



*Sunshine
&
Olivier*
A Parable of Love

By Melony McGant



Revised 20th Anniversary Edition

Book One

Sunshine & Olivier

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Sunshine & Olivier

A Parable of Love

Melony McGant

New 20th Anniversary Revised Edition

 iUniverse®

SUNSHINE & OLIVIER
A PARABLE OF LOVE

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ISBN: 978-0-5950-0744-8 (sc)

ISBN: 978-1-4697-9289-7 (e)

Print information available on the last page.

iUniverse rev. date: 08/29/2019

Many Thanks To...

The **iUniverse** Team for their compassion, patience and professionalism. Gifted, graphic designer **Lee Gretenstein** for his creative abilities, patience and willingness to execute my vision for the Sunshine & Olivier cover art.

My Godson and phenomenal Blue Note (Hawaii) production & sound engineer, **Charles “Chaz” Dobbs, III** for the words of his lovely songs, “My Sunshine” and “Rough Times”.

Actor, conscious rapper, philanthropist and social justice activist **Common** for the healing inspiration found in his book “**Let Love Have the Last Word**” and the example of what is possible When We Believe. **Sylvia Golbin Goodman** and the **Andrew Goodman Foundation** for nurturing a new generation of activists with compassion and integrity through the AGF #VoteEverywhere Program on college and university campuses across America.

India Irie, for her **Songversation: Medicine** and **Worthy** cds. They are beautiful musical tools that help me connect with the Divinity within Me!

Muhamad Rum and my favorite mystical holy place **Scent Elate** at 313 West 48th Street in NYC, where I go for exquisite incense, oils, quartz and other semi-precious stones and a wide assortment of items that compliment my Spiritual Journey.

Actor, filmmaker and producer **Joe James, Jr.** and **Joy Southers** for their powerful visioning of What Is to Come!

My Precious Mom Betty J. Tilman for her unconditional loving encouragement, wisdom and support during my lifetime of Awakening; and all Awakening Spirits and EarthAngels who are trying to live with compassion, integrity, love and truth in these chaotic, challenging times.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

James Baldwin

“Millennia ago a ravenous star set into motion a series of karmic events that would cause a secret to transform a family forever”

A reincarnated cat named **MOIRA** (*whose name translates to destiny, fate*) is repaying her karmic debt from many millennia ago. She devoured nearby stars in her solar system so that she could shine brighter than all others. The Beings of SIRIUS (*brightest star in our galaxy located behind the Sun*) sent her to Earth where she’s been stuck ever since. Many times over MOIRA reincarnated in various forms throughout the centuries repaying her karmic debt.

In this lifetime, the debt will finally be paid as MOIRA reincarnates one last time with a powerful secret that unravels and threatens to tear apart a family and two loving souls at the center of it all, named **SUNSHINE**(16) and **OLIVIER** (16).

Overture

Moira

Once I was a star with a purple center.
I took light from other stars,
fed on them,
stole their energy
and constantly recreated myself.

In those days,
I thought myself glorious.
and then one night,
I absorbed several of the stars
from my quadrant into my being.

I glistened so brightly
that the remaining stars moved
to the other side of the moon.
Without their energy, I grew weak.

It seemed like for centuries
I lived in darkness.
At first I was angry
then I felt humiliated.
I had lost my power to glisten.
At my lowest point,
just when I was preparing

to fade into nothingness,
I was brought before my peers.

They said that I didn't know how to love,
that I only wanted power
and would eventually destroy the galaxy.

I was sentenced to wander Earth,
to observe, to learn to love,
cherish and bring light.
The first place I landed on Earth was along the lower Nile.

I became a consort to Seneferu
and bore an Ebony Son with a purple star
on the bottom of his left foot.

He was the first boy born on the full moon
of the first harvest.
Egyptian priests declared that
He would be the next Pharaoh.
Seneferu named him VALOUR.

How I loved him...
his skin so soft and brown.
His eyes glistened with understanding and joy.

Valour became the most learned
and favored of the Pharaoh's children.
My son grew and grew
taking on the best qualities of the humans
and the compassion of the stars.

I learned that motherhood
was a glorious experience.
I learned to love my starchild

more than my lowly existence.
I began to believe in the good of all things.
I came to believe that he was my miracle,
my teacher of life's lessons.

Valour was destined to be a leader,
to rule the greatest kingdom on Earth.

And then without warning,
without anticipation,
for no reason...
On the eve of the anniversary of his sixteenth year,
Valour died in his sleep.
The stars destroyed my son,
just as I had absorbed their children into my being.

The Egyptian priests blamed me.
Seneferu had me burned
But I could not die.
Believe me, I tried to.
For centuries upon centuries
I thought it unfair.
I thought myself misused,
abused and unappreciated.

Since then I've been many things.
For hundreds of years I was a snake,
I've been a weeping willow and an oak tree.
For centuries I lived as a dolphin,
Then I became a phoenix.

But there was always been a part
of me that wanted to be human again.

Finally, I was given the opportunity to be taught by Hopi Elders
and later had a lifetime as a Cherokee slave
who married an African who had been brought
from Senegal's Goree Island to the North Carolina as a slave.

I am Moira. A spirit with timeless memories
current living in the body of a cat.

**My soul purpose in the galaxy
is and has been to learn to love
with detachment and to Tell the Truth!**

The Friendships...

Alexi...

Olivier's Mother has everything...
She's got a great job, a brownstone on Striver's Row
and a son that is college bound.
Her life is almost perfect and she is determined
to keep everything just the way it is!

Carlos...

At 18 his dream is college, money and being a ladies man.
He's got two out of three and always leaves a trail of broken hearts!

Imani...

Of Hopi and African descent, she married her soulmate
and raised Sunshine to believe that truth was the way
to love and heal hearts.

Lola...

At 16 she's street smart but not a big fan of school.
She's also got more game than most guys she knows
so love wasn't a word in her vocabulary until
she falls hard for the wrong guy!

Moiri...

She desperately wanted to find the soul of her lost son Valuor.
It took her more than 1,000 years and when he was born,
her spirit was living in the body of a cheshire cat.

Olivier...

He's tall, dark, handsome, wears his hair in locks
and doesn't know he's fine. Some say he's an old soul
but at 16 when he finds himself in love for the first time,
he goes out of control; and becomes at serious odds with his mother!

Quintin...

A well-known singer/songwriter/producer,
he walked away from love, found fame and lost his first family.
Can he ever regain what he lost?

Sky...

A successful attorney, nothing was more
important to him than his family.
With his wife Imani and his daughter Sunshine life was complete.
But can love really last forever?

Sunshine....

At 16 she is beautiful, strong willed and very kind.
It's easy to understand why Olivier has fallen for her
but can she keep an open heart when she finds out
that he isn't the guy she thought he was?

Chapter 1

June 1st



Sunshine

Mom says
live moment to moment of truth
not moment to moment of history.

Dad says
I must live my dharma
which means
live the way the Divine wants.
My lifepath he calls it.

I'm only sixteen
but that doesn't mean I don't have feelings
or that I'm not smart.

Before this year,
I've always made all A's & B's.

Last week I got all A's
and two C's on my final report card.
I couldn't believe it!

Well really I shouldn't
have been surprised
because second semester,
my American History and Current Affairs teachers
got together,
went to the Principal
and had me suspended three times.

They said I was
“...*disruptive, challenging and...*
too smart for my own good.”
So that’s why I got suspended
three times this year...
“being too smart for my own good!”

Dad says sometimes I
“push people’s buttons”,
that I still have to **“learn when to let it go.”**

My Mom always tells me
to listen a little more,
say a little less
and to write about what I feel
in my journal.
I write all the time.

What’s really funny is that sometimes
I think I feel what other people feel.
Like I look into a person and see their heart.

That’s why I’m pretty sure
that one day I’ll be a great writer.

But right now,
my life is not easy!
Just last night I had a dream
and woke up crying.
I felt it was me but it wasn’t my life at all.
At least not in this lifetime.

Maybe I’m still mad about those two C’s
on my report card.
It seems like I always have
that same dream when I’m mad.

I should be excited.
Afterall,
I scored 1530 on my PSAT's
So I'm college bound
even with two C's
and in two days I'm leaving Santa Fe!

I'm going to New York City to visit
my Godmother, Alexi Broussard
and her son Olivier.
They live in Harlem
in a brownstone on 138th Street.

Olivier has lots of friends.
He's sixteen too and very handsome.
I feel like I've known him forever.
Like his soul is part of my soul.
I wonder if he feels the same way about me?

Olivier goes to school near Lincoln Center,
plays piano and sings.
Dad says that if he decided to pursue music,
he would have a platinum record
before you knew it!

Alexi wants Olivier to be an attorney like my Dad.
She never talks about Olivier's Dad.

Here's the thing about Alexi...
she's sooo perfect.
Too perfect if you ask me.
Her hair is always done,
her nails are polished.
She even looks perfect
when she wakes up in the morning.

Anyway, in many ways
Harlem is very familiar to me...
Lot's of my favorite people
like Billie Holliday, Zora Neale Hurston,
Langston Hughes, James Baldwin and Malcolm X
have all lived in Harlem.
I think I've known them all
in another lifetime.

I know New York will be an adventure.
I just wish my parents were coming too.
The subways always make me nervous.
Each time we visited before,
I remember it felt like
I was going deep, deep, deep into the earth.
and there were too many emotions,
too many hearts.

But Dad and Mom were with me.
I felt safe.
They always say to look for the love
in everyone and to view life as an adventure.

Goodbye Santa Fe...
Jason, Maria and Jose!
Goodbye stars,
Goodbye mountains,
Goodbye moon,
Goodbye sunsets,
Goodbye sunrise,
Goodbye butterflies,
Goodbye hummingbirds.

**Mom and Dad,
your Sunshine is leaving...
Goodbye for now...**

Chapter 2



Alexi

I'm glad that Sunshine is coming to spend the summer
but God knows that child makes me nervous.
She knows what you're thinking even before you say it.
The way she looks at you, it's like she's opening up
every old wound in your heart.

I couldn't say no when her parents asked. I love her.
She's my Goddaughter, just as Olivier is their Godson.

What I don't want is for Sunshine to ask
too many questions and go looking around for skeletons.
Most folks I know have skeletons in their closets,
secrets they don't want anyone knowing about.
Too often someone knows so there are certain things
you can never do and certain places you can never go.

It's horrible being in a family with skeletons.
People lie to keep them in the closet. I know I have.
Because the truth is too painful,
generation after generation
folks just keep on making the same mistakes.
It's like they don't know about destiny.
Like they don't believe in God.
Of course, we would never admit it.
Then one day the truth comes out and all hell breaks loose.

Family members stop speaking and the war is on.
Daughters against mothers, fathers and grandparents.
Sons against fathers or mothers
and sisters against brothers against cousins
against aunts and uncles. That's the worse part.
Anger and hurt all the way to your bones.
And the loss of your family.
Or finding out why you didn't have one.
Next generation, the same thing happens.

I've tried to break the cycle, to create a good life for my son.
And I have. God has given us blessing after blessing.
I'm so grateful. I try to share whatever I have.
I try to make a difference. People say that I do.
Still the last thing I need...
is for Sunshine to begin asking Olivier questions!

Chapter 3

June 3rd



Sunshine

Alexi and Olivier met me
at the airport in a limousine.
They call it car service.

Alexi said that I looked beautiful...
all grown up!
Well maybe to her but what about Olivier?

He gave me a big hug and
just said “Sooky, Sooky”.
I didn’t want to ask
what Sooky, Sooky meant!
Then he kind of gawked at me
all the way to the house.

It’s a beautiful four story brownstone
that doesn’t look very lived in.

The first floor (they call it the garden level)
is all one big room with a kitchen, dining and
sitting area, lot’s of baskets, African artwork and plants.

The second floor (they call it the parlor level)
is also one big room with a beautiful baby grand piano
and enough books to read for years.

There is also lot's of African American and Indian Art.
There are two great pieces of sculpture
by Frank Howell and Thad Moseley,
a wonderful quilt by fiber textile artist Lisa Curran
and fine art ranging from Alonzo Adams,
Ramon Bearden and Stevens Carter to Verna Hart,
Jacob Lawrence, Nelson Tsoie and Cynthia St. James.

Alexi's bedroom on the third floor faces the garden
and is mostly white, including the carpet.
Her office is also on the third floor. I haven't been in there yet!

There are three bedrooms on the fourth floor.
Olivier's room has a computer hooked up to the television
and a digital sound system.
He's got books, magazines, CD's, posters
and clothes all over the place.

The room I'm using for the summer
faces the garden.
I like that.
Maybe I'll still be able to see the sun rise.
It's got a daybed, a desk, a television, a CD player
and a basket filled with all kinds of magazines.

There's this huge photograph on the wall that my dad took
of a sun setting and the moon rising in Santa Fe.
Oh, did I mention that there was an elevator....
Pretty cool. So now we're going out to dinner.

