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ABOUT "DOWN SOUTH FOR THE SUMMER"

"DOWN SOUTH FOR SUMMER" IS THE STORY OF A BLACK FAMILY FROM THE NORTHEAST TAKING THEIR ANNUAL ROAD TRIP TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. SET IN THE 1990S, THIS STORY HIGHLIGHTS THE QUINTESSENTIAL BLACK EXPERIENCE --- SLEEK BRAIDS AND BEADS, EVERYONE (AND THEN SOME) PILING INTO THE FAMILY VAN, AND PLAYING ROAD TRIP GAMES DURING THE LONG DRIVE. ONCE IN THE SOUTH, THE FAMILY ENJOYS BEING WRAPPED IN GRANDMA'S SHEA BUTTER HUGS, THE FRESHEST MEALS FARMED FROM THE FAMILY LAND, WAVING HELLO TO THE FRIENDLIEST NEIGHBORS AND OF COURSE GETTING DARKER SHADES OF MOCHAS, CARAMELS AND CHOCOLATES FROM THE HOURS SPENT PLAYING IN THE CAROLINA SUN. THIS STORY PROMOTES THE ADVENTURE AND LOVE THAT CARRIES THROUGH THE BLACK FAMILY FROM STATE TO STATE, FROM ROAD MEAL TO HOME-COOKED MEAL AND IN EVERY SMALL, YET MEMORABLE FAMILY EXPERIENCE.



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ABOUT: PATRICIA BELLAMY-MATHIS, MSW

PATRICIA IS A MOTHER, WIFE, AUTHOR, EDUCATOR AND SOCIAL WORKER WHO HAS A PASSION FOR EXPANDING CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO LITERATURE THAT FEATURES BLACK & BROWN CHARACTERS AND GIVES POWER TO BLACK AND BROWN STORIES. IN 2020, WHEN PATRICIA BECAME A MOTHER TO DAUGHTER, ASPENNE, SHE FILLED ASPENNE'S LIBRARY WITH BOOKS FEATURING BLACK & BROWN CHARACTERS AND TOOK THE CHALLENGE OF READING #1000BOOKSBEFOREKINDERGARTEN. BOTH OF THESE EFFORTS IGNITED A DRIVE WITHIN PATRICIA TO NOT ONLY READ THE POSITIVE STORIES OF THE BLACK CULTURE, BUT TO CONTRIBUTE TO MANY MORE SHELVES AND LIBRARIES AS AN AUTHOR HERSELF.



"DOWN SOUTH FOR THE SUMMER" IS THE STORY OF PATRICIA'S OWN CHILDHOOD SUMMERS. PATRICIA IS NOT ONLY SHARING THIS STORY WITH THE WORLD, BUT PUBLISHING ALLOWS HER TO SHARE AGAIN AND AGAIN WITH ASPENNE. SHE'S HOPING THAT WITH THIS STORY, OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO RELATE, APPRECIATE THEIR OWN VALUED FAMILY EXPERIENCES AND BE INSPIRED TO SHARE FAMILY STORIES OF THEIR OWN.