



THE SIMS NATION MAGAZINE

BLACK IS KING:

GET THE SKINNY ON
BLACK HEROES
OF HISTORY



MAGIC & MELANIN:

GET TO KNOW DE LA LOIRE ALEX
BLACK SIMMER EXTRAORDINAIRE



SHELLYBEE'S CC FINDS:

BLACK LOVE EDITION



↪ CATCH UP WITH
"THE CLAN":
CHAPTER 2 IS HERE!

SIMS NATION EXCLUSIVE:

AN INTERVIEW WITH GAME CHANGER
JOY'S CREATIVE FINGER!

THE BLACK LOVE ISSUE

| FEBRUARY 2021 | ISSUE NO. 02 |

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#TSMZODIACCHALLENGE:
ENTRY HIGHLIGHT

FROM THE EDITOR



Before I learned to read, I learned to hate my skin.

For people of color, self-hate is absorbed unwittingly through television, movies, video games, and many other forms of media that ignore, whitewash, and misrepresent Black stories. We learn to hate our kinky curls, our full-lips, our noses, and the many shades of our brown skin. We learn to feel shame for our history, our trials and triumphs, and we memorize the stories of those who do not look like us.

Thus, this Black History Month, Sims Nation Magazine highlights Black Love.

Black love, the love that exists between two people who share the rich, troubled, triumphant, stunning history that is the African diaspora, is uniquely deserving of celebration. Black love is to celebrate Black beauty. Black love is to celebrate shared history and to forge a new bond into the future. Black love is to triumph over self-hate.

The Sims offers a unique opportunity to celebrate Black love. Those who create Black Sims can dote upon Sims who look like them. Black players can tell their own stories and dress their Sims in ways that represent the Black experience. With proper representation, Black players can see themselves in the rich stories they craft on their own.

We encourage you, this month, to celebrate Blackness. Non-black Simmers can do this by supporting Black streamers, sharing Black content, and openly supporting Black issues.

At Sims Nation Magazine, we know that Black Lives Matter. They always have. And they always will.

A. Emlu'

ALAERYN EMLU'RATHIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Celebrating Black love during Black History Month, the incomparable *ShellyBeeMe* shows off custom content finds that best highlight Black beauty. Note the jewel-rich shades, the slick-hip shoe selections, and the curve-hugging dresses that serve unmatched melanin magic. (Find the featured CC, crafted by Sifix, on The Sims Resource .)



KIRAN AND SHELBY

SHELBY:

DRESS: *SIFIX MARION*
SHOES: *GRAMSIMS FUR HEELS*

KIRAN:

SUIT: *JOMSIMS ROMUALDO OUTFIT*



CAMILO AND MEL

MEL:

DRESS: *SIFIX SKYLAR*
SHOES: *MJ95 GOSHTAR SHOES*

CAMILO:

SUIT: *ZUCKERSCHNUTE HIGHEND SMART FASHION SUIT*



LEO AND DEJA

DEJA:

DRESS: *SIFIX DANIELLE*
SHOES: *MJ95 GOSHSTAR*

LEO:

SUIT: *ZUCKERSCHNUTE20 WINTERCOLLECTION 03*



ALI AND LONDON

LONDON:

DRESS: *SIFIX HAILEY*
SHOES: *MJ95 MADLEN ANNE*

ALI:

SUIT: *SEASONS MALE OUTFIT*



MAGIC AND MELANIN: DE LA LOIRE ALEX

WRITTEN BY ALAERYN EMLU'RATHIAN

There is no one true Black experience. Despite sharing a common history, Black people thread through this world in a variety of ways, with a variety of interests and a wide array of experiences.

Simmer De La Loire is a Black Simmer who lives in France, and his story is as unique as he is. An avid fantasy fan, De La Loire creates Black “occult” Sims (vampires, spellcasters, aliens) and generates massive families and intricate story lines for them. In this way, De La Loire rejects the notion that Simmers are either “occult” players or “family players.” Blending the two ideas together with a healthy dose of melanin magic is what makes De La Loire’s Sims deeply unique.

Learn more about De La Loire’s fantastic Sims in his own words below.



On Seraphina:

Seraphina was adopted with five other Sims. She was born a vampire but she was raised by humans so she didn't learn to control her abilities. The six siblings had to learn to live alone after their adopted parents died of a poison curse. Seraphina mourned by watching the movies she used to watch with her parents, and it eventually inspired her to become an actress. She joined her high school's drama club as a teenager and built her acting skills. When the time came to audition for her first gig, it was the beginning of the rest of her life. She's now a global superstar, but she uses her reputation to organize charity events to make enough money to help those in need.

On Theonysios:

Theonysios was one of Seraphina's siblings and was adopted the same year. Everyone including their parents thought he was an unremarkable child until he began to show some magical abilities. His parents learned that he was born in a secret realm but because of the apocalypse happening in that world, he was sent to the mortal realm. Like Seraphina, he didn't learn to use his magical abilities right away. After the death of their parents, Theonysios took refuge in his own dreams where he could go everywhere as he used to with his parents. He began to want to finish what his parents didn't: traveling all around the world. However, he proved less adventurous than his parents so he traveled as a tourist instead of an explorer. A vacation in Sulani convinced him to protect the island so he decided to pursue a Marine Biology degree. After receiving a Distinguished Degree in Biology with Honour at university, he was immediately promoted to marine biologist at work. He's now a Master of Marine Affairs. All his travels give him a purpose: he eventually solved the Strangerville mystery, became San Myshuno's IT boy, saved Mua Pel'am, and traveled to Sixam to help his alien brother reconnect with his foreign origins. His next goal is to visit Mount Komorebi.

