

MICHELLE COLES

MEDIA KIT

NAME: Michelle Coles
PRONOUNS: she / her / hers

REPRESENTATION

LITERARY AGENT: Charlotte Sheedy, Sheedy Lit (charlotte@sheedylit.com)
SPEAKING AGENT: Charles Yao, The Lavin Agency (ciao@thelavinagency.com)
PUBLISHER: Tu Books, an imprint of Lee and Low Books

BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Coles is an award-winning young adult novelist, former civil rights attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, and public speaker. She currently serves as a Commissioner on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a first of its kind in the United States. She is a proud alumna of Howard University School of Law, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class, and the University of Virginia. Her goal in writing is to empower young people by educating them about history and giving them the tools to shape their own destiny. She lives in Maryland with her family. Her debut young adult historical fiction novel, *Black Was the Ink*, was published with Tu Books, an imprint of Lee and Low Books, on November 2, 2021. *Black Was the Ink* received numerous awards including the 2022 Grateful American Book Prize, a 2022 Skipping Stone Award, a 2023 In the Margins Award, and the 2019 New Visions Award Honor.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/michellejcolesauthor

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GOODREADS: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7570311.Michelle_Coles

**MICHELLE COLES
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AUTHOR PHOTO #1

Photo Credit: Tony Garr Photography, 2020



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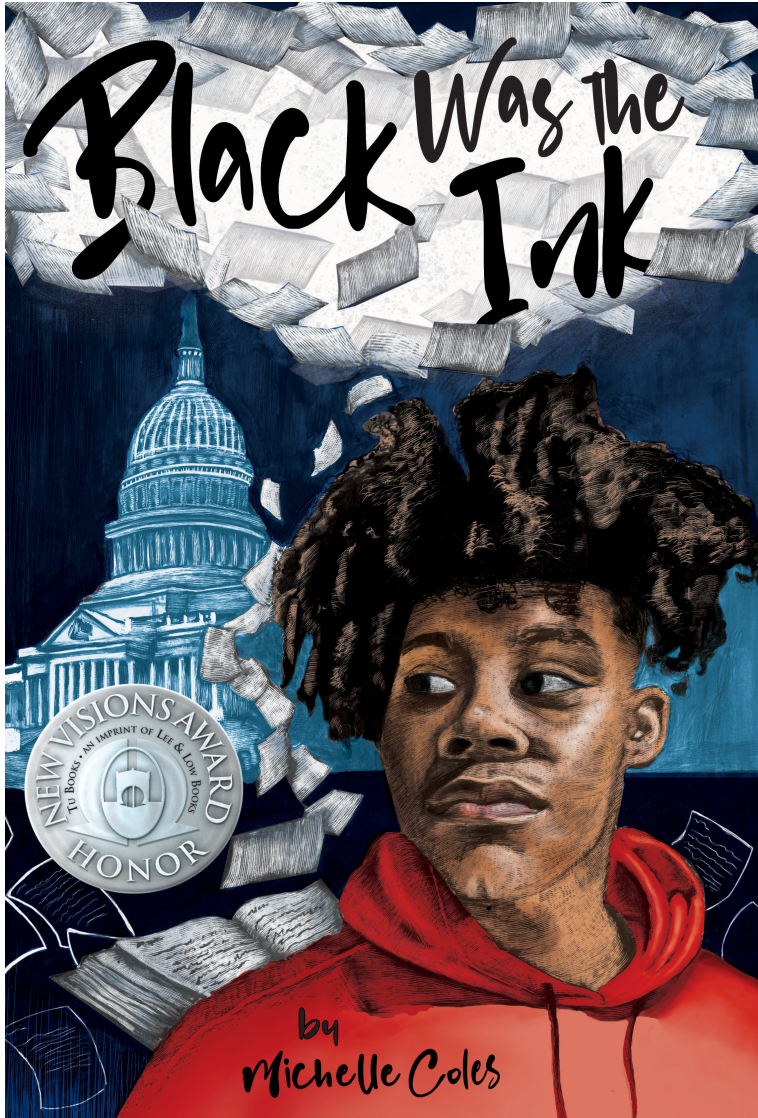
AUTHOR PHOTO #2

Photo Credit: Edward Underwood Photography, 2021



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BOOK INFORMATION:



TITLE: *Black Was the Ink*
COVER DESIGN: Sheila Smallwood, Lee and Low Books
ILLUSTRATOR: Justin Johnson
US RELEASE DATE: November 2, 2021
ISBN: 9781643794310
PAGE LENGTH: 396 PAGES

REVIEWS

Black Was the Ink, a recipient of Lee and Low's New Vision Award Honor, a Skipping Stones Award, and the Grateful American Book Prize, has received glowing reviews, including the following:

"Coles' stunning debut celebrates forgotten heroes and better futures." —*ALA Booklist* starred review

"This engaging and timely novel, showcasing atrocities and highlighting joyous moments, will transport its readers. A dynamic look at how the past informs the future." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Using history as her bridge, Coles has created a poignant coming-of-age story that masterfully combines time travel, the Reconstruction Era, and modern social justice issues." — Washington Lawyer Magazine

"Michelle Coles' powerful and prescient *Black Was the Ink* . . . [is a] clear-eyed novel of youthful challenges and precariousness buoyed by ancestral spirits and a history fraught with struggle and purpose."—Tony Medina, author of *I Am Alfonso Jones*

BUY LINKS

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Black-Was-Ink-Michelle-Coles/dp/1643794310/ref=cm_cr_ar_p_d_product_top?ie=UTF8

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/black-was-the-ink-michelle-coles/1139006067?ean=9781643794310>

Black Bookstore: https://blackbookstore.com/products/black-was-the-ink-9781643794310?_pos=1&_sid=8a13aa9bc&_ss=r

Bookshop: <https://bookshop.org/books/black-was-the-ink/9781643794310>

Lee and Low Books: <https://www.leeandlow.com/books/black-was-the-ink>

Mahogany Books: <https://www.mahoganybooks.com/9781643794310>

SHORT SUMMARY

Through the help of a ghostly ancestor, sixteen-year-old Malcolm is sent on a journey through Reconstruction-era America to find his place in modern-day Black progress and learns that forgotten heroes still leave their mark.

LONG SUMMARY

Malcolm Williams hasn't been okay for a while. He's angry and despondent and feels like nothing good ever happens for teens like him in D.C. All he wants is to be left alone in his room for the summer to draw or play video games--but no such luck. With growing violence in his neighborhood, his mother ships him off to his father's family farm in Mississippi, and Malcolm is anything but pleased.

A few days after his arrival, his great-aunt tells him that the State is acquiring the farm to widen a highway. It's not news Malcolm is concerned about, but someone plans to make it his concern. One minute Malcolm is drawing in the farmhouse attic, and the next he's looking through the eyes of his ancestor Cedric Johnson in 1866.

As Cedric, Malcolm meets the real-life Black statesmen who fought for change during the Reconstruction era: Hiram Revels, Robert Smalls, and other leaders who made American history. But even after witnessing their bravery, Malcolm's faith in his own future remains shaky, particularly since he knows that the gains these statesmen made were almost immediately stripped away. If those great men couldn't completely succeed, why should he try?

Malcolm must decide which path to take. Can Cedric's experiences help him construct a better future? Or will he resign himself to resentments and defeat? Perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds and Nic Stone, and featuring illustrations by upcoming artist, Justin Johnson, *Black Was the Ink* is a powerful coming-of-age story and an eye-opening exploration of an era that defined modern America.