Chapter 4



Sunshine

Dinner was great.
I really, really liked the restaurant.
I got to meet the great singing duo,
Ashford & Simpson.
They own the Sugarbar.
It's small and has kind of a
tropical and African motif with lot's of artwork.

Alexi chatted with other people
she knew in the restaurant
so I had lots of time to spend with Olivier.
Boy do I feel him.
And I think he feels me too.

I've got to get some sleep but I decided
to tell Olivier about that dream I keep having
just in case he hears me cry.
Olivier believes in spirits too.
He says that Moira talks to him
about life in the stars.

Moira is this bronze cat with green eyes called an Egyptian Mau.
Anyway while he was holding her,
I began to tell him about my dream.
It wasn't my voice anymore...

Sunshine's Dream

*"Laying in my mother's womb,
I remember that there was
all kinds of drama going on in her life.*

Her name was Lena.

Boy was she pretty.

*Course for those days,
she musta been a little too brown.*

I didn't care about that.

She was awful pretty to me.

*She was desperately in love
with this man named James.*

He'd say baaaby,

I'm coming to get ya,

We gonna have fun tonite!

And they did.

*They'd go off to some jazz club
or other and they'd party on down.*

Next thing you know'd,

James put a ring on Lena's finger.

*They started planning the wedding
and then one nite James started begging.*

Please baby, please baby please.

"Please what!" Lena said.

But she already knew the answer.

*"So finally after lot's of kisses
and s'pose to feel good touches,*

she said okay.

*Wasn't like it felt soooo good
but she went on and did it anyway.*

*It takes two to make a baby
and at first it seemed like my birth
would be a wondrous occasion.
Then it turned out that my daddy didn't want me.
Didn't want my mother either.
Well he was married and just catting around.*

*So my grandmother, and great grandmother
tried very hard to convince my mother to
give me to the preacher and his wife.
It took some time to beat her down but they did.*

*Shortly after my second birthday,
they finally convinced Lena
that life would be better for me
if she gave me away.
Reverend and Mother Harris always
let me know how lucky I was..."*

Sunshine

When I had finished telling my story,
we were both crying.

Olivier said
“I think you are dreaming my mother’s life.
Can I tell you my secret?”

And then he began his story.

Chapter 5

Bastard



Olivier

When I was seven,
my Aunt Gladys took me and my cousins
to visit my great grandparents in
Port Charles, Louisiana.
It was Good Thursday evening.

We were playing old maid in the basement
and my cousins,
Lea and PJ dared me
to sneak outside with them.
I knew I would get a spanking if
my mom found out
but she wasn't there.
So I said okay.

PJ took Grandpa Alec's Flashlight.
Lea took her sweater
and I took my Good & Plentys.
Off we went,
out the back door into the yard
and through the bushes to the alley
down to the Church Cemetery.

When we got there Lea said
"gimmee that box of Good & Plenty's!"
I said no because Lea who was eight

never said please and was always
trying to take my candy.

Then there was this wooing sound.
“wooooo, woooo, woooo, woooo, woooo”
PJ who was ten said, “hide and seek, you’re it!”
and tapped me on my shoulder.
He and Lea ran off singing
“Ollie’s a bastard, a dirty little bastard.”

Wait I said. Wait for me!
And the next thing I knew
I was all by myself.
In the cemetery
with all the dead people.
Just thinking about it made me shiver.
It was cold.
I tried to find my way out and couldn’t.
I sat down and started crying.
Then I heard this really eery low voice
“God’s gonna make you paaaay,
“God’s gonna make you paaaay
for being a baaaaastard”

I was scared to death.
I started screaming
Oh please, Lea, PJ,
help me.
I’m lost.
“Woooooo, woooooo,
will you give Lea your Good & Plentys?”
a voice replied.
Oh yes I said.

“Cross your heart and hope to die”
said the voice.
So I did.

Just then PJ and Lea appeared.
“Told you he believes in ghosts”
Lea said to PJ.
“Gimmee those Good & Plentys”
And because I had promised, I did.

On our way back to the house
I asked PJ what a bastard was.
“Were you scared in the cemetery?”
he said.
I nodded yes.
“Well that’s what a bastard is, a scaredy cat.”

**I made up my mind right then
to ask God to help me not be a bastard.**

Sunshine

Last night I dreamt a song for Olivier...

*You know you make me
shiver all the time
my heart goes boom
boombaboombaboombooooooooom*

*I'm smiling all the time,
can't get you out my mind.
Are you my dolphin in the sea
or my phoenix in the sky?*

*Is it possible...
Are you my Alpha to Omega Man?
Could you be my ATUM-RA of the universe?*

*A spiritual Love like ours
doesn't come every day
I'm really hoping you won't run away.*

*Please stay!
You Blow My Mind
You make me shiver all the time
My heart goes boombaboombaboombooooooooom
I'm smiling all the time
Can't get you out my mind.*

Chapter 6
Journey From The Stars



Sunshine

The first time I woke up last night,
Moirra was licking my face.
Olivier is right...
She does come from the Stars!

Chapter 7
June 20th



Sunshine

I've been writing everything
I feel about Olivier in my journal.
I've been looking at him differently
ever since he told me that story
about being called a bastard.

I want to take his pain away.

My Dad is right about Olivier.
I don't know much about music but
Olivier says when he plays the keyboard
he likes to mix a little classical and jazz with R&B.

It's beautiful, very beautiful...
And when he sings,
his voice is low and deep,
then high and sweet.

Today I wrote a poem
for Olivier...

The Matador?
Tricks Again
I simply wasn't prepared!
At least not for a
Matador.

*And so with his eyes
he captured
My spirit!*

*I simply was NOT
prepared...
Hadn't even anticipated
that such a thrill
would extend---
sooooo far beyond the moment!*

Sunshine

I've been here almost
a month and I love Harlem.
I love New York.

I love walking around the neighborhood
and having breakfast at Pan Pan or Sylvia's.

Last week we ran into Olivier's friends
Carlos and Lola looking like Tommy Hilfiger models.
Wonder why they don't wear Phat Farm or FUBU?
Okay...I won't be judgmental.

Lola certainly wasn't very nice to me.
But before the summer is over,
I think we'll be good friends.

I've even got the subway thing together.
I love all the different people,
different cultures blending and colliding.
I love taking the train to the Village
and having a late lunch at BBQ's which is
cheap but has great chicken.
I also like going to Zen Palate which is strictly vegetarian.

There are lots of homeless people in New York
so I always try and give them a little money
or food even if they don't ask.
I'm still working at walking with an open heart.

My Dad always says that when you make
a gesture, the Divine shows up.
I try not to expect anything from people

but I sure do wish they were more polite
and that the streets weren't so dirty.
I'd really be happy if people here smiled more.

Mom, Dad and I have this special song
called *Loving You* that we wrote.

Here are the words...

“Loving You...

*Do You Love You?
It's about loving everyday
looking for a better way
to share the joy of living
with an open heart and giving.*

*Acknowledge special people,
let them know that you care.
Spread the mystery of goodness,
reaffirm that you are there!*

*I Love You...
It's so easy to say,
so hard to do.
Love is by example,
The gift is within you!*

*It's about loving everyday,
looking for a better way
to share the joy of living
with an open heart and giving!
Each of us is on a journey,
our own personal trek.
Know that the God within
loves you,
supports your dreams,
helps you through the tough times,
helps you say what you really mean!*

*Walk in the day
bringing brilliant sunlight.
Be a star twinkling,
embracing,
glowing in the night.*

***I Love You.
It's so easy to say,
so hard to do.
Love is by example...
The gift is within YOU!"***

I taught *Loving You* to Olivier
and now we sing it together everyday.

I think Moira really likes when we sing it
but whenever we start and Alexi is around,
She always leaves.
I wonder if that has anything
to do with Olivier's Dad...

Chapter 8
So What Makes A Friendship?



Lola

Men, they're all the same!
My father was a philandering, lying man.
I'm older than dirt and still I've never met him.
I want to though.
Just so I can look him square in the eye
and ask "So why didn't you want me?"

I'm not the only person feeling this way.
In fact if you ask me,
he hasn't really done anything
different than a whole lotta other men---
women too for that matter.
Just forgot they had a child
or whose child it was.

Now I could say it's the times we're living in.
or I could say that it's just the nature of
people to find somebody...anybody...
man or woman these days
to make sure that they have a thrill or two in life.
The hell with the consequences.
Maybe it's about power and feeling good.
Then walking away.
People who do this,
they don't care who they hurt.
And these days, really I guess I don't either!

Ollie knew I wasn't the one for him.
He didn't want what I had to offer.
It was good though, you know he's reliable...
and he always had a few bucks.

Now he's hanging out with Sunshine...
She acts like she thirteen.
Whoever heard of a name like Sunshine Star Moon?
Her parents musta been tripping when she was born.

Carlos and I ran into them a couple of weeks ago.
That girl is strange...mad corny!
When we met she was like...
"Oooh Hiiii!" and then she smiled at me like
I was her long lost friend.

Ollie asked me to hang out with her.
I told him "yeah--- I'm down."
I might need him if Carlos tries to play me.
Ever since I kicked Ollie to the curb,
after the chop shop game,
he's still trying to be my friend.
Boy was his mother pissed when she thought
I had his seed.
It could have been his---almost.
I've been nice to Sunshine.
She's started to call me everyday.
I call her motormouth!
Girl ain't got no sense...
Last week while Ollie and Carlos were shootin hoops,
I took her up to 139th and Broadway
to pick up a few blunts.
Then I told her to give this gangbanger \$20.
The cops pulled right up when we were leavin...
and dumb ass says hello!

We almost got busted and she's chitchating!
The things I do for Carlos...He is a dimepiece.

I'm not the only woman in his life
but I got something he will never forget!

Last night he was really sweating me.

Then somebody did a 911 and he cut our evening short.

I was mad when he got ready to leave so I told him...

*"Please---
if you think that your shit
is sooo good that you've
dazzled me...you're wrong.
If you think for one minute
that I think you're special
then---Think Again!
I've known men in my time,
especially the kind who
say their shit ain't nuthin but gold!*

*So if you think you can woo and coo me
with the possibility,
baaaby pleeease think again.
Now on the up side...
fate just threw you a juicy bone---
But the down side is,
I ain't so sure YOU
really know what to do with it!*

Carlos was like...

"Mommie you so fine...
you got all my time!"

WORD.

Chapter 9



Carlos

When a girl looks at me, I tell her “Look Good Don’t I?”

Ya Heard.

My mother always said that I was sweet like my daddy.

I can’t remember ever calling him daddy.

I called him Pop. He called me “Carlos Be A Man.”

When Ollie and I were kids,

my father coached little league baseball.

I was never great but since I could run fast,

he’d put me in to steal bases.

Right before I’d go up to bat he’d always say

“remember Carlos, don’t embarrass me,

be a man!”

More than once I’d slide into base and scrape my elbow.

I would have tears in my eyes but I knew if he saw them

he’d smack me really hard in front of everybody.

When we got home, soon as he closed the door,

he’d pop me in my head for no reason

and say “didn’t I tell you to be a man!”

My mother would always ask

“what did you do to upset your daddy?”

She’d send me to my room to do my homework

and give him a steak for dinner.

After he ate, at least five nights a week,
he'd go hang out with the fellows in the pool hall.
The fellows were ladies in tight dresses with ruby lips
and the pool hall was the neighborhood bar.
I'm sure my mother always knew that
that's what Real Men Do.

Ollie always says that I'm just like my father.
I am.
I don't know how to be any other way.
At least I had one.

I really don't know why he's pissed.
I didn't mean to take Lola.
It just happened.
We had smoked a few blunts.
It was the holidays...
She was there.

I like Lola.
I wouldn't marry her but I do like her.
Really she's like me.
Doesn't want commitment...
Loves fun.

I wonder if Ollie will ever understand that...
Besides, looks like to me that Sunshine
is the woman in his life.
I just want to know if he's getting any!

Chapter 10

June 28th



Sunshine

Alexi takes Olivier and me everywhere she can.
We've been to openings at the Schomburg
and the Harlem Studio Museum.
She even bought me a long orange and yellow silk dress
to wear to a special black tie celebration
in honor of the drummer Max Roach at Aaron Davis Hall.
He's a MacArthur Fellow.

We went to see Macbeth at the Harlem School For The Arts
and to Lincoln Center to hear Wynton Marsalis.
Olivier, Carlos, Lola and I went to see Chris Rock
at the Apollo but Alexi didn't come.
She sent a friend to chaperone.
Honestly Chris Rock is funny
but his language gets on my nerves.

Alexi has been working very hard at the studio.
Her hours are too long if you ask me.
Did I forget to mention that she's a newscaster?
Last Sunday we went to Canaan Baptist Church
where she spoke for Women's Day.
They have several marvelous choirs.
It's like a Divine Lifeforce
moves through the singers.