Both Seraphina and Theonysios eventually went to their own birth town to learn more about their abilities. Seraphina became a Grand Master Vampire and Theonysios improved his magical skills. Seraphina eventually created the council of vampires to help the young vampires and offspring to control their powers and thirst. Her council attracted some of the most powerful vampires such as Vladislaus, the Vatore siblings, and a certain Nosferatu. In this way, Seraphina became president of the most powerful vampire organization of all time.

COMFORT AND JOY:



A MOMENT WITH JOY'S CREATIVE FINGER

WRITTEN BY ALAERYN EMLU'RATHIAN

There is no shortage of bold builders and sure-footed storytellers in the Sims community, and the mobile community is no exception. But even amongst the many players who exhibit raw talent in these areas, there are few who achieve the near legendary status that is Joy's Creative Finger.

Joy is a Simmer long involved in the Sims Mobile and Sims FreePlay arena. Influential YouTuber and EA Game Changer, Joy boasts a YouTube channel brimming with eye-popping builds, heart-stopping Sim stories, and over 72,000 subscribers. Although Joy has branched into Sims 4, creating stunning, palatial builds with the wide array of tools available in the game, she is most well-known for her jaw-dropping skill for both Freeplay and Mobile building and storytelling.

There is much to be said about Joy's elegant, architectural taste, about her keen ear for engrossing storytelling, but there is more to Joy than even that. Beyond her pure Simming skill, Joy brings a kind quality to her Simming that is unmatched.

Her natural, warm voice has comforted thousands even during these unpredictable times. Joy walks her viewers through fresh events with a truly dedicated eye for detail, and she relays original stories with masterful flair. Often, Joy feels less like an influencer and more like a close, motherly friend who just happens to be enormously talented.

Sims Nation Magazine sat down with Joy to hear her unique perspective about Simming, about her identity as one of the few Black Game Changers, and about her hopes for the future of both Sims FreePlay and Sims Mobile.



A: Joy! It is such an honor to speak with you. We're huge fans of your storytelling and builds over at Sims Nation. Tell us about yourself! Where'd you come up with that name, for example?

J: It's so exciting to be featured in the magazine! A little about myself... hmm, I'm a bit of a surprise; I'm an introvert and a bit shy. Expressing myself somewhat anonymously in my storytelling is liberating therapy! The name "Joys Creative Finger" simply means the Joy of creating with my fingers, and that could be anything; baking, cooking, drawing, painting and YouTubing.

A: Where are you from? Does that inform the way you build or tell stories?

J: I was born in North London and I am Nigerian. My story telling is definitely a Nigerian thing. I love "Tales by moonlight." In our villages just before night time, an elder would sit children around a fire and tell all kinds of stories like "why the tortoise has a cracked shell" or "why the stork stands on one foot." The moon would shine bright in the night sky, the synchronised cricket buzz could be heard nearby in the bushes, and as kids fell asleep one by one, parents would take them to bed. Storytelling is a huge part of my culture.

A: I personally knew you first as a FreePlay builder and storyteller. What is it about FreePlay building that piques your passions? What is it about FreePlay that helps you tell wonderful stories?

J: Sims FreePlay is my favourite game simply because I just LOVE architecture and could keep building houses. From a green patch of land to a beautiful structure? Wow! I just could not get enough of it, but I would eventually move in Sims and create families. Somehow I knew their stories, and I would go on to fill in the gaps and tell it.

A: Let's talk about FreePlay a moment: building in it can be both awe-inspiring and extremely difficult, especially as a beginning player. How do you manage to work around limited swatches, four-point rotation, and the bird's eye build perspective?

J: We all start out as new builders with the game. I have played for over eight years, and it's true that practice makes perfect - and no I'm not perfect, [but] I just got used to building with the limitations over time. The swatches still aren't perfect, but there's always a way to make it work and leave the rest to one's imagination.

A: That being said, FreePlay offers a lot of building ability – from basements, to mezzanines, pools, and balconies. What is the most essential FreePlay build feature to you?

J: The most essential build mode feature for me is still not here yet... multi-level roofs; we are in desperate need of different exterior walls, and we definitely need to be free to build with floating rooms just like The Sims Mobile. However I just love the L-Shape feature.

A: You did eventually dip into Sims Mobile, and you attempted the 100-baby challenge. How did that go for you?

Joy: Let me just say that I love The Sims Mobile so much! I saw the beta version shown off on other YouTube channels and I had to sit for a year until it was released in the UK, so I started playing as soon as it was available. I was so looking forward to doing the 100 baby challenge when all of a sudden I realised that one could not have more than twelve sims in a home.

