

# MICHELLE COLES

## MEDIA KIT

**NAME:** Michelle Coles

**PRONOUNS:** she / her / hers

### **REPRESENTATION**

**LITERARY AGENT:** Charlotte Sheedy, Sheedy Lit ([charlotte@sheedylit.com](mailto:charlotte@sheedylit.com))

**SPEAKING AGENT:** Charles Yao, The Lavin Agency ([cyao@thelavinagency.com](mailto:cyao@thelavinagency.com))

**PUBLISHER:** Tu Books, an imprint of Lee and Low Books

### **SHORT BIO**

Michelle Coles, author of *Black Was the Ink*, is a debut novelist, experienced civil rights attorney, and mother of four. Her goal in writing is to empower young people by educating them about history and giving them the tools to shape their own destiny.

### **LONG BIO**

Michelle Coles is a debut novelist, experienced civil rights attorney, and mother of four. As a 9th generation Louisianan, she is highly attuned to the struggles that African Americans have faced in overcoming the legacy of slavery and the periods of government-sanctioned discrimination that followed. She is a proud alumna of Howard University School of Law 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.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**AUTHOR WEBSITE:** [www.michellecoles.com](http://www.michellecoles.com)

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**TIKTOK:** [www.tiktok.com/michellecolesauthor](http://www.tiktok.com/michellecolesauthor)

**MICHELLE COLES  
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AUTHOR PHOTO #1

Photo Credit: Tony Garr Photography, 2020



**MICHELLE COLES  
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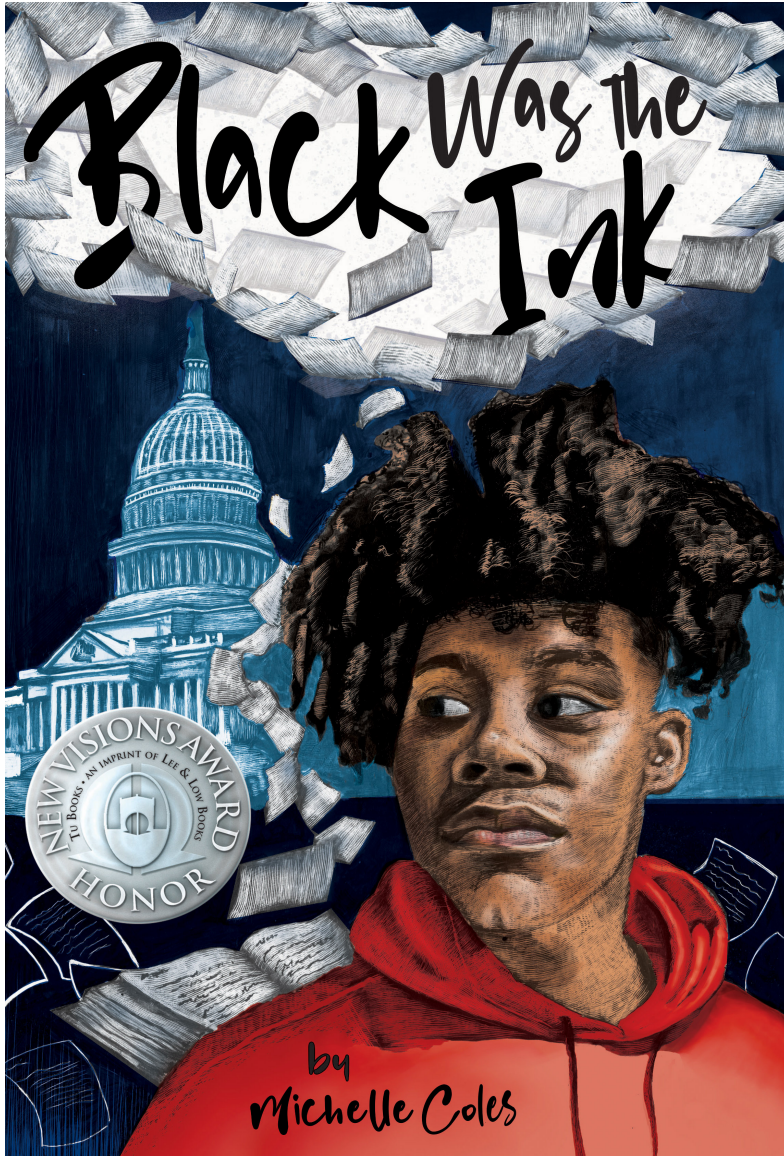
AUTHOR PHOTO #2

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* 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](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](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. 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.