I cried and danced in my seat,
Then I jumped up and clapped.
More than anything I wished
My Mom and Dad could be with me.

There is so much to see and do in New York City,
I could be here my whole life and still miss a lot.

Part Two
Lessons In July

Chapter 11



Alexi

My college roommate Imani was Sunshine's Mom.
When I got pregnant my freshman year,
I probably would have committed suicide if we hadn't been friends.
I knew I couldn't go home to Reverend and Mother Harris.
She and her husband Sky Byrd Moon were at Arizona State with me.
I ended up at ASU because I wanted to get far away
from my adopted parents in Louisiana.
And I got one of the few scholarships
they were giving to African Americans.

Imani and Sky are both African and Native Americans.
Imani is part Hopi. Sky is part Navaho.
Sky is an attorney for the Eight Northern Pueblos in New Mexico.
Imani is a stay at home Mom with a Ph.D in Native traditions.
She is involved in many spiritual activities
that are beyond my comprehension.

I always tell her she could make millions as a psychic.
Neither she nor Sky are into money.
They are into this love thing.
And leading the way into the fifth world---whatever that is.
There's a lot about them that I still don't understand
but once a year at Christmas I take Olivier and Moira
(the cat Imani gave me when I was pregnant) out to Santa Fe.

When I come back to New York, I'm a different person.
At least for a week or two.
Then I go back to being the tough know it all newscaster
that doubts any and everything.

That's my job, I'm good at it and I make money.
I remember when she told me they were Afri-Indians,
I thought she was having an identity crisis.
She looked Black to me.
That was before I went to visit her folks at Christmas.
First time I ever felt like I had a family.
First time I had a nice Christmas.

Since then, even though we're worlds apart,
I've always felt like Imani was the sister God wanted me to have.

Chapter 12



Sunshine

Today I called Mom and Dad
and said maybe I should come home.

They asked me why.
I told them that I kept getting headaches
and I didn't think Alexi
really wanted me there.

Even though she's nice,
I don't feel her loving me.
I feel a lot of anger.
I feel secrets.

Mom asked me was I doing my meditation,
was I talking to God?
I said "well really I haven't had time."
Mom was running out to Tai-Chi class
so she blew kisses into the phone and said
that she would leave the decision up to me and Dad.
I figured I better tell the whole story...

"Daddy we're busy all the time and I'm always late.
I don't move as fast as New Yorkers.
I never see Alexi in the morning
and when she calls it's like...
Hop to it!

Today she called at eight in the morning.

Remember that's only six for me.
I answered the phone and she told me
to tell Olivier that we were not
to leave the house until we cleaned our rooms.
I went back to sleep.

I was going to tell Olivier but before
I knew it she was standing in the hallway
screaming that we were lazy,
irresponsible teenagers.”

I thought Olivier would be upset but he said
that Alexi goes off at least once a month.

Dad laughed and laughed.
Then he said “Well Sunshine,
the lesson here is that you have some growing to do.
Clean the room.
Show Alexi that you appreciate being a guest in her home.”
And that was that.
No “come home...”
I was shocked into silence.
Then Dad said
“Make sure that you take some quiet time
to talk to MotherFatherGod each and every day!
Sunshine always remember your Mom and I love you.
We want this summer in New York
to be a positive experience.”
Well so much for going back to Santa Fe!

Alexi

Every morning before I leave home,
I go up to the fourth floor to check on Sunshine and Olivier.
Maybe it's my maternal instincts.
I like them best when they are sleeping.
Both of their bedrooms were totally out of control
so I made a mental note to call home once I got to the station.

Later that morning everyone in the newsroom went berserk
when we heard the FAA report about John J. Kennedy Jr.'s
plane crash with his wife and her sister.
I was pretty emotional because he had become a friend and I
was really concerned. I knew I'd have to go on the air and
report it and the last thing I wanted to do was feel anything.
I was numb when my phone rang.

Imani has a way of picking my worst moments to call.
Then I always feel like shit after we speak because she's
always so gracious. This was another of those times.
In a way that I knew she would interpret as abrupt,
I asked what she needed.
Imani said "Oh nothing, I just called
to see how our princess was doing."
Why did she have to say that?
I immediately went off on a tirade.... "Really," I said.
"Well the good news is I've never met a child so polite.
"Yes thank you, no thank you...."
The bad news is she is just plain nosy.
Questions, questions and more questions.
It takes her forever to get dressed
and half the time she sleeps 'til noon.
I don't think she knows how to make a bed or clean her room.

She's worse than Olivier!
You may let her do nothing but not me.
Sunshine is on my last nerve!"

I felt bad saying it but the truth is the truth.
For a moment I thought she had hung up on me.

"Well, Imani said" if Sunshine is too much for you,
send her home. We understand."

As usual, I felt like an idiot.
So then I said "Honestly, I'm just having a bad day.
I just got some devastating news.
Sunshine is fine and I'm glad she's here to
help me mind my manners and drive me crazy.

But If I get home and their rooms aren't clean,
I'm going to put both of them on restriction and make them
write essays on responsibility."

Well the thought of that made us both laugh.
Then I got called to the newsroom.
"Gotta Go. Kisses" I said.

The newsroom was hectic and as we all sat on pins
and needles hoping that John wasn't dead,
I thought about Sunshine. I did want to send her home.
She and Olivier are just to close.
There's something about the way he looks at her
that reminds me of a romance getting ready to happen.

And she is spending too much time with Lola!

Sunshine

I was outdone.
Especially when I found out that
Alexi had left us a note putting us on restriction
for three days and strongly suggesting that we each
clean our rooms and write a 500 word essay
on responsibility with an outline
before we considered leaving the house.

Then I received a federal express package
with Dad's laptop computer and a note that said
"Sunshine, remember that life is not all cotton candy!
E-mail us your essay. We love you! Mom & Dad"

I knew better to call home.
And I had plenty of time to meditate.

Dad sent me my first E-mail in New York...

The Love Alphabet

A

Always Love YOU because when you Love yourself, you have more Love to share.

B

Be who you are, not who someone wants you to be.

C

Care for yourself and care enough to care for others.

D

Breathe Deeply and Believe in the Divinity within you, and every other sentient being.

E

Experience the Ecstasy of life!

F

Forgive others but don't forget to forgive Yourself.

G

Always offer Gratitude. Remember your genius and be gentle, genuine and generous with your Love.

H

Hope will allow you to Have an Open Heart.

I

Be your own Inspiration. Live with integrity and illuminate the heavens.

J

Look for JOY within you.

K

Be Kind to all kindred spirits.

L

Like yourself, laugh often, and live life with leisure!

M

It's okay to be Marvelous! Manifest your dreams and create loving memories.

N

Be Noble, and know that as you face the nemesis within, you will be victorious!

O

Your heart has an Ocean of Melodies waiting to be sung.

P

Preserve and paint your heart with precious positive memories. Believe that Peace is Possible through Compassion, Forgiveness, Kindness, Mercy and Love!

Q

Take time for Quietude, and be open to quantum quality in your heart.

R

Re-Member to receive Love with appreciation, and joy.

S

Search your Soul, find the Love within, and remember your greatness!

T

Be Tender with your thank yous.

U

Be Universal. Seek Understanding. Know that
MotherFatherGod is within you!

V

Be Vibrant, and know that you have value, and
are worthy to Love, and be Loved!

W,X,Y,Z

Wealth is the warmth, and giving spirit of your heart. Xanadu,
a place of great beauty, and contentment is YOU! So be
Zany with your Love, and zealous in living your life!

Chapter 13

July 15th



Olivier

It's good having Carlos home from Morehouse.

Today we shot some hoops.

Part of me is happy he's home

But then I think about Maria, Tasha and Lola...

Every girl I like he gets.

Right now he's spending a lot of time with Lola.

I thought Lola was my girlfriend but when

Carlos came home at Christmas,

something changed,

We all got together to hang out

but it was like I was odd man out.

Even though I didn't say anything,

I got the message.

Then Lola came crying to me

for chop shop money.

I'm still trying to regain

my mother's trust.

Now sometimes Alexi looks at me

like she doesn't know me.

It wasn't my baby.

Lola and I had never gone all the way.

But my Mom didn't believe it.

So I ended up covering for Carlos.

Alexi gave me the money to give Lola for the abortion.

And Carlos is still being Carlos.
Hitting on every honey just because he can.
I guess they think he's cool.
He does this thing with his teeth,
this hissing sound, then he says
"Que linda Mommie, you look so fine."
It must be his Puerto Rican blood.
Really he's just like his Dad...a Latin Playa

Carlos asked me was I getting any from Sunshine.
Can you imagine?
I do like Sunshine.
She's always touching me
and looking at me like she thinks I'm all that.
I wish I was all that!
I never met anyone like her here in New York.
She makes me feel Special,
like anything I do is okay.

It's kind of like that song
My Father wrote for My Mother.
I've been thinking of that song a lot...
like I'm having my own premonition.
Over and over I hear the words in my head.
A premonition...
As I lay sleeping I felt a hand gently touch my arm
A premonition...
I turned, receiving a warm embrace and a gentle kiss.
For a moment I thought I was dreaming
But then our eyes met.
A premonition, a premonition, simply a premonition.

Olivier

I know my Dad was a drug addict
but he was a really dope musician.

I wish he was alive.

Any Father is better than no father;
besides, my Mother really loved him.

I was kind of glad when Sunshine
and I were on restriction.

It gave me time to work on my music.

I've been working on changing the chord structure
in *A Premonition*.

Sunshine loves the song and said

I should put it on my first CD.

I think I want to go to Berkley,

Julliard or even UCLA.

I don't want to go to Duke
just because I might get a scholarship.

Chapter 14
When Hearts Open



July 20th

Sunshine

Lola and I have become friends.
I knew we would.
When I'm with Lola
I really have to look hard for the love in her heart.
Sometimes I think she's trying to be nasty.
Like when she calls me motormouth
Or says I'm wack.
So I just laugh
and act like I think it's funny.

Lola's family doesn't have much money.
I don't mind sharing
But I'm not going to give her money
to buy blunts---marijuana is dangerous!
And she shouldn't be smoking it.
I'm glad Olivier doesn't smoke.
One thing is for sure---
I'll never forget this summer.
I'm learning more and more about life.
Too much!
Lola likes to talk about sex.
She says she's been
to the chop shop two times.
I couldn't believe it.

Two abortions and she's only sixteen.
Lola says next time
she's having the baby.
I'm not even ready to think about sex.
I sure hope she doesn't get pregnant again.
Especially since she's only in the tenth grade.

So now Alexi says
I'm spending too much time with Lola.
I never seen to do anything right.

My Mom and Dad always
let me choose my own friends
and we don't have any secrets at my house.
I can ask about anything.
I guess I really have
asked too many questions
because now Alexi thinks we
need more culture.
She's begun suggesting ways
for us to plan our time.

She brings home passes and tickets.
In the past three weeks,
Olivier and I have gone
to the Museum of Modern Art,
the Metropolitan Museum,
the Museum Of Modern History,
took a tour of Rockefeller Center,
went to see Lion King on Broadway
and In Dahomey at the Henry Street Settlement.

Chapter 15
Boombaboomboom!



Sunshine

Being with Olivier is special.
I love saying his name.
Olivier, Olivier, Olivier.

There's a tingling in my body
And sometimes
my heart beats
Boombaboomboomboomboom,
boombaboomboom, boombaboom...
so fast
I have to make it slow down.
I really am glad
I came here this summer.

Yesterday we went
rollerblading in Central Park.
Then we were just laying
and relaxing in the grass
close to the Bethesda Angel Fountain.
We saw lots of people
holding hands and kissing
and somehow we started
talking about LOVE...

We decided love is
A universal phenomena

has no language barriers
nor color distinctions.

Still people
commit suicide for love.
People lie, cheat and steal to get love.

Olivier said...
“but my love has none
of those infamous characteristics
I want only to please and be pleased.”

And before I knew it I said...
“I don’t want you caged.
I want you as you are
Lion, King of the Jungle RRRRRRR!
I want you Free!”
Olivier touched my face
and looked right into my eyes
all the way to my soul.

I felt us so perfect together.
Then he kissed me
and my heart did that
boombaboomboombaboom thing.

Time Stopped.
It seemed like our kiss lasted forever.

After the park,
I just needed to be by myself.
Olivier did too.
He went into his room and closed the door.
I went to my room and found Moira on the bed.
I lay next to her and started writing in my journal...

Discovery...

*My heart tugs with joy.
Blue skies and mountain views
are mixed with sobering rains
and hailstorms that interrupt,
sizzle and frighten my soul.*

*Is there a future
colored with purple mystery,
with yellow, red and orange sunshine?
Why do I feel gray and not green?*

*Am I a cactus storing water
or a bird of paradise
that only likes
warm and tropical climates?*

Then I went to sleep.
I think I went to sleep.
All I remember is Moira licking my face.
I think she was talking to me,
telling me something really important about Olivier.