Also I had to age up the babies and then retire them... it got weird, long winded and then became the "attempt to have 100 grown and then retired sims, while keeping track of them challenge"! Honestly, I just wanted 100 of those babies and wanted to go nuts caring for all of them. Once I could not achieve this, because of the limitations in the game, it all went downhill from there.

A: Just what is dear Pecan up to now?

Pecan is doing very well and I can't wait to update you on the new direction her life has taken... you will know shortly in the very next update, she is moving up in the world!

A: Speaking of Sims Mobile, the game boasts a beautiful build/buy experience that, I would argue, isn't as robust as its older counterpart's experience—Sims FreePlay. What do you like most about Sims Mobile building?

J: Oh I could not stand build mode when the game launched, and it's so sad that you can't sell items back for simoleons! Also you can't undo your build actions if you wanted to revert back to an original choice. Tedious is not my idea of fun; it was a real turn off and really cramped my creative freedom. That being said, build mode now has some improvements where the build and buy tab does not keep popping up with each action! So it's bearable now... I am still not encouraged to make a new build every week though.

"My story telling is definitely a Nigerian thing. "



A: You are a fabulously adept builder who has created everything from cozy cottages to pristine palaces. Can you give us some quick and dirty tips for players who may need a little build help? What essential techniques do you find yourself falling back on in FreePlay or Mobile?

J: Hahahahaha, thank you. I always put 6 room shapes down in no particular order and then start resizing and go on from there. I see builds in my mind most of the time and just jump into the game to build my imagination, eventually something close to what I imagined gets built.

But in all honesty, practice makes you better; keep at it.

A: How are you hoping Sims Mobile building improves in the future?

J: I honestly don't know how much else it would improve... I would love for us to be able to sell back furniture and undo actions in build mode.

A: I've always appreciated your dedication to Sims of color in your storytelling. Can you shed some light on representation and what it means to you?

J: It's actually unintentional. I just happen to represent different cultures/colours because I get bored of creating the same character, the mix is much more fun. I have friends and family from a wide range of cultures so I'm inspired by a variety of culture representations.

A: How can both FreePlay and Mobile improve their representation of people of color?

J: I understand we all have different needs; however, I am satisfied with TSM & TSFP and their representation of colour; I actually wish we could have body customisation for TSFP; otherwise I'm honestly satisfied.

As is the case with anything else in life, there is always room for improvement.



"I'm humbled to have that many players make that connection with me, enjoying the same form of creativity. I'm so thankful!"

A: If I'm not mistaken, you're one of the few Game Changers of color in the Sims Mobile/Sims FreePlay community. How has that been for you? Can you tell us more about how you felt when you were accepted into the Game Changer program?

J: It's been a very normal experience being a part of the GC program. Although I wasn't accepted into the program, I was invited. I woke up one morning and realised through a tweet notification that TSFP followed me; I was very happy! I then saw a private message from a guru saying that they wanted to connect with me through a more secure form of communication like email. I gave an email address, and that's when I was asked if I would accept being a part of the GC program. I was briefed on what was involved, and I accepted. After all paperwork was completed, I became a GC. They are an amazing team and work so hard to create new updates to keep this game going.

A: Your YouTube Channel is at over 72,000 subscribers! What an accomplishment! How does it feel?

J: It's wonderful thank you! I'm humbled to have that many players make that connection with me, enjoying the same form of creativity. I'm so thankful!

A: How do you plan to continue building your brand in the future? For example, in the past year, you started a Facebook group! Any plans to branch out to any other Social Media platforms?

J: I was very careful when choosing a name for the channel; it's [a name that allows me to] feature anything creative. I hope to feature other forms of creativity. In regards [to] other social media platforms, I am focused on YouTube for now.

A: Anything else you'd like our readers to know?

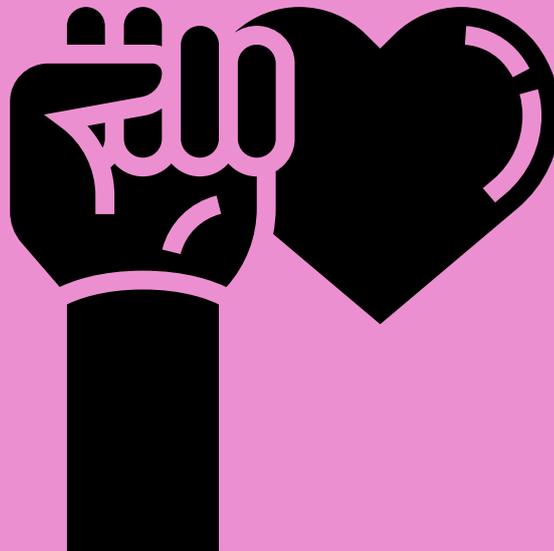
J: As GC, I have now had a "peek behind the curtain." Behind it all are real people working really hard and putting in long hours to make this game fun for us all; if some feature or aspect of the game is not up to scratch, then know that the team [is] always working to make things better. Technology has a mind of its own, and no magic wand waved by the team can tame it. They do succeed for the most part.

Thank you so much for having me!



BLACK IS KING

SIMS NATION'S BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE



Black history did not begin with American slavery and did not end with the American Civil Rights movement of the 60s. People of the African diaspora share a deep, rich history of kingship, of mathematical triumph, and of astronomical accomplishments. We continue to make enormous strides in all fields: activism, science, art, sports, math, poetry, prose, music, and more. The list of our contributions go on and on into perpetuity.

