the idea to study film in France. Her subsequent travels would lead her to the internationally acclaimed film school “Escuela Internacional de Cine Y Televisión” in Cuba where she specialized in Sound Engineering. From 1997 until today, she has worked in the advertising, film and multi-media industries from Barbados, to Italy and Belize. In addition to her work as a copywriter, creative director and producer/director, Springer for several years taught introductory film courses at the Barbados Community College. She currently runs her own film and television production company - Brownest Eye Productions. She plans to publish more books in the near future, and hopes that her writings will inspire, and help others to heal.

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