Part Three
Courage To Be

Chapter 16
Remembering Truth



Moira

I couldn't find him.
Generation after generation
I searched for the soul of my son Valour.
I traveled the earth,
entering bodies and making
the same mistakes over and over.

Through time I became old and young again.
I learned to love and to let go.
I learned to believe in the goodness of people
and all sentient beings.
I learned to accept human frailty as a part of growth.
I learned to be supportive and kind.
I learned to have hope, compassion
and genuine goodness.

Finally, after thousands of years,
After I had been a snake, a weeping willow tree,
a phoenix and a dolphin,
I became a skeleton,
a keeper of secrets in families many times over.
Then one day I felt the spirit of intense pain.
I felt a young woman pregnant and afraid,
fighting for love.

And so intervening where I could and giving her all my love,
I helped her to have the strength to survive.
Collectively we loved these beings inside her.

I rejoiced when they were born
with purple stars on their left feet.

A boy and a girl born
on the day of All Saints.

I rejoiced and thanked the stars for reuniting me
with my son Valour.

Chapter 17



Olivier

I can't believe
I kissed Sunshine like that.
Like I was falling in love....

Wrong move.

I know it.

I mean what if something happened
and I couldn't stop?

I've never made love to anyone
I don't know if something is wrong with me.
I was going to talk to Sky because he's really cool.

Now I don't know.

I don't want him to think
I was planning anything with Sunshine.

It's times like this when I really wish
My Dad was around...
My Mom just doesn't get it!

Chapter 18



Sunshine

Lola and I hung out
in SOHO and the Village.

We went to BBQ's to eat
and when the check came,
she paid it!

I asked her why and she said
“Even though you're mad corny,
I wish I could be more like you.
I mean you're nice...
Really nice.

Nobody is nice at my house.
There are five of us.
We're always scrapping.
Just doing things to get my mother's attention.

I hate to say it...
She doesn't have time for us.
She's too busy getting high.”

I looked into her eyes and saw tears.

I think that was the moment God showed up.

I didn't know what to say
so I gave her a big hug and said thank you!

Then we got on the train and went back uptown
to watch Carlos and Olivier shoot hoops.
After the game, Olivier and I went home
to have a late dinner with Alexi.

Chapter 19



Olivier

I don't know what kind of strings
my mother pulled but today
I got an early admission letter to Duke
on a full scholarship.
I would have burned the letter
but by the time I got home,
Alexi had opened it already.

When I walked in,
she was full of smiles.
Then she handed me the letter.
My worst fears were realized.
I knew I had to tell her that I wanted
to go to Julliard or Berkley to study music.

I couldn't get the words out before she hugged me
and said "I just want you to know that I'm proud of you son.
This academic scholarship to Duke is a blessing."
I just said "right."
It was a blessing, just not the right blessing for me.

Alexi can be perceptive at times.
"Is there something wrong?"
Olivier I know you're upset but I don't know why.
This scholarship...You should be grateful, happy, excited!
Maybe if you..."

I did something I rarely do...
I interrupted her.
“You’re my mother, not my shrink.
Why can’t you let me feel what I feel?
Besides, it’s my life.
Why can’t you let ME live it?
I just want...”
She cut me off before I could tell her.

The argument got really bad when I said
“Damn it, didn’t you hear me?
I don’t want to talk about school!
For once, try to accept me for me.
Maybe I’m just moody like you.”

She slapped me on my face so hard my eyes stung.
Then she said “Don’t swear at me and sit down,
I’m only trying to help”
I started to walk away, but then she grabbed me
and pushed me in a chair.
I sat there for a moment.
thinking about all the times
she had just lashed out at me,
for no reason.

“Look,” I said.
“I’m sorry I swore but I’ve had too much
of your help planning my life.
This time around, I’ve got to figure out
what I’m doing for myself.”

She wouldn’t let it go...
“Sometimes I think you are smoking crack.
I ask you a simple question about college and you won’t discuss it.
I don’t understand. Really I don’t.
I didn’t work all these years so you could become another statistic.”

It got worse...
I said, "See, there you go.
Now I'm an addict, like my father.
I know I'm not the man you raised me to be.
But I am a Man, Mother.
Don't you get it?
I need to make my own decisions.
Besides, I don't think you'd understand."
Then she said something about me being afraid...
"Afraid, right. Okay.
You want to hear it.
I don't want to be like you..."
"You work for a company that
doesn't give a damn about people.
I don't want some egomaniac
to pat me on my back and say
'I knew we could do it'

Mother, I'm Black man
in a war zone.
Five times
I've been picked up
and arrested by the police
just because....

You know the story.
Just because I was six foot,
just because I had locks,
just because I was wearing
PHAT or FUBU,
just because I was walking along the street,
coming home from band rehearsal
or standing at the wrong corner
at the right time.

Five times.
Just because I'm a Black Man!
Doesn't that tell you something?
Do you think I give a damn
about your dream of me
being a lawyer?

And besides all that,
I want to go to Julliard,
or Berkley or UCLA.

Bottom line is
music makes me happy.
I don't care about status or money.
I feel the music 24-7!

What I need is a college that will help me
learn all the technical stuff to be a better musician
and time to focus on my career
as a vocalist and songwriter.”

I looked her dead in the eye
So she would know I was serious.
Like Sunshine says...

I was speaking from my heart!

She looked at me and laughed.

Then she said...

“Music...for Christ sake. Sure you love music.”

“We all do. It's a nice hobby. But don't fool yourself Olivier.

You can't take that kind of chance.

The music world is full of cold, corrupt people who don't give a damn
about your good intentions and sensitive heart.”

“Well” I said, “then I’m going to take a chance on me!”

As I got up to leave she said...

“We have at least six months to think about it.”

You know Alexi...Always gotta have the last word!

Chapter 20



Sunshine

Sometimes when something bad happens,
It's really something good.
When Alexi put us on restriction
I remembered that maybe God
was just answering my heart.
I needed to slow down
to take time for me...
to remember who I was.

I told Olivier how I felt.
He began to spend more time on his music
and thinking about college.
I told him to have the courage
to tell Alexi
that he wanted a music career.

I felt their fight before I heard it.
My heart went out to Olivier.
I was just very still and listened.

Then I prayed that Olivier could
tell Alexi what was in his heart.
And I prayed that Alexi would understand.

It's hard to have courage
to live your dream.
People will say...
“how do you know what you're doing,
what if you make a mistake?”

Mom and Dad say when you act with
God's will in your body
then you have courage
when everyone else
has forgotten the rhythm.

I think Olivier has a lot of courage!

Chapter 21

August 1st



Alexi

I think this has been the hardest time in my life since my pregnancy. Olivier is becoming a man. I never thought I would have slapped him but his tone, his whole manner of defiance just made me so angry. I really thought he would be happy about Duke but thanks to Sunshine, he's romanticizing a musical career. Trying to be like his father.

Sunshine. Today at dinner she said that my communication style reminded her of a matriarch. "...you know one of those really strong women that run the show." Out of the mouth of babes...

The truth is somedays I do feel like a matriarch. But it's not what she imagines, there is no glamour, simply awesome responsibility. In fact, I'm just really just all by myself. I always thought I would marry. Instead the people in life I've cared about always leave. Like Quintin. Like Lena my birthmother or James who left her pregnant but never wanted me. I've searched for a man to love me, to help me be strong but no one was there. I am too demanding, too intimidating for most men. And so, with Olivier,

I've chosen to live alone.
Still a part of me is hopeful.
Always smiling,
pretending to be happy with my fate.
Somedays I am.
Most days I am.
But then I longed to be hugged,
to feel the gentle strength of a man.
I long to shed my tears and my pain.
I long to rejoice and to let my body feel free.
I long to love and be loved.
These days,
I have become a slave to my own material dreams.
I reach out to men but am rejected.
Perhaps because for them,
my intensity is frightening.
They see my strength
but not my fragility.
They vow to conquer,
not to cherish me.
And so life goes on.
The little girl in me retreats to what is safe.
to dollhouses, private tea parties,
cookies, candies
and imaginary friends.

The woman in me gets tougher,
more committed to financial success,
expecting less,
demanding more.

Sometimes I wonder what happen to my dreams of love.
They remained closed in my heart,
remembering the day Quintin
told me to have an abortion.

I said I'd never trust another man totally and I haven't.
And looking at Olivier and Sunshine everyday makes
my heart hurt for what could have been.
For what I secretly always wanted.
A Normal Family.

Chapter 22
August 5th



Lola

It's been hot 'ta death.
Sweltering.
Carlos wanted to go to
Coney Island for his birthday.
There must have been about twenty of us.
We piled on the Q train
with hip hop blaring out our boom boxes,
blankets and coolers,
dressed like urban beach kids
acting like we owned the train.
We almost got put off the train
so we turned the music down.
It's an hour ride from midtown.
Then you get off the train and the
Atlantic Ocean is right there.
I felt like we coulda been in Puerto Rico
or the Bahamas,
you know, someplace tropical.
It was a dope day.
I had a very special gift for Carlos.
When it got dark,
Everybody went their own way
Carlos was sweatin me.
We had smoked a few blunts
and I was feeling goooood.
We were looking at the moon

and I musta be crazy
because out of nowhere
I remembered
this poem Sunshine wrote...
*"A black night is beautiful
the North Star shining, earth flying,
the moon glowing.
The black night---it brought me peace
and with peace came you.
You my friend
A Black Knight.
Riding no horse,
wearing no shield
walking serenely through darkness
respecting the universe."*

So I said to Carlos
"Isn't it a beautiful night?
Look at the stars,
They're shining so bright!
It's magical.
Carlos I'm so happy you love me!"
He just kept sweatin me.
I said "All I do is think of you."
Carlos said "I know baby."

Then I saw a shooting star.
I was like...
"make a wish, let's make a wish"

Carlos was still sweatin me, talkin bout
"Baby, I want you, I want you now."
I moved away and said
"I want you too but---
oh Carlos, I have the best news!
I'm so excited,

I don't even know how to tell you.
It's like a dream.
I can't even believe---

He wasn't tryin to hear it.
"Lola, tell me later.
You feel sooo good mommie!"

Then I just told him.
"I got your seed, I'm pregnant."
He moved away and said "WHAT"
So I said it again.
"Carlos, I think we're going to have a baby."

He backed away from me and said
"You're crazy stupid!
No I'm not.
Damn.
Weren't you using anything?
I'm not ready for kids.
You got a card---
just go to the chop shop!"

I could barely speak.

"Abort. I thought you loved me,
you said you wanted to make a life with me."

He got up and walked away.
I waited like an hour but he didn't come back.
I took the train home by myself.

I kept hearing this voice inside my head...
"My purpose is to create life
and bear children,
not to destroy them.

For where would I be
if my mother had aborted me...
Flying through space, displaced?
Burning in purgatory?
Someone's bad, bad, dream?
A flighty memory?

For one fleeting moment
I thought of having another abortion...
And then I said to myself
"I can survive and bear my child.
I only hope that I will be bearing
Our Child.

I don't know why but as soon as I got
off the train, I called Sunshine.

Chapter 23



Carlos

I just walked.
Left her right there on that beach at Coney Island.
My boy Kareem rapped about it when it happened to him...
I keep thinking that Lola
has lost her mind.
Everybody has had her.
I mean she's a good piece.
She knows the rules.
I don't know why she would try
to jam me like that.

Ollie tried to tell me...

Anyway it ain't mine.
I'm in college.
Okay, mistakes happen
but she always said
she was using something.
No way I'm having any babies.
I'm not in love,
she was just something to do.
All my women know that.
It's about recreation,
not commitment.

Maybe later I'll want kids.
Right now I want to finish college
and live life before I get tied down.
My Dad married my Mother
and what did that get him?
Or her?

Shit.
I know Lola better not
even try to mess up my life!

Chapter 24
August 10th



Lola

Carlos told me don't call him
or try to see him.
He said it's over and that this baby
is not his problem.
Then he called me a 'ho
and said it probably wasn't his anyway.

I don't really want to have another abortion.
I remember the last time
I felt like my insides were being
sucked out of my body.
But I will, because I don't have
any other choice.

When I told Sunshine
she started crying.
Then I started crying.
Damn.
I think Sunshine is a little crazy
but sometimes what she says
makes good sense.

I'm Catholic but I knew I wasn't going
to go see a priest and confess my sins.
I mean what I did was natural.
I took Sunshine's advice and was trying
to put my thoughts down on paper.

I just kept thinking why.

WHY?

I was so mad at Carlos.

I wanted him to know how I felt.

I wrote him this letter...

Dear Carlos...

Why?

Why was it that I wanted you?

*You whose only offer
was premature birthdays
and valentines.*

And no time for me when I needed it.