This month at the Sims Nation, we celebrated Black history with tributes to the Black heroes who came before us. The following heroes are those who excelled in the arts, science, and sports. Stay tuned for a special March tribute to the Black activists who shaped the world as we know it.



MADAM C.J. WALKER

[BY SIM EMMA SIMS]

Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919) was “the first Black woman millionaire in America” and made her fortune thanks to her homemade line of hair care products for Black women.

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/madame-c-j-walker>

MARY KENNER

[BY STIEN]

Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner was a self-taught inventor who created the sanitary belt, a toilet paper holder, a mounted back washer and massager, and attachments for walkers and wheelchairs. Kenner never received awards or formal recognition for her work because of her skin color. However, she still holds the record for the greatest number of patents awarded a Black woman by the U.S. government.

<https://www.vice.com/>



“SAWING WOOD” A JACOB LAWRENCE PAINTING
RECREATED BY ERICA



“THE LIBRARY,” A JACOB LAWRENCE PAINTING
RECREATED BY MARINA.

JACOB LAWRENCE

A social realist, Lawrence documented the African American experience in several series devoted to Toussaint L’Ouverture, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, life in Harlem, and the civil rights movement of the 1960s. He was one of the first nationally recognized African American artists. The most widely acclaimed African American artist of this century, and one of only several whose works are included in standard survey books on American art, Jacob Lawrence has enjoyed a successful career for more than fifty years. Lawrence’s paintings portray the lives and struggles of African Americans, and have found wide audiences due to their abstract, colorful style and universality of subject matter. By the time he was thirty years old, Lawrence had been labeled as the “foremost Negro artist,” and since that time his career has been a series of extraordinary accomplishments. Moreover, Lawrence is one of the few painters of his generation who grew up in a black community, was taught primarily by black artists, and was influenced by black people.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/jacob-lawrence-2828>



ALICIA KEYS

[BY SIM EMMA SIMS]

Alicia Keys is an American Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, pianist, and actress who achieved international renown through her blend of R&B and soul music.

<https://aliciakeys.com/home/>

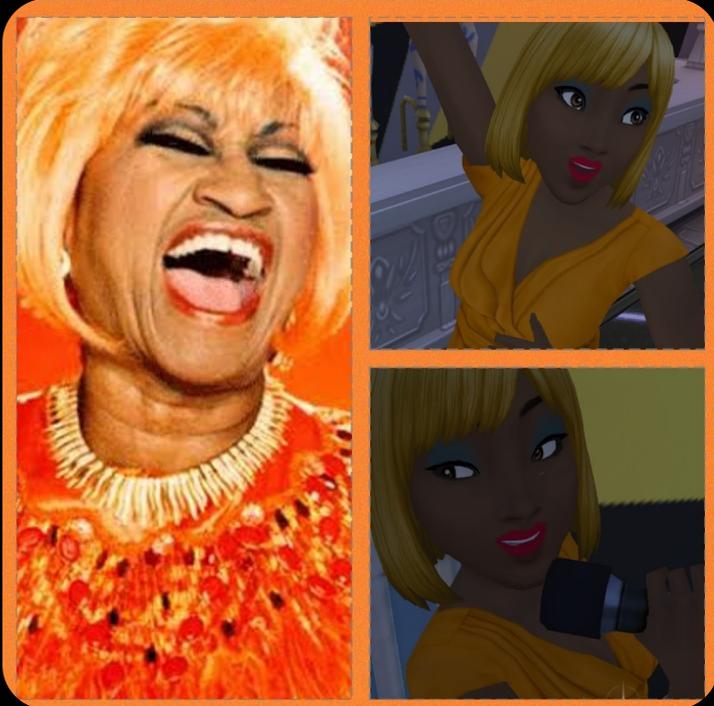
BILLIE HOLIDAY

[BY SIM EMMA]

Considered one of the greatest jazz vocalists of all time, Billie Holiday had a thriving career in early 20th century America. Nicknamed "Lady Day", she had an innovative influence on jazz music and pop singing with her strong, clear vocal style.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Billie-Holiday>





CELIA CRUZ

[BY YUITZU]

Celia Cruz was a Cuban American singer who reigned for decades as the “Queen of Salsa Music.” She electrified audiences with her wide-ranging soulful voice and rhythmically compelling style.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Celia-Cruz>

COLIN KAEPERNICK

[BY JENNIFER S.]

Colin Kaepernick is a professional NFL Super Bowl quarterback who fights oppression globally. Originally fully funded by Kaepernick, he founded the global Know Your Rights Camps to advance the liberation of Black and Brown people through education, self-empowerment, mass-mobilization and the creation of new systems that elevate the next generation of change leaders.

<https://kaepernick7.com/pages/mission>





DUKE ELLINGTON

[BY ERICA]

Duke Ellington, byname of Edward Kennedy Ellington, (born April 29, 1899, Washington, D.C., U.S.—died May 24, 1974, New York, N.Y.), American pianist who was the greatest jazz composer and bandleader of his time. One of the originators of big-band jazz, Ellington led his band for more than half a century, composed thousands of scores, and created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in all of Western music.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Duke-Ellington>

NAFISSATOU THIAM AND ELIODIE OUEDRAOGO

[BY STIEN]

Nafissatou Thiam (born 19 August 1994) is a Belgian athlete, who broke the indoor junior world record in the women's pentathlon on 3 February 2013.

