

The Melanated Colonizer Confronts Betrayal, Internalized Colonization and the Fight to Protect Black History

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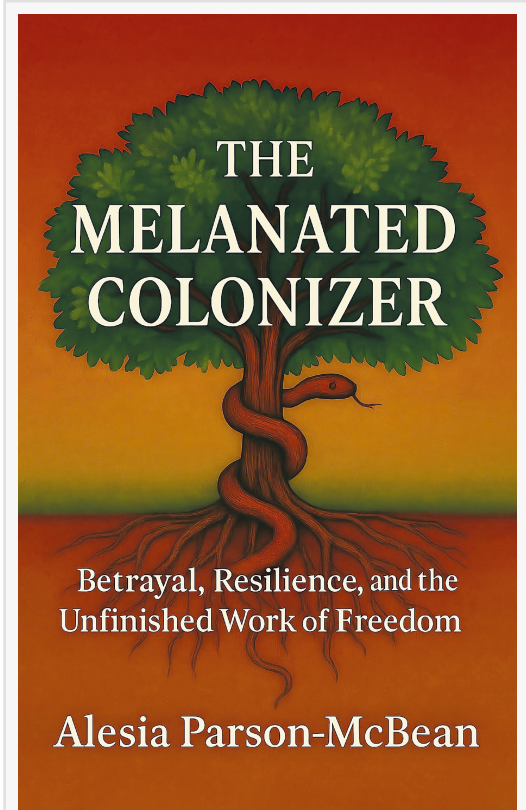
/EINPresswire.com/ -- A Promise. A Legacy. A Reckoning.

Alesia Parson-McBean's [The Melanated Colonizer](#): Betrayal, Resilience, and the Unfinished Work of Freedom, published by [Spines](#), explores what happens when preserving history becomes a test of leadership, community trust and personal conviction. Rooted in the story of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum and Jonathan Street in Hagerstown, Maryland, the book combines memoir, cultural history and a firsthand account of the determination required to protect a community's legacy.

At the heart of *The Melanated Colonizer* is a decades-long preservation effort that began in 1974, when Charles and Marguerite Doleman founded what became the Doleman Black Heritage Museum. Opening their Hagerstown home as a 'Living Museum,' they began a preservation legacy that would grow to approximately 4,600 artifacts documenting Black life in the community.

Parson-McBean, a daughter of Jonathan Street and the contracted Project Director and public face of the museum, tells the story of carrying that vision forward. Her stewardship of the Dolemans' legacy is rooted in a fundamental promise made to Mr. Doleman—an emotional and moral foundation central to both her work and the book. The narrative directly confronts the concept of the "melanated colonizer," tackling the uncomfortable reality that threats to Black institutions and cultural preservation do not always originate outside of the community.

Rather than softening these realities into mere organizational challenges, the book exposes themes of betrayal, internalized colonization, proximity to power, and the consequences of choosing truth over convenience. Parson-McBean argues that artifacts, photographs, oral histories and community memories become most meaningful when they remain connected to



Discover the fight to protect Black history when threats emerge from within the community.

the people and places from which they came, keeping the Jonathan Street community integral to the story. Throughout the journey, faith serves as the active force through which betrayal is transformed into resilience and continued purpose.

The Highlights

A firsthand account of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum's evolution from a family collection into a community institution.

An honest exploration of the "melanated colonizer" concept, institutional stewardship, and the responsibility to protect community-authored history against internal threats.

A testament to the promise made to Charles Doleman, where faith transforms betrayal into resilience.

A look at Jonathan Street's role as a center of Black community life in Hagerstown.

"Our heritage is a sacred inheritance that cannot be compromised or rented out for convenience; this book is a testament to the ancestors who guided us to stand firm and protect the authentic stories of our people."

The Melanated Colonizer is available now in hardcover, paperback and eBook formats.

About the Author

Alesia Parson-McBean is a community architect, preservation advocate and author whose work bridges history, faith and the preservation of Black heritage. Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, she was raised in a large family by Pentecostal ministers and developed an early foundation in service, faith and community leadership. She previously served as a Hagerstown City Council member and currently serves as the contracted Project Director and public face of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum, where she has helped advance plans for the museum's future home. The museum's preservation and development work has received significant public investment, including a \$563,000 federal investment for Phase 1 preconstruction activities and a \$150,000 Maryland capital grant.

Book Details

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