*You who were soooo busy
you didn't have time to really make love.
You were just a bambam man.*

*And even when the moon glistened,
you didn't listen when I said I needed you.*

*You treated my affection
as if I were some pit bull bitch.
Just another dog to be there
when you had the desire to pet something warm.
Me, I was house trained.
Sit, stand, bark, roll over, f---.
I guess that was all it was really about anyway.*

*But what was I to do?
You had me tied to a lease
even though you said
you didn't want me anymore.*

*So you remember,
now that you've turned me out
into the darkness
of a one way street going nowhere,
You remember that
even a dog knows about payback!*

Chapter 25



Olivier

There is just too much happening.
I told Carlos to play it safe with Lola
But he was hittin' it with all his might.
Without protection.

Now Sunshine says that Lola is pregnant.
Tough luck.
I don't feel bad for him.
Second time in six months
that Lola has been pregnant
and the last time
I took the bust.

I told Carlos that this should be his final
wake up call but he got really hostile
and said I was just jealous
because I wasn't getting any.
I didn't even bother to respond.
If he doesn't get it, he doesn't get it.

Sunshine is going to ask her parents
if Lola can go back to Santa Fe
and live with them.
That way she'll have a shot
at really getting her life together.
Knowing Sky and Imani, they'll say yes with open arms.

Lola's Mother would probably agree
because it will just mean
one less mouth to feed
and she's high most of the time
anyway.

I'm gonna pray that Lola gets this chance
to really get her life together.
She's not a bad person,
she just needs love and a family life.

Alexi and I are speaking.
Not about college or our argument.
She's all hyped up about her birthday party.
I'm just happy she has something to think about
other than me and Sunshine.
Sometimes she gives us this look
like what ARE you doing.
I know she'd disapprove if she knew
I wanted Sunshine to be my girl.
I don't care.
But I'm not adding any more
fuel to the fire.
Sunshine thinks her folks would be happy.
I don't think Sky would be happy
with any guy that Sunshine
was serious about.

I don't know why
I'm going on and on about this.
I'm not even sure we're an item.
Just one kiss in the park...
I mean I want her to be my girl one day
but after the Sag Harbor deal,

she'll go back to Santa Fe
and I'll still be here...
Trying to get My Mother
to just let me be

Chapter 26
August 13th



Sunshine

Today I'm really Happy!
Yesterday I called My Mom And Dad
and told them all about Lola.
I asked if she could live with us
and they said yes...
providing that her mother agreed.
So they are going to call
Lola's Mom and extend an invitation.

I told Lola already and she was happy.
It will be nice to have a play sister
and she'll have her own room.

As usual Olivier and I
are cleaning and packing.
Alexi wants the house perfect for her birthday.
I don't mind because I clean my room
at home right before my birthday too.
I always start by taking everything out of the closet.

Another reason I'm happy is that
Mom and Dad will be here late tomorrow night.
Then we'll be going up to Sag Harbor
for a whole week.
A week at the beach seems
heavenly right now.

I'll be able to lay in the sun,
play in the sand like a kid
and swim in the ocean.
And to top it off,
we'll be helping with Alexi's birthday party!
Birthdays are really important to me too.
Dad says that a birthday is a once a year celebration
of God's love and joy forever.
I started packing one suitcase for Sag Harbor.
Then I got my duffel bag off the top shelf.
A yellowed envelop addressed to
Alexi Broussard in Tempe, Arizona fell on the floor.
I took out the papers and started reading.
There were two letters.
One to Alexi from Quintin Black
And one she had written to him.
I read them both.
Then I went to Olivier's room
and read them to him.

Chapter 27

The Letters



*Dear Quintin,
Where are you? It's ten o'clock and you didn't even call to wish
me a happy birthday. Here I am crying on my birthday.
I never thought you'd be like Reverend and Mother Harris,
They never had a birthday party for me.*

*For them, Christmas was always the big deal. Christmas.
That was the day that they opened the official adoption papers
and went to church praising God and singing Alleluia.*

*I remember I was seven years old when Lena, my real mother
took a 22 caliber pistol and blew her brains out. The Reverend
announced it in his sermon on Christmas day. Told the whole
congregation that my mother was going to hell. I hate
Christmas. I hate church. What kind of joke was God playing
when he gave me to the Harris'. Or for that matter,
is there a God? Who knows.*

*Last year I cried on my birthday--for my dear Lena. I cried big
crocodile tears so salty that they left my face coarse when they
dried. I pulled the covers up over my head, pretending that I
too was dead and that my soul had passed on into paradise.
Lena and I walked though lush gardens with orchids and Mina
birds. She told me that she loved me and that I was special.*

*Together we walked on a sandy beach with warm bluegreen
water. We swam naked. Then laying nude in the sand, we
baked ourselves browner in the sun and talked of love.*

Then she was gone.

*I slept ignoring jellyfish and sandflies...and like Lena, I too
awaited a man to caress me, to adore me, to accept me for me.*

A man to love me.

*I thought that man was you. But since you are not here, have
not called and do not want this life inside me, I know that you
are not the man for me.*

*I say goodbye with a broken heart and enough tears to create
a small lake. But it does not matter because for me,*

*as of this moment,
Quintin You Do Not Exist!*

Alexi

*My Dearest Alexi,
Even if I can't share part of you, at least I tried. Even if I knew
it wouldn't work, at least I tried. Even if I wasn't ready to
make a commitment, I still see only beauty in our togetherness.
And baby, even if you can't be with me, I'll still collect moon dust
for you in my dreams, make love to you in my heart
and stroke you with my eyes.*

*And even if I never see you, I'll always remember your gentle
vibrations of baby I care...and the times when it seemed like
nobody gave a damn, except you. Even if it wasn't true.*

*And just as this hurts me, I hope that it hurts you too.
At least we tried to be sensitive, warm and giving even if we
didn't really know how or why.*

*And baby, even if the storm never ceases,
I will always await the calm, cool sensation we shared
on a mountaintop not so long ago.*

*Because it was only yesterday that I said I didn't want you,
not really meaning it.
And today you said we could not be and meant it.
I deserve another chance. As I said on the phone, I'm hoping
that you will change your mind.
I know you said I don't exist and I understand your anger.
Enclosed is your letter. Please take back the hurtful words.
Please let's forget all the even ifs and begin again.
With All My Love, Quintin*

Chapter 28



Olivier

I had just finished cleaning my room
when Sunshine came in crying
and read those letters.
Afterwards I didn't know what to do.

I thought about Sunshine's dream.
I was hurt that Alexi had never told me
the whole truth about what had happened with the Harris'.
I did understand why we had never gone
to see them after that Easter
my cousins called me a bastard.

I wish I had known my grandmother Lena.
I wish she had been as strong as Alexi.

I was angry at Quintin. I was...
I was feeling too many emotions
that I didn't understand.
I wanted to punch him for hurting my Mother.
I wanted to kill him but he was already dead.
But I didn't even know if that was true.
I thought my Father's name was Quintin James
but the letter was from Quintin Black.
Was my Father a producer and recording artist?

I left Sunshine sitting on my bed.
I didn't have anything to say.
What could I say?
I wanted to talk to Alexi.
I wanted answers.
But I knew My Mother.
I knew she wouldn't want to discuss it.
I went to her job anyway.

Chapter 29



Sunshine

I looked all over
for Olivier but he was gone.
I think I made a mistake
reading him those letters.

I finished cleaning my room
and called My Mom
to explain what had happened.

Afterall, she and Alexi were like sisters.
They were both college roommates
and had babies on the same day.
My Mom can fix anything!
I feel bad that Olivier would find out
so many painful things through
two letters written long ago.
I felt bad for Alexi too.

Mom told me not to worry.
she said that the truth always
has a way of setting us free
even when we don't want to hear it.

She said my curiosity was
natural and that I had many
life lessons to learn.

“Remember that Dad, Alexi and I
love you and Olivier.
Whatever needs to be worked out,
we’ll do it together.
I didn’t know how it would be worked out
But just hearing her voice
made me feel better.

Then she mentioned that she had talked to
Lola’s mother and that she would let
her come and stay with us in Santa Fe
for the school year.
At least that was good news.

Afterwards, I prayed and prayed.
Then I went downstairs
and sitting right on the patio was Olivier.
He was writing so I stood
and looked at him for a few moments.

I was happy he was home.

Chapter 30



Olivier

When I left home I was angry.
I was going to confront Alexi at the station
but when I got there,
I remembered that she had started her vacation
and was running errands.

So I went to Central Park
and just sat in the grass thinking about my life,
about my Mother.

In many ways, Alexi is really cool.
I'm glad she's My Mother.
Sure, sometimes she acts
like a tough guy and goes berserk
but as she always says...
"life ain't been no crystal stairs".
I knew she had a rough childhood.
I just never knew how rough
it was until Sunshine read me those letters.

Sunshine says that in another lifetime,
Alexi was a warrior.
It's probably true.
I mean she just loves to win no matter what it costs.

I've got a lot of questions to ask.
I need honest answers.
I think Alexi was wrong about the way she handled things
with my Father but basically he was wrong too.
I feel like I have a right to know the whole story.
Was he a drug addict?
Is he really dead?
She always said his name was Quintin James
but the envelop said Quintin Black.
He's a legendary musician.
Is he my Father?

I'm going to wait until we get to Sag Harbor
to discuss it with her.
It's neutral territory
and she's always more relaxed there.

Anyway for her birthday
I wrote a poem
that I'm going to put to music....
For My Mother On Her Birthday...
Woman.
She talks when she walks
her hips gently flowing to and fro
like leaves on an autumn day.
Her shoulders stand erect and proud
daring opposition to enter her territory.

She remains aloof,
hiding secrets that I want to know.
And though I am her son
I don't always understand
the perplexity of her being.

*She is WOMAN.
Sophisticated in her own right.
Loving, giving, caring, sharing.
Her hips flow gently to and fro
Like leaves on an autumn day.
For She Is WOMAN.*

Happy Birthday Mom, I'm Feelin' You!

Part Four
The Whole Truth

Chapter 31



Imani

Sunshine called and she found two old letters that Alexi and
Quintin had written to each other.

Thank God the letters only told part of the story.
What she doesn't know is that this involves her too.
She was pretty happy that Lola was coming to stay with us.

Still, it is time to tell the whole truth. To let go of our secrets.
Sky and I have waited and waited for Alexi to feel comfortable,
for her to believe that honesty was the best way.
That's why we sent Sunshine to her this summer.

Sky called Quintin and asked him to come to Sag Harbor.
Alexi will be angry but it's the only way.
When we talk to the children,
they need to know the whole story.
And Quintin has a right to be there when they are told.
We've all made mistakes but what we did, we did out of love.
That was our only motivation. Sky and I believe that our
collective love is enough to heal the wounds. We shall see.
With Divine Intervention, We Shall See.

Chapter 32



Alexi

This was my first official vacation day. I had a million errands to run but I waited and made a late breakfast for Sunshine and Olivier. At 10:00 I went up to the fourth floor. I threw open the drapes in each room and said good morning in this very maternal voice that I didn't even know I had.

Then I gave them each a hug and said
“waffles and fried chicken in ten minutes!”

I think that they were astounded that I had made breakfast. They came downstairs at 10:30am. I just smiled and gave then each another hug. It was a good day. I was determined to show them that I was not an ogre. We all held hands and Sunshine said the blessing.

Breakfast went well. Olivier said it was the best fried chicken I'd ever made. I knew he was lying but it felt good. We laughed when Moira jumped on a chair and sat looking intently at us. We talked about Sag Harbor and the history of Native Americans who had lived there long ago. Of course Sunshine said that she wanted to build a whole sandcastle village on the beach. Well, we can't say she does things on a small scale. Olivier and I promised to help. I reminded them to clean their rooms and to pack. Feeling like Mother of the year, I left for my salon appointment. I was in Bergdorf's when Imani called to say they had pushed

up their flight and were taking the Red Eye from LA.
They planned to rent a car and surprise the children.

By the time I got home, I was loaded down with packages,
most of them for Sunshine and Olivier.
They were packed and ready for Sag Harbor.

For some reason I just kept thinking...
Here we go, off to tell the truth,
the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
I don't even know what the truth is anymore.
And it's almost my birthday.
My 35th Birthday!

Chapter 33
August 14th



Olivier

It seemed like I had just gone to sleep
when I heard this voice.
Hey man, I'm feelin you!"
I knew I was dreaming so I just turned over
but then I felt these hands pulling my locks.

I opened my eyes. It was Sky.
I sat straight up and asked
if Sunshine knew he was here.
She was still sleeping.
He suggested that we go jogging.
I got up, threw some water on my face,
brushed my teeth and put on some sweats.
Sky just sat in my room waiting for me.
Then he said "man, this room looks like Mr.
Clean came to visit--or Alexi!
We both laughed.

I wanted to say hi to Imani but Sky said
that she and Alexi were having a private conversation.
I think I heard my mother crying.
I had a million questions I wanted to ask Sky.
Like how come nobody woke up Sunshine...
why couldn't I say hi to Imani and why was my Mom crying?
I didn't say anything.
I figured I'd wait to see what he said.