Élodie Ouédraogo (born 27 February 1981 in Saint-Josse-ten-Noode) is a retired Belgian sprinter of Burkinabé descent, who specializes in the 200 metres[1] and 400 m hurdles. An Olympic gold medalist, her personal best time in the 200 m is 23.11 seconds, achieved in July 2004 in Brussels, while her personal best in the 400 m hurdles is 55.20, achieved at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

https://infogalactic.com/info/Nafissatou_Thiam



SERENA WILLIAMS

[BY YUITZU]

Serena Williams is an American professional tennis player who has held the top spot in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings numerous times over her stellar career. Williams began intensive tennis training at age three. She won her first major championship in 1999 and completed the career Grand Slam in 2003. Along with her individual success, Serena has teamed with sister Venus Williams to win a series of doubles titles. In 2017, she defeated her big sister at the Australian Open to claim the 23rd Grand Slam singles title of her career.

<https://www.biography.com/athlete/serena-williams>



MISSY ELLIOT

[BY MARINA]

Missy Elliott is a living icon. For thirty years, she's been directing the global soundscape, visually reinventing herself and redefining pop music. Missy's career is multifaceted, as she's charted new creative territory through songwriting, rapping, singing, and producing, with style and grace. Her influence is broad - Elliott has inspired or collaborated with a number of heavy hitters, including Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey, Beyoncé, and the late Whitney Houston. No matter the time, her music and videos are always relevant, making her a cross-generational rap star with enough talent to keep her legacy alive for eons.

<https://www.missy-elliott.com/>





TYGA

[BY KELLY K.]

Following early success as a rock-and-pop influenced rapper, Tyga released his debut album in 2008, and then joined Lil Wayne's Young Money Entertainment label. More success followed, including high-profile collaborations with Rick Ross, Chris Brown and others, before he was let go from Young Money. He has recently signed to Kanye West's GOOD Music imprint. Tyga dated reality star Kylie Jenner from 2014 to 2017.

<https://www.biography.com/musician/tyga>

MICHAEL JORDAN

[BY MARINA]

Michael Jordan is a former professional American basketball player, Olympic athlete, businessperson and actor. Considered one of the best basketball players ever, he dominated the sport from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s. Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six National Basketball Association championships and earned the NBA's Most Valuable Player Award five times. With five regular-season MVPs and three All-Star MVPs, Jordan became the most decorated player in the NBA.

<https://www.biography.com/athlete/michael-jordan>



KOBE BRYANT [BY TYRA P.]



KOBE AND GIANNA [BY STIEN]



KOBE BRYANT

Kobe Bryant spent his early years in Italy and joined the NBA straight out of high school. A dominant scorer, Bryant won five NBA championships and the 2008 MVP Award with the Los Angeles Lakers. Although later seasons were marred by injuries, he surpassed Michael Jordan for third place on the NBA all-time scoring list in December 2014 and retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final game. In 2018, Bryant earned an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for *Dear Basketball*. On January 26, 2020, he was in a helicopter crash that killed Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gigi, and seven others.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/jacob-lawrence-2828>

KOBE BRYANT [BY KELLY K.]



KOBE BRYANT

1978-2020



NINA SIMONE

[BY RACE G.]

Nina Simone was one of the most extraordinary artists of the twentieth century, an icon of American music. She was the consummate musical storyteller, a griot as she would come to learn, who used her remarkable talent to create a legacy of liberation, empowerment, passion, and love through a magnificent body of works. She earned the moniker 'High Priestess of Soul' for she could weave a spell so seductive and hypnotic that the listener lost track of time and space as they became absorbed in the moment. She was who the world would come to know as Nina Simone.

<https://www.ninasimone.com/biography/>

ME'LISA BARBER

[BY KELLY K.]

Born to parents Ronald and Cheryl Barber in New Jersey, Me'Lisa Barber won her first major international championship gold medal by running the 50.3 lead leg on Team USA. She won the 4x400 relay in 2003 with teammates Demetria Washington, Sanya Richards and the notable Jearl Miles-Clark during the World Outdoor Championships in Paris.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me%27Lisa_Barber