At first he didn't say much.
Just "Hey lead the way to Central Park."
We were walking down 8th Avenue and he started asking me
questions about my music.
He told me that I was talented, that I could do anything.
By the time we got in the park at 110th Street,
Sky was ready to sit down.

I was feeling pretty comfortable
so I told him about my fight with Alexi.
He said he'd had a few arguments with Alexi over the years
and many more with Imani.
Not to mention Sunshine.

Then out of no where he told me that
Quintin Black was his best friend in college.
It seemed like my blood turned to ice.
Sky doesn't beat around the bush.
I just looked at him and said "Really."

Chapter 34



Sky

I knew I had to tell Olivier something... right then and there.
He'd find out the whole story in Sag Harbor but felt that I
needed to help him understand
his own manhood, and his anger.

I also needed to paint a good picture of his father.
I just kept talking and smiling...

"Yeah man, we were young, dumb and full of come.
Quintin was totally a player. But he was my friend and we
went through a lot together. Kind of like you and Carlos.
Boy were we an unlikely pair. He was always singing to the ladies
and I was the bookworm. I'd go to class and take notes.
He'd read my notes, show up for exams and get an A.

I remember at one point, my biggest fear was that he would
take Imani away from me. Thank God,
she only had eyes for me! She was my stabilizer.
Without her, I'd have been a drunk. She made me be responsible.
Anyway Quintin was chasing his dream in a big way.
And rightfully so. He'd say he "felt the music in his bones
and his heart". If I had to describe him in one word
I'd say he was passionate.
After that I was quiet for a minute or two.
I wanted to give Olivier a chance to ask me any questions.
But he didn't.

In fact he got up and started to walk away.
I got up and moved right with him.
Suddenly he started shooting questions like bullets.
I kept talking through his tears. And mine too.
I remember the conversation verbatim!
“Quintin has always been a heck of a piano player and a singer.
He loved the saxophone and could even play the guitar.
His music was all he had. And a lot of pain.
He didn’t have any family to speak of...didn’t know his parents.
When we were sophomores, two women ended up
pregnant at the same time. I think they both had abortions.

Your Mom met Quintin her freshman year.
It was like they were soulmates. Like me and Imani.
I guess that scared him to death.
He didn’t want to be in a real relationship.
Quintin was chasing his dream,
getting high when things got bad...
trying to erase the pain of living.

By the time you’re Mom knew she was pregnant,
he had already moved to Los Angeles.
He got a gig in a band and went on the road.
As much as he knew how to love, he loved Alexi.
But she fought him hard. I understand that too.
I mean look at the way she was raised.
They both just had a lot of pain.

Thinking he wasn’t good enough, Quintin walked away.
Alexi wouldn’t let him come back because she thought she
would lose him anyway. And she lost her first love, just as
she had lost her Mother.
So in her mind, he died a tragic death.
And in her heart and the very cells of her body,
she began to believe that Quintin was dead.

Olivier, I love Alexi and Quintin.
They are both special people, good, kind, sensitive,
vulnerable, caring people.
We all have life challenges and often when you're young,
in an emotional moment, one makes the wrong choice.
I know I did. We all did.

Professionally they both worked very hard to be successful.
I think they thought that success would make them respected
by society's standards. Alexi wanted to be the best she could
be for you. Quintin threw his heart into his music.
He has two other children and three failed marriages.
He's also had three nervous breakdowns. One recently.

Please keep your heart open.
Please try to forgive all of us for not telling the truth.
Imani and I have been working many years to build a bridge
but before now, we never could.
We did what we thought was best at the time.
We were wrong.

It's way past time for you to know your father!

Chapter 35



Olivier

Sky just said what he had to say.
I think that's the main difference
with men and women.
My mother always beats around the bush.

Now the ball was in my court.
A million questions ran through my mind.
Sky said it was
“way past time for me to know my Father.”
I didn't realize I was crying.
I started babbling, asking questions.
I mean, how could Alexi never tell me?
She always said that my Father was dead.
How could she lie all these years.
Didn't Quintin want to know me after I was born?

He tried to answer all my questions.
I can't remember ever being so angry, so hurt.
Sky was crying too.
He told me that I was an old soul reincarnated as
an exceptionally gifted and wise young man.
Sky said...
“I'm proud to know you, to be your GodFather.
Please give me a little more time to work out
everything with Alexi and Quintin.
In Sag Harbor, we'll come together as a family

and share the whole truth.
Before you judge, listen to what we all say.”

Then he even had the balls
to ask me to keep my heart open.
He said what they did,
they all did out of love.
I just wonder what love had to do with it...
We never did jog. And we caught a cab home.
I agreed not to discuss it until we got to Sag Harbor.

After all these years,
I’m going to meet my father.
Damn.
Unbelievable.
It’s all unf-----believable!

Wait ’til I tell Sunshine!

Chapter 36



Sunshine

Moira woke me up.
She was walking all over my bed,
and all over me.

I wanted to go back to sleep
but I remembered that this was the day
My Mom and Dad were coming.

For some reason,
Moira was scratching the door,
trying to get out.

I was surprised that the door
was all the way closed.

I went to the bathroom
washed my face and brushed my teeth.
I was going to wake up Olivier
But his room was empty.

I couldn't believe that Alexi
would fix breakfast two days in a row
but I went to check anyway.

I screamed when I saw My Mom.
Boy was I happy!
Just then,
Olivier came through the door

with my Dad
and everyone was hugging and kissing.
Moira jumped up on the counter
So she wouldn't be left out.
It was absolutely wonderful!
I wanted to sit there all day
just to catch up...

Chapter 37
The Drive To Sag Harbor



Sunshine

Mom & Alexi told

Olivier and me to put some decent clothes on because we were going to B. Smith's for lunch in Sag Harbor.

I took a shower and slipped into my new orange and pink bathing suit.

Then I threw on a long pink dress. Olivier came in to help me with my luggage and said "Come on Sooky, Sooky!"

I knew I was dressed up and...

Looking really GOOD!

Within an hour, Alexi, Olivier, Moira, Mom and I were packed into the van with all our stuff.

Dad was driving and we were on our way.

I wanted to know all about what Mom and Dad had done in Santa Fe without me over the summer.

Dad said they had gone to Nambe Pueblo for the Fourth of July and to Santo Domingo & Tesuque Pueblos for Feast Day Ceremonies.

Mom said that she had
gone out to Santuario De Chimayo
and said prayers for all of us.
She also asked for special blessings
for Alexi on her 35th Birthday.

Mom had brought blessed candles and
was planning for us to join together
in a spiritual circle.
Cool. Really Cool.
We talked about Lola
and what a special friend
she had become to me.
Alexi surprised me by saying
that if I wanted,
she would make arrangements for Lola to come to
Sag Harbor for the big birthday bash.
And she also said that
she thought it would be good if
Lola came to live in Santa Fe with us.
Now I really thought that was great!

Later I fell asleep in the car.
When I woke up, we were on Montauk Highway.
We took Hampton North to Peconic Bay and Sag Harbor.
I was so excited, my heart did that
boombaboom boom thing!

Olivier felt it and laughed!

Chapter 38



Imani

As we were riding,
I realized I hadn't thought about Sky's vulnerability.
I sat next to him on the drive to Sag Harbor,
loving him, hoping his strong facade would not shatter.

Suddenly the car swerved and I felt his fear.
It passed quickly but it was there.
I turned my attention back to the diagram
I had drawn for our Circle.
My mind began to focus on
Alexi, Quintin and our collective history.

When we had left Quintin at JFK airport,
he had looked so fragile, like a little boy lost.
I think Quintin is afraid to face Alexi.
His spirit is torn. I told him to have courage,
to look for the Divine in his heart.

He is concerned about how Sunshine and Olivier
will feel about him.
I am more concerned about Sunshine...
about how angry she will be at me and Sky.
Still love will be our bond.
I'm not trying to anticipate the responses
of these children.

I'm going to trust
that MotherFatherGod is moving
through each of us.

When I mentioned to Alexi
that Quintin would be in Sag Harbor,
she immediately went into her warrior mode.
However after lashing out at me
she seemed resigned
and agreed that in the truth,
we would find the light.

Our Sunshine is so beautiful.
Sky and I have missed her this summer.
She is God's blessing...

I had always known that from my body
There would be no life growing inside me.
No special bond.
There would be no children
to nurse at my breast.
I've felt a pain that comes from
feeling incomplete as a woman.
A dull, sharp pain
that has remained with me
all these years.

Alexi's pregnancy was a gift.
She had just turned 19 that August.
She is a fiery Leo,
born to lead,
born to disappointment,
born to discover
the love within herself.

I am a Cancer, born to nurture,
to create home and family,
born to heal.

And I wanted Sunshine from the moment
I knew she existed.
I went through Alexi's pregnancy with her.
I became the mothersisterfriend she needed.
We laughed and cried together when these babies were born.

When Alexi went into labor, Her pain was fierce.
I held her hand and breathed with her. My mother Star,
a midwife like her Hopi Mother and My Father Arthur,
a descendant of African warrior slaves as well as a physician
for the Indian Health Service were with us.
Moira sat on a mirrored dresser, watching, remembering.

Sky and my brothers sat outside amongst the stars
waiting for this miracle birth.
We were all there in a home buried deep
in the hills of Tesuque,
where the sun kisses the moon.

And when these babies were born, they were born into a circle of love.
Alexi named the boy Olivier Arthur.
She handed the girl to me and said
"I give you this gift of love, as you have given me your love."
And we named her Sunshine Star.
It was the happiest day of my life!

Chapter 39



Sky

It was 10:00 am when we finally got on the road for Sag Harbor.
Alexi was angry but she had agreed to our plan.
Quintin would join us at B. Smith's for a late lunch.

I was thankful for the two hour drive. I needed to drive,
to feel in control of something. No matter how much Imani
reassured me, I was still feeling like my world was about to
come crashing in. Imani and Sunshine were my life.

I didn't want it to be altered in anyway.
There would be changes and that scared me.

I replayed the conversation with Olivier in my mind.
Basically, it had gone pretty well.
The good news was that we were
building the bridge to his father.
But what about Sunshine?
What would all this mean to her?

Driving along with too much adrenaline pumping through my body,
I felt the van curve as momentarily I lost control.
Imani's eyes met mine in reassurance.
Then I looked through the rearview mirror.
Olivier eyes said, "Man What's Up?"
Sunshine was asleep in his lap.
Alexi was curled up in the back seat dozing.

Too quickly the scenery changed from tall buildings to suburban strip malls, to emerald green grass and tall trees and finally Sag Harbor, an old whaling village on Peconic Bay.

Before I knew it, I had parked the car and we began unloading the bags. Olivier and Sunshine were beaming.

Alexi had put on her take charge manner and voice.

Imani was the calmest of all of us.

We took in the bags, went on a quick tour of the house, walked down to the pier and a sandy beach.

The view was just what I needed to lift my spirits. Then it was time for lunch. We all got back in the van.

I drove to B.Smith's and parked.

A thought flashed through my mind...

Were we trying to accomplish too much in one day???

Chapter 40
Is Love Enough?



Quintin

I stood across the street
and watched them enter B. Smith's.
I never imagined Olivier to be so tall.

He was at least six feet.
His hair was twisted in neat locks
that came down to his shoulders. My Son.

Sunshine was laughing, pointing at the harbor.
She looked rather ethereal in her long pink dress
and hair that was blowing in the wind. My Daughter.

Did I have a right to call them mine???

As Imani, Sky and the children entered the restaurant,
Alexi began walking towards me.
Long ago she was my bubbling brown sugar.
I wondered how I had ever let her get away.

I became angry at myself for not being strong enough
to demonstrate my love.
They say that time heals all wounds.
Instead our love had festered and scarred our hearts.
I wanted to run to her but my legs seemed paralyzed.
Then with all the will I had in my body, I felt myself
moving towards Alexi.
She was looking at me with disdain,
like I was an unpleasant ghost returning to haunt her.
I felt guilty because I knew she had every right to feel that way.

Then I heard Imani's voice in my head...
"With our thoughts we create the universe..."
I felt a smile in my heart.
We spoke. Alexi invited me to join them for lunch.
I think I apologized. I know I apologized.
We walked into the restaurant, out to the patio
and she introduced me to Olivier and Sunshine.

Chapter 41



Olivier

My mouth dropped opened
when I saw Alexi walking
toward the table with Quintin Black.
I'd seen his picture enough times to know it was him.
He reminded me of Robert DeNiro,
Kind of a tough guy that charmed the ladies.
Imani and Sky got up and gave Quintin a hug.
Sunshine squeezed my hand under the table.
Then we got up too.
We were pretty formal with our hellos.
He and I shook hands.

I don't remember how I made it through lunch.
I picked at my food while Sunshine
did most of the talking.