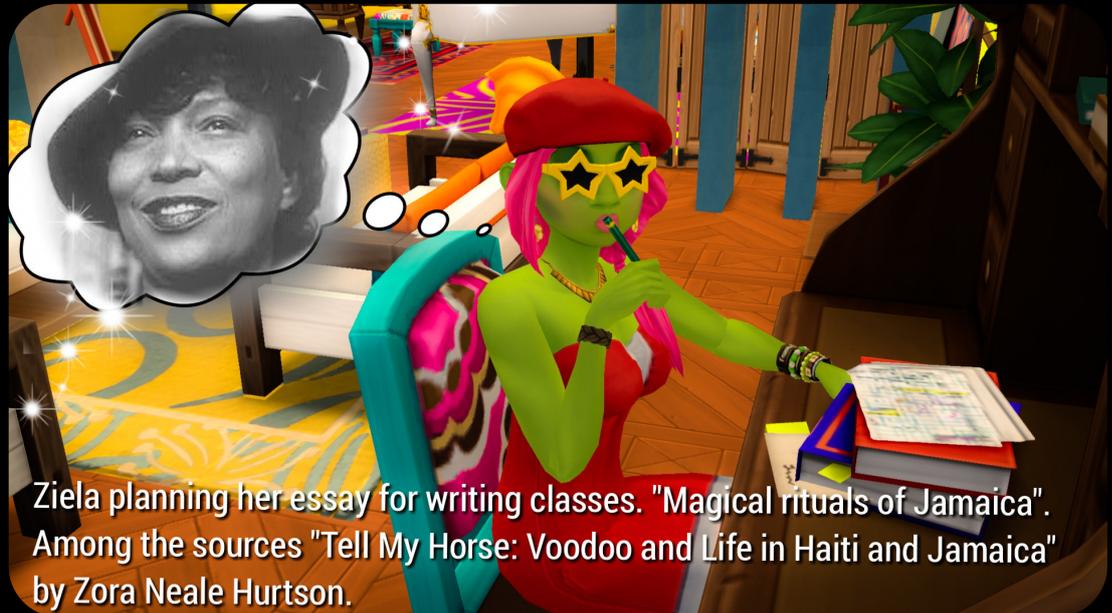


MAYA ANGELOU

[BY KAREN KEREN]

In the late 1950's Maya Angelou joined the Harlem Writer's Guild. With the guidance of her friend, the novelist James Baldwin, she began work on the book that would become *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Published in 1970, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* received international acclaim made the bestseller list. The book was also banned in many schools during that time as Maya Angelou's honesty about having been sexually abused opened a subject matter that had long been taboo in the culture. Later, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* would become a course adoption at college campuses around the world. With more than 30 bestselling titles, Maya Angelou has written 36 books.

<https://www.mayaangelou.com/biography/>



Ziela planning her essay for writing classes. "Magical rituals of Jamaica". Among the sources "Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica" by Zora Neale Hurston.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

[BY RACE G.]

Zora, the fiery novelist who graduated Barnard College in early 20th century America, published several short stories and articles, as well as a novel (*Jonah's Gourd Vine*) and a well-received collection of black Southern folklore (*Mules and Men*). But the late 1930s and early '40s marked the real zenith of her career. She published her masterwork, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, in 1937; *Tell My Horse*, her study of Caribbean Voodoo practices, in 1938; and another masterful novel, *Moses, Man of the Mountain*, in 1939. When her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*, was published in 1942, Hurston finally received the well-earned acclaim that had long eluded her. That year, she was profiled in *Who's Who in America*, *Current Biography* and *Twentieth Century Authors*. She went on to publish another novel, *Seraph on the Suwanee*, in 1948.

<https://www.zoranealehurston.com/>

THE CLAN: CHAPTER TWO

WRITTEN BY SARAH N.



When she arrived in Simonville, Maren Hoff felt the longing she'd felt since she left her family home five years ago.

She had to run, had to get away from tyranny at the hands of her father. Since he'd changed, he'd lost all sense of his humanity, turning cold and mean.

Looking around, Maren took in the sights of her new home.

Two years -that's all she would commit to.

Every two years, she moved, changing her appearance and as much about her as she could. She couldn't risk them finding her.

Not after what she'd done.

Pulling up her phone, she found the directions to the house she'd rented under a different name. Paying rent up for two years rarely raised eyebrows, and it made it easier for them to forgo any standard procedures like background checks.

Before deciding to move to this small town, she secured a home and a job. The job wasn't glamorous by any means. She'd found the job as an entertainer at Club Slate, a gentlemen's club in a ritzy part of town. Owned by Jax O'Reagen, Club Slate had great reviews and was safe. That's what she was looking for.

After she got settled in at her new home, Maren made her way for her first shift at the club. Butterflies danced in her stomach as she put the finishing touches on her makeup and made sure her hair was just right. The club let the entertainers pick their theme, and Maren opted for the tried-and-true schoolgirl outfit.

When she walked in the club, she felt the air shift around her. The hairs on the back of her neck prickled and her heart felt like it was going to beat out of her chest. Looking around, she couldn't figure out what was making her feel this way. Then her eyes landed on him.

Tall and tan, he had sad blue eyes and cotton candy pink hair. He stood behind the bar, wiping down glasses.

The electricity sparked between them, and he looked up, their eyes meeting.



He put down the rag and glass he was holding then made his way toward her. Extending a hand, he said "Hi there! You must be Maren, our new entertainer. I'm Blaze. I sling the drinks around here."

Maren took his hand and shook it, shocked at how cold it was when he looked so warm. Looking in his eyes again, she recognized the lifelessness behind them.

He was one of them.

"H-hi," she said, looking at the spot between his eyes. "Yes, I'm Maren. It's nice to meet you."

"Nice place," she said, glancing around the bar.

"Here, let me take you to the dressing area," said Blaze holding out his arm and smiling. "We have you set up with a locker for your stuff. It's pin-coded and only you will know the code. Get settled in and we will have our staff meeting in about an hour."

Maren took a deep breath and followed him, unsure of what the night was going to bring but knowing one thing was sure.

She was in trouble.



To be continued...

**FADE IN
LUMARIEL PALACE. DAWN.**

The gray, cool light of morning has not broken through the castle curtains when **ROMALYN** rouses **ALI** from his bed chambers. The boy, sleepy-eyed but compliant, listens dutifully as his father, his face like steel, lists his short-comings.

ROMALYN: While thy mana control is commendable, you still lack the brute force to overwhelm formidable intruders. You must dig deep, boy, if you ever hope to protect our kingdom from intruders.

ALI: I'm willing to try, father.

ROMALYN: Don't tell me that. No son of mine will "try" to protect his people. You can. And you will.

ALI: Y-Yes, father.

ROMALYN: When the Ma'alyn threatened to carve your sister from thy mother's belly rounds ago—

AHMAD: [Entering suddenly and finishing his father's sentence] Father razed the Waterwilds to ashes. Blood bonds be damned.

ROMALYN: [Without looking up from his notes] Go back to sleep, boy. This expedition doesn't concern you.

AHMAD: [Grunting with displeasure] Ali lacks power. Power is what /I/ possess in /spades/, father.

ROMALYN: And none of the control—

AHMAD: Let me help. I can force Ali to crush his limits. And I promise I won't hold back...

ROMALYN: [Finally lifting his eyes to his obstinate son] Very well. Pack your things.

[To be continued...]

Romalyn: While thy mana control is commendable, you lack the sheer power required to overwhelm any formidable intruder. We will train more today.



Ali: Yes, father. I... understand.



Ahmad: If it's brute force Ali needs, I will provide the inspiration he needs to shatter his limits....



Ahmad: I promise I won't hold back...

BECOME A LEGEND PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...
HEAVY IS THE HEAD
PART TWO

#TSMZodiacChallenge Presented by:

KARENKEREN, THE SIMS MOBILE REDDIT,
THE SIMS NATION, AND SIMS MOBILE CENTRAL.



This time of year, we're all mulling over love - love of self, love of culture, and love of others. Zodiac signs are often a way people measure their love compatibility -- for better or for worse.

In January, Sims Nation collaborated with Sims Mobile Central, Sims Mobile Reddit, and Game Changer Karen Keren to present the Sims Mobile Zodiac Challenge. To enter, players created a room and styled a Sim to represent their chosen Zodiac sign.

Here are a few of our favorites.

ARIES

Tokyo Pueblo

This is T, my Simself, and this is her Aries kitchen.

Aries are confident, dynamic, and a little adventurous. Though many think of pink as a child-like colour, she knows that's strong and bold.



TAURUS

/u Katbae

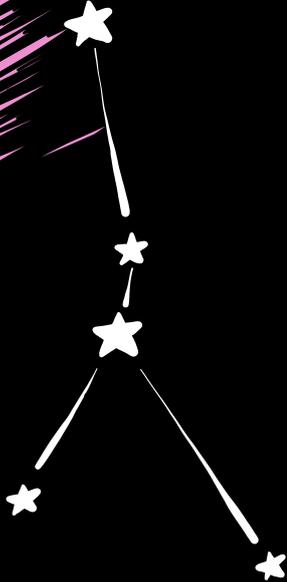
"My # 1 Sim, Flynn, is a Taurus. Taurus' have an instinctive connection to the Earth, their power colors are earthy shades of green and brown, and their sign's plant is a "fiddle-leaf fig" (represented by the "Peacock Pizzazz Paradise Plant") Flynn not on wears her sign's elemental colors, but her own natural beauty. The room showcases the Taurus' lovely colors. Flynn expresses her artistic in her photography career, and has mastered yoga!"



GEMINI

myLifestyle_TSM

Meet Torvi. She's a Gemini and her favorite colors are yellow and green which match her sign. She loved to watch the sunset, adores reading, and prefers to be warm and toasty. She designed the bedroom herself. She wanted a place she could really relax in. She made sure to have bookshelves and a comfortable sofa to read in, a nice fireplace to keep her warm, and an excellent view of the sunset. She also added some plants to make the room more lively.



CANCER

lila_tsm

"Lila is the cancerian witchlike Sim. She really loves cozy environments in her room so she puts details to catch that atmosphere. Lila is a hard working Sim because being a witch is not an easy job to do. She makes lots of healthy potions for her loved ones who are her friends and family. So she is constantly studying botanics, in her free time she plays enchanted ancient songs by her Pomo. Casting love spells? Oh no never! She believes in true love and it never requires any sort of spells."



LEO

Rainbow Star

"This is Rock Star. He is a passionate musician and a typical Leo. He loves being the centre of attention and partying. The room where he likes to entertain his friends is decorated with his lucky colours yellow and gold."