She'd ask Quintin a question and then she'd answer it.
He seemed a little uncomfortable
but was obviously amused by all the attention
that he was getting from customers.
He signed a couple of autographs.
That pissed me off...
I mean wasn't he there just to meet me?

Finally we all left B. Smith's with a promise
to Barbara to come back to finalize party arrangements.
Imani and Alexi took Sunshine shopping.

Sky asked Quintin to come hang out with us.
We went back to the house, changed into shorts,
grabbed some towels and walked down to the beach.

Mostly we talked about music...who he had produced,
what songs were hot, where was jazz going,
the future of Rap, R&B...and on and on.

Sky told Quintin I was a great musician,
that it was it my genes.

Quintin wanted to hear me sing.

I wasn't feeling any tunes in my head.

I was tired of beating around the bush.

Finally I said "Look Man,
why didn't you try to get in touch with me?"

Why did I have to wait sixteen years
to find out that you were alive?

I've needed you.

I wanted a father.

Do you know how hard it's been for me?

Do you know what it's like to be called a bastard?"

Quintin started crying.

I didn't know why he was crying.

I was the one who had been without
a father for sixteen years.

It's funny because I thought he
would blame it on My Mother.

He didn't. He didn't blame anything on Alexi.

He started explaining about his life,
about how he had had a hard time keeping it together.

He said that he had been dead wrong,
that he had been young, stupid, egotistical and confused.

He was damn sure right about that.
I was glad he admitted to being wrong.
He asked me to forgive him.
How do you forgive a parent for not being there?
I wanted to know him.
I wanted him to be in my life.

But I wasn't ready to forgive him.
I didn't even know how to begin to forgive him.
I think what I felt most was anger
because in my mind,
he had walked away.

Chapter 42



Sunshine

It was a glorious day!
I was so happy for Olivier.
I knew meeting Quintin Black
would be hard for him but at least now
a lot of questions would be answered.
And he would have a father.

After lunch at B. Smith's,
Alexi, My Mom and I went food shopping.
Tonite we're going to have a lobster and clam bake.

We went browsing in several shops.
I practically swooned over these fabulous
gold dolphin earrings I saw in a jewelry store window.
Alexi bought them for me as a
"going back to Santa Fe present" she said.
The one thing I love about Alexi
is that she buys great gifts.
Mom says Alexi has been spoiling me all summer.
Then she laughed and gave us both a hug.
Also tonite we are joining together for
a Spiritual Circle on the beach in honor
of Alexi's birthday.

Mom says our collective love
will help heal all the wounds
and sorrows of the past.

It's a good thing because I want to
make sure that Olivier feels us loving him.

Finally we had more packages
than we could carry.
Alexi said that we had given the guys
enough time for their bonding
and we caught a cab back to the beach house.

When we got back to the house,
Mom said I could just head on down to the beach.
Dad and Quintin were building a sandcastle.
My Dad is so great. I think in another lifetime
he must have been an architect
because he builds sandcastles better than anyone I know!
I gave him a kiss, said hi to Quintin
took off my dress,
ran into the ocean
and swam out to Olivier!

Part Five
The Spiritual Circle

Chapter 43



Imani

I remember all of my words.
I asked that we join hands and then I began...
As you may know, the circle has been considered for many
centuries the most healing for of interaction among people.
In a circle we are able to join hands and to allow our collective
energy to flow through one another.
My studies in Native traditions including
African and Native Americans
have re-inforced this belief for me.
The circle is a way for us to collectively ask MotherFatherGod
for the guidance and support to heal our souls.

Today we share our love and joy as a family.
No matter what happens,
it is important for us to remember our inter-connectedness.
Though Quintin has never been with all of
us together, he has been a part of our lives for many
lifetimes. We welcome him home in our hearts.
His presence with us allows Alexi to let go of secrets and the
bondage of past pain. And just as it frees Alexi, in some way
his presence will free each and everyone of us.
Alexi and Quintin have courage.
Each of us must have the courage to act with God's
will in our hearts. We must all remember that we come to earth
to learn one lesson...There is nothing but love.
And love is within each of us.

Love allows us to understand and appreciate one another
. Love allows us to accept, respect and forgive.
Love allows us to find joy and to open our hearts in this lifetime.

There is nothing but GOD's LOVE!

Let us repeat our prayer together...

*MotherFatherGod in this lifetime,
we come together as collective beings
to open our hearts to divine love.*

*We are committed to acting
with your will in our bodies.*

*We have courage
and are joined together on this beautiful night
to have a conversation that allows
our hearts to open
and our souls to meet
with your divine support.
With Love, So It Is!*

Chapter 44



Olivier

Everything was going great.
We were all sitting in a circle holding hands.
Even Moira was there sitting on Alexi's lap.

Imani said that we were all family,
that the love in our hearts was all we needed.

Sky said that sometimes in life
people make decisions and can't change them.

Quintin apologized to me and Alexi
for not being a part of our lives.

My Mother apologized to me for not
being honest about Quintin.

It seemed like we were all on the same page.
We sat there, at first holding hands, crying,
later hugging each other.

I thought we knew everything,
that there was no more to tell.

Then Imani asked us to join hands again.

She began to talk about blessings.

She said that Sunshine and I were blessings.

We were born on the same day,
within minutes of each other.

Then my Mother said that on November 1, 1983
she had given birth to a boy and a girl.

I asked her how the girl baby had died.
Everyone was silent,
waiting for Alexi to answer.
I remember hearing her say
“Sunshine is your sister, your twin.”
Suddenly there was this primal scream,
And then Sunshine went berserk.

Chapter 45



Sunshine

I heard a wolf.
This howling sound was ringing in my ears.
I thought I was being attacked
and so I fought back with all my strength.

Then I ran as fast as I could.
I ran until I couldn't run anymore.
I heard voice calling
but I hid behind some rocks.
I kept hearing that howling sound.
I knew I had to keep going.
I was so tired, so afraid.
Finally, I lay down in the sand to rest.

I remembered Alexi talking,
saying that Olivier was my brother, my twin.
I didn't believe it,
I didn't know why she was lying.
I started walking again.
I wanted my Dad to hold me,
to make the wolf go away.
I wanted my life back.

Chapter 46



Alexi

As we sat on the beach holding hands, our faces glistening
in the light of the full moon and the candles from
Santuario De Chimayo, my voice took on the cadence
of the water gently beating against the shore.
I had believed Imani...that we could tell our story with love.
I really believed that after Olivier and Sunshine met Quintin,
they would understand everything.

Cautiously I said that I had given birth to two children,
a boy and a girl. Olivier asked how the girl had died.
I hadn't expected his question. They all sat there waiting for me to
answer but I lost my nerve. I looked around the circle.
I looked into Imani's eyes, into Sky's eyes.
I felt their love and then I spoke in a whisper. I said it.
I told Olivier that Sunshine was his sister, his twin.
Sunshine was sitting next to me, holding my hand.
She squeezed it so hard I thought she broke a bone.
Then she screamed. It was the same scream
inside my head when my mother shot herself.
The same scream I heard whenever I felt inadequate,
not good enough. It was the same scream that harnessed
my fear and made me feel like glass shattering.
I knew her pain.

Chapter 47



Olivier

Sky went after Sunshine.
Quintin and I followed.
It seemed like the minutes were hours.
It started raining.
Sky found Sunshine curled up shivering in the sand,
still crying and covered with sand.
I pushed him out of the way, picked her up
and carried her back to the house.
When we got there, Imani and Alexi
got her bathed and in to bed.

Alexi tried to hug me but I backed away.
I took a shower to calm down and put on dry clothes.
Then I went to Sunshine.
Imani told me Sunshine had a fever.
It was really bad.
I knew I had to be strong for Sunshine.
I got on the bed with her and Moira
and held Sunshine in my arms.
After a while it hit me, really hit me...
Sunshine was my sister,
She could never be my girl.
I felt like someone had stuck a knife in my heart.
I cried like a baby and stayed with her all night.
We all did. But I didn't say anything to them.
Not one word.

I just kept hearing this rap by Chaz Dobbs
called "Rough Times" in my head...

It's hard to be you, hard to be me,

Living in these rough times.

Oh Lord can you help me?

Times I lay on my bed,

thinking about this crazy world

and why does it stress my head.

Outside I feel hard like the street

But inside Lord I'm so empty.

Lord I need your strength

So I can shine for eternity.

Sunshine what is Love?

What is life without you beside me?

Cause I close my eyes dreaming

waking up and still not seeing the light

In these rough times do I smile

Or do I fight?

I must have fallen asleep.

I had this really strange dream.

Somehow all of us were connected,

sending love to Sunshine.

I didn't want to be connected to them

But they wouldn't let me go.

There was this serious fight between

Moira and a white wolf.

Chapter 48



Sunshine

I was so tired.
I felt as if my heart had been torn away.

I didn't want to wake up.
I didn't want to understand.
I didn't want to forgive.

I felt Olivier next to me.
I felt him loving me.
I was sooo angry, not at him,
but I was angry!

And I was so sad.
I didn't know who I was.
I still don't know who I am.
I do know that there's a howling sound
ringing in my ears.

I reached out to Olivier
thinking he could protect me.
I do know that the wolf is near.

Part Six

*The smallest secrets of yesterday
can create disasters unknown,
unthought of and unanticipated...*

Chapter 49



Moira

It was then that I finally understood my life lesson...

The human desire to spare pain,
create new truths and perfection
can ultimately cause broken hearts.

The smallest secrets of yesterday
can create disasters unknown,
unthought of and unanticipated.

It was wrong to hide the truth
from Olivier and Sunshine.
Slowly I began to move
into the corridors of Sunshine's mind.
I apologized and fought her wolf
with loving thoughts.
I knew that the wolf that Sunshine heard
and saw was her own inner self.
She had called the beast
forth for her protection.

I felt the pain of my son Valour.
I knew that his soul
resided in both Olivier and Sunshine.

I remembered home
and very gently joined the minds
and spirits of Olivier, Alexi, Quintin, Imani and Sky.

Collectively we opened our hearts
surrounding Sunshine with the light of love.

A pure white she-wolf
emerged and attacked me.

I retreated for just a second.

Then I stepped forward
allowing her to feel my frailty,
my old age, my endless love.

She attacked me again.

I asked for forgiveness,
continued to send loving thoughts;
helping her to remember life in the stars.

Finally, exhausted and dying,
I lay in the corridor of Sunshine's mind.

Her she-wolf put her teeth in my neck
and carried me home.

Home To The Stars...

Chapter 50



Alexi

Neither Sunshine nor Olivier left the room the next day.
We took food to them and sat quietly. Finally by nightfall
I worked up the courage to explain.
I asked Imani, Quintin and Sky to leave the room.

Moira's death made me understand that I had to be the one to
take responsibility for the pain of both Olivier and Sunshine.

In my heart I knew that I had to be the one to provide
the answers to their questions. I prayed that Sunshine and Olivier
would listen and accept my love.

I sat on the bed and began by saying
“I love you, both of you. Please forgive me for not being
strong enough, for trying to protect you from my pain.”

I told them about my childhood, my father not wanting my mother,
my life with the Harris' and my mother's suicide.

I shared with them my desperation
and my desire to create a better life for them.
Better than I had had.

At some point they sat up and looked at me.

Perfect me with no make-up
and tears running down my face.

They said nothing but I continued to speak.
“Some things you don't forget. I was so angry at Quintin.

I thought I was living my mother's life all over again.
I thought he didn't want me because my skin was so dark,
because I was an African American. I didn't know how to
trust him. I didn't believe he loved me. And more than
anything, I needed to be loved.

Imani was my roommate at Arizona State
and the first real friend I ever had.

When I found out I was pregnant, I considered suicide.

But I didn't have the courage to kill myself.

I thought I was going crazy but Imani would tell me
over and over that I was special,
that I was destined to make great contributions to society.
Even though she knew she couldn't have children, she helped me
through my pregnancy, cooking for me, making me laugh,
rubbing my feet when they were swollen.

She and Sky planned to adopt after they got married.

Imani graduated but she waited for me
to finish the summer session at school.

It was two days after my birthday when Quintin finally called.

For me, he was already history; a part of
my past that I wanted to forget.

I remember it was 110 degrees in Tempe Arizona.
Imani and Sky packed all of my things while I sat crying.

When they had finished,
they put me in the car and drove me to New Mexico.

Once there Star and Arthur, Imani's parents treated me
like I too was their daughter.

Each day at their home in Tesuque,

I awoke to humming birds and for the first time I
began to appreciate nature. I grew stronger walking among
the Juniper and Chamisa trees.

I grew stronger watching the sun set and the moon rise.
They had a cat and Imani gave me one of her kittens.

She named her Moira and told me to that she was an old soul
with a gentle nature.
Moira followed me everywhere.
She even slept with me.
Moira, Imani, her family and Sky made me feel loved.
They helped me to believe in myself.

I began to feel excited about my pregnancy.
Imani helped me understand how blessed I was.
She never judged me, though I knew she felt that I should
have given Quintin another chance.
Time passed quickly.
I could see snow on the mountain tops and at night we would
sit by the fire listening to stories of long ago...
I learned about the Anasazis, Pueblo Indians and Hopi Kachinas.
I learned about the forced migration of Native Americans
and their continued belief in the goodness of humankind.

I learned about the conquistadors and their quest for gold.
I learned about African slaves who had been
sheltered by tribes and Buffalo soldiers who mistakenly took
on the fight of Europeans in search of power.

But the greatest lesson I learned was to love.

I went into labor on the evening October 31st, 1983.
It was difficult and painful.
Imani was there breathing with me,
sharing my pain.
Star and Arthur were there.
Finally my water broke shortly after midnight.
Olivier was born first
and when I held him in my arms,
I felt the love of creation.
And then there was another pain,
out came Sunshine. I saw the tears in Imani's eyes.

Right then with all the love in my heart,
I decided to give her the baby girl she always wanted.
Both of you are blessings, born on November First, All Saints Day.
And for each of us,
Me and Imani, we shared in the gift your birth.

I can't take your pain away but if I had it to do over,
I would have explained to both of you
why you were separated at birth.
And maybe I would have allowed Quintin to be
a part of Olivier's life.
It was me that insisted
that Imani and Sky hold this secret.
I can't undo or change the past.
For that I apologize and I ask you to believe that my love for
each of you is more than I could ever express in words."

I sat there for a moment, just looking at them, afraid that they
were hating me. I got up to leave but Olivier stopped me.
He said "I think I understand Mom" and then Sunshine said
"I'll try to forgive you." I had never heard more beautiful words.
I took both of my children in my arms and cried.

This Time My Tears Were For New Beginnings.

Chapter 51



Sunshine

The wolf went away with Moira.
Nobody told me but I knew.
Alexi came to explain
and to apologize to me and Olivier.
Then he and I went for a walk by the ocean.
Everything is getting clearer.
What a terrible life Alexi had.
Now I understand my dreams.
Maybe somehow Lena speaks through me.
Maybe I was Lena in another lifetime.
I was still angry and sad.
Angry because Olivier and I
should have been told the truth long ago.

Sad because I really had fallen in love.
We both had.
Now we have to learn
how to be brother and sister...
Twins.
I kind of understand
how we felt so connected
and misinterpreted our feelings.
but if we had known,
we wouldn't have.
Olivier reminded me that we have
to act with God's will in our hearts

and our bodies.

He said we have to remember that
Alexi was only 18 when she got pregnant.

Just two years older than we are now.
Olivier said that both of us have to really
work to forgive Alexi, Quintin,
My Mom and My Dad.

Imagine that, Olivier teaching me
the spiritual lessons I taught him.

I'm not ready to forgive yet.
Olivier is excited about Quintin Black being his father.

He's still Alexi's son.

With me it's different. I'm adopted.

So whom do I really belong to?
When people say "you look just like your mom"
should I ask which one...
my birthmother or my adopted mother?

I thought I had the perfect family
And now we're just not so perfect anymore.

I'm still African American but I lost
my Hopi and Navaho ancestors.

Olivier said that My Mom is
still My Mom and My Dad
is still My Dad.

I don't know...

My heart hurts.

And I'm still angry because they lied.

Chapter 52



Olivier

I was up most of the night thinking about Sunshine
and how much I really loved her.
Crazy isn't it?
My girl can't be my girl because she's my twin.

Earlier this summer when I was hoping
she'd fall in love with me,
I keep thinking of a song by Chaz Dobbs called Sunshine.
I always wondered why I never sang it to her.
I'm just going to sing it in my head
one last time.

My Sunshine...

*Everyday I open my eyes
hoping to see my sunshine rise.*

Baby if I had your love

Everything would be alright.

*Sunshine you brighten up my day
by keeping the stormy rains away.*

*If you knew what your love did to me,
You would shine more my way.*

Said you're the light of my life,

So please don't turn it off.

*Sunshine you are everything
Cause it's you that makes the birds sing.*

*The heat from the heart of you
brings that warming thought,*

that thought of you.

Sunshine You Are the Light Of My Life...

Chapter 53



Sunshine

The next day Olivier woke me up
with a kiss on my cheek.

He actually said “Hey Sis!”

There it is, he’s my brother, my twin.

I was trying to be brave

But it was crazy...

I mean CRAZY.

My first real boyfriend was my brother.

He started tickling me

and told me that we had to

go bury Moira in the ocean.

Then Mom and Dad came.

Dad said he knew my heart was broken.

He asked me to try and let go of my anger.

Mom said to remember the circle.

That being a family means picking up the pieces and moving on.

They talked about courage,

asked again

for my forgiveness,

said that all we really had

in life was the love in our hearts.

They told me that I

was still their Precious Sunshine

and I was still a Hopi,
Navaho African American.
Mom said that in my soul
I carry memories of many lifetimes,
and many different nationalities.

They said that they were honored
to have me as a daughter,
that Alexi had given them a very
special gift of love.
Dad asked me to please look for
the love in Alexi and Quintin.
He said that he knew MotherFatherGod
wanted me to forgive them too.
Mom said that all of us together would
always be family.

But just cause they said it
Doesn't mean it's easy to do.
I promised to try.
They said that they knew that meant
that I would act with God's will
in my heart.

After they left, I went out
on the balcony and sat looking
at the ocean, the boats in the harbor
and a group of seagulls in the sky
flying in formation.
I thought about Moira
and knew it was time to start my day.
I took a shower and in her honor
I put on a yellow swimsuit
and a purple wrap skirt.

When I got downstairs,
everyone was waiting for me.
Alexi had made her famous fried chicken.
Mom had made salmon cakes.
Quintin and Dad said they had
made the waffles, cut the strawberries,
picked blueberries and whipped the cream.
Olivier was doubled over laughing
because the only thing that they had done
was set the table.

I didn't eat much.
After breakfast, Mom and Alexi
put chicken, salmon cakes, french bread,
fruit and water in a big picnic basket.
Olivier took it and started walking down
to the pier with Quintin and Dad.

Alexi had wrapped Moira
in an orange and purple silk cloth.
She, Mom and I walked
down to the boat together.

I knew by her misty eyes that
Alexi was hurting.
Olivier, Quintin and My Dad
took turns steering the boat.
We rode about an hour
and were far out when
we had her ascension ceremony.
Alexi had written a poem.
She called it Moira's Love...

Moira's Love...
Sometimes it's gentle...
embracing, all encompassing.
Other times love glows
like a star with a purple center
preparing to recreate and trek
throughout the galaxy.
Love is
the freedom to be,
to explore the you that nobody knows.

Love allows you to travel
back to old beginnings
healing ancient wounds
with forgiveness.

Love requires that you
live in the moment
and remember to be truthful.
Love requires that you find joy
in the twinkle of an eye,
the boomboombaboom of a heart
and the brilliance of a smile.
Love is a divine gift
And there is nothing but love.

Chapter 54



Sunshine

I thought maybe Alexi's had learned
a lesson about truth.

The poem was beautiful.

After the ceremony we spent
the afternoon on a desert beach.

We all swam, ate and
worked on a sandcastle village.

I began to think of Alexi differently.

She reminded me a little of Lola.

I like her better when she's digging in the sand
and her eyes get misty.

It's one of the first times that

I ever saw her without her armor,
just being human.

I went for a walk by myself.

I kept thinking about Moira.

I wonder what happened to her soul.

Where is she now?

Is she with the dolphins?

I thought it would be great
if I knew how to talk to the dolphins
and the whales that hold earth's memories.

I wondered if I had ever lived in the ocean.

I certainly felt like I had,
at least right by it.

Olivier came and put his arm around my shoulder.

He whispered in my ear...

“We’ll try again in the next lifetime
but right now,
today I promise to be the best brother
you will ever have.”

And though I was still really sad,

It made me happy to know

that he was thinking

what I was feeling.

Then he said “I Love You”

and I said “Me Too”

but I knew

it would be different,

Very Different.

Chapter 55



Olivier

That night after dinner we all sat outside
on the patio talking, sharing dreams...
listening to each other.
Sunshine was unusually quiet.
My heart hurts for her...
for me...
for what WE wanted to be.
My Mother said she was going to
take a sabbatical from work.
Imani and Sky asked her if she would
bring Lola to Santa Fe.
I talked about my music.
Quintin promised to help me
but he also wanted me to have
a double major in college.
He said that the best musician
is one who always has a fallback plan.
Then we talked about Lola and Carlos.
I thought if they knew our story
and understood our pain,
then they could learn a really important lesson
about making a commitment.
Alexi and Quintin looked at each other.
And then I said...
We wouldn't want to withhold the truth would we?

Sunshine

Everyone was talking
I didn't have anything to say.
But I was happy that Lola
was going to come live with us.
Olivier wanted to tell them our story.
He wanted everybody to know the truth.

I don't know how I feel about it.
Anyway, I was looking at the moon.
It seemed like a million stars were in the sky.
Dad pointed to the sky and said "look, look!"
There before us was a star
with a purple center dancing in the sky!
Then My Mom said "quick name It!"
Alexi, Olivier and I all said
Moirra at the same time!
And again I thought,
Maybe in the next lifetime...

*FINDING the TRUTH
in the LIE!*

Book Two of the Sunshine & Olivier Series

Coming in 2021.

Sunshine

The Puzzle of Me.

Hurt people hurt people.
That's what they say anyway.
Alexi's mother had committed suicide.
Her childhood was difficult and she was hurt.
Alexi hurt me and Olivier. My parents hurt me too.

Maybe for all the "right reasons" but when you are hurt,
the "truth" is sure hard to find.

I'm angry, really angry that for more than 16 years I lived a lie.
I just want to say that again. For more than 16 years I lived a lie.

And now that Olivier and I have been told the truth,. I'm hurt.
Olivier is hurt too. But it's easier for him. At least I think so.

My dad Sky says, "Being in a family means
picking up the pieces and moving on."

But when everybody that's supposed to love you has lied...

How Do I Figure Out the Puzzle of Me?

In **FINDING the TRUTH in the LIE, Book Two of the Sunshine & Olivier Series**, Sunshine turns to the lives Josephine Baker and James Baldwin and immerses herself in books. Olivier learns the lyrics to Nina Simone's songs and also becomes interested in several jazz musicians including Sidney Bechet, Eric Dolphy and Kenny Clark.

As a high school graduation gift for both Sunshine and Olivier, Alexi, Sky, Imani and Quentin plan a visit to Paris, France. What colleges do they select?

Also, we find out how Lola and Carlos are doing. Will they too repeat the family cycle of secrets?

And what happens when Moira begins visiting Sunshine in her dreams. Does seeing a family therapist help?

We also discover if, and how these people are all healing on a roller coaster of choices and emotions; as they learn to face their fears and live in truth.

FINDING the TRUTH in the LIE
Book Two of the Sunshine & Olivier Series by Melony McGant
Coming in 2021.

About the Author

Melony McGant, aka Miss Mellie Rainbow loves to travel, explore cultures, connect with people, and dreams of a compassionate World with safe, loving communities, equal opportunity with justice and peace for the next seven generations (and beyond) of All the Earth's children.

She truly believes that “peace is possible through compassion, cooperation, courage, creativity, deep listening, faith, forgiveness, good purpose, healing, hope, humility, integrity, joy, kindness, mercy, patience, respect, understanding and the gift of Love!”, and uses social media platforms to inspire others.

She is a storyteller, thought-leader, poet, & compassionate communications professional with more than 30 years' experience in assisting both people and organizations discover and promote their professional or personal life missions. From business and not for profit CEO's to job seekers, elders, parents and children; through deep listening, Melony has quietly impacted, coached or supported thousands of people on their life journeys.

Melony is also the primary author of “**The Healing Adagio: A Love Symphony In Five Parts**” and the journal, empowerment workbook “**Seeker Dreamer: Amazing, Brilliant, Compassionate YOU!**” (both published by Authorhouse).

YOUNG ADULT FICTION/SPIRITUALITY

Sunshine & Olivier



Young Adult Fiction/Spirituality



Melony McGant, aka Miss Mellie Rainbow was born in Pittsburgh, PA and currently lives in New York City.

She loves to travel, explore various artforms & cultures, as well as to connect with people.

Her biggest dream is to hold a strong vision of a compassionate World with forgiveness, healing, safe loving communities, equal opportunity with justice and peace for the next seven generations (and beyond) for All the Earth's Children.

She has authored three books, **Sunshine & Olivier**, **The Healing Adagio** and **Seeker Dreamer: Amazing, Brilliant, Compassionate YOU!**

Her next book, **FINDING the TRUTH in the LIE** (Book Two in the Sunshine & Olivier Series) is scheduled to be released in 2021.

Author Photo by Tyrone Rasheed

Cover design by Lee Gretenstein

U.S. \$XX.XX

ISBN 978-0-595-00744-8



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