VIRGO

thelclarks.tsm

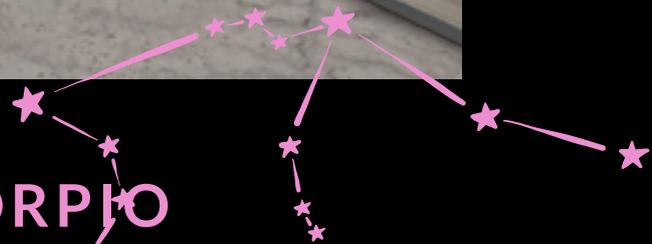
"Earth colors make up the Virgo palette. Colors such as brown, green, black, yellow, orange, sky blue, and white. Mercury is the ruling planet for Virgo and brings its color, gray, to the Virgo color palette. Having green pieces of clothing is a must for any Virgo wardrobe. This color imbues Virgo with energies of health, newness and hope. That hope stems from the assurance that new life continues in the cycle of growth"





LIBRA

TSMLhyn



SCORPIO

K.SimsMobile

"Robert is a rising rock star, he is characterized by being an emotional, intense and very very passionate person...perhaps it's because his zodiac sign is Scorpio. His emotional energy is unique and for the reason he decided to decorate his bedroom in red, showing the intensity of his feeling and in black to contrast the depth of these. The rest of the details? Well let's just say that the passion is not only in his feelings"



SAGITTARIUS

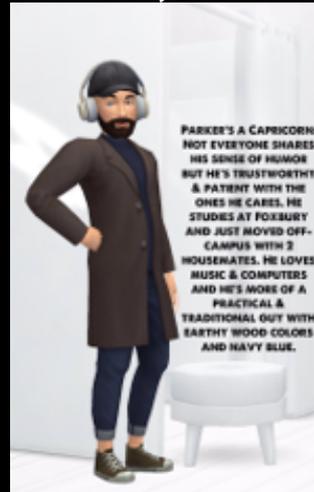
Lai Fam





CAPRICORN

Ilosia



PARKER'S A CAPRICORN: NOT EVERYONE SHARES HIS SENSE OF HUMOR BUT HE'S TRUSTWORTHY & PATIENT WITH THE ONES HE CARES. HE STUDIES AT FOXBURY AND JUST MOVED OFF-CAMPUS WITH 2 HOUSEMATES. HE LOVES MUSIC & COMPUTERS AND HE'S MORE OF A PRACTICAL & TRADITIONAL GUY WITH EARTHY WOOD COLORS AND NAVY BLUE.



AQUARIUS

Lovegood.Van

"I created my #TheSimsMobile #simself as my own Aquarius sign. I like peace, tranquility and freedom, but on weekends I love having a party and having fun with friends. I designed my room representing our air element, we like innovative, clean and modern environments, to watch series or read books, at the same time a space to enjoy friends.

Qualities: dreamy, empathetic, fair, generous, loyal, loves friends, is free.
 Defects: stubborn, rebellious, I don't like rules, without limits."



PISCES

u/seeker46

"Nana is a Pisces, a water sign, who is creative and emotional. Pisces color is sea green, but Nana's tropical home is inspired by the many colors found in the ocean. She's a fish sign after all!"

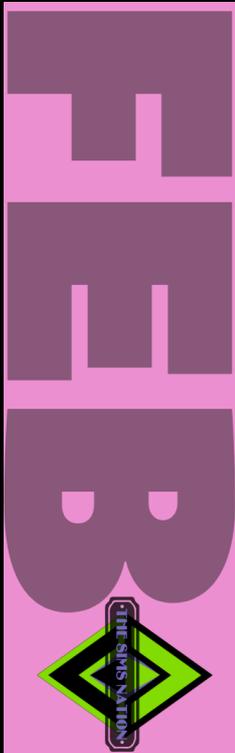




**THE SIMS NATION
MAGAZINE**

	I	S	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	P	O	C	O	L
	N	E	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	Y	R	G	I	N	U
Equality	T	E	W	L	K	E	U	K	C	O	L	C	A	A	D
Heritage	E	C	S	Y	L	D	R	I	C	Q	R	M	T	M	R
King	G	E	U	C	E	R	R	N	Q	L	A	O	L	B	O
Oppression	R	I	G	H	T	S	G	G	Z	P	B	S	U	P	
Parks	A	G	S	Y	T	R	R	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y
Powell	T	W	T	E	P	O	Q	O	S	W	L	L	R	A	A
Prejudice	I	A	O	K	O	G	M	E	R	K	R	E	E	M	H
Racism	O	L	C	N	W	T	E	C	N	M	R	R	O	I	E
Rice	N	I	T	O	E	C	C	N	O	X	A	A	Y	L	R
Tubman	N	C	H	M	L	S	I	U	O	N	E	S	P	Y	I
Integration	E	J	G	E	L	T	D	Q	H	G	E	I	Q	N	T
Civil	R	Y	I	R	L	F	U	S	E	M	A	S	V	E	A
Rights	V	I	N	I	T	I	J	E	I	A	R	M	T	E	G
Freedom	E	J	V	F	V	R	E	L	O	L	B	A	O	N	E
	S	I	M	S	F	F	R	I	O	S	E	V	L	E	W
	C	J	M	O	R	O	P	K	E	G	A	E	C	I	R

Calendar of Events



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	NEW MEMBER MONDAY 1	TIPS + TRICKS TUESDAY 2	WIN-IT-WEDNESDAY 3 SFP: SIMCHASE S24: WEDDING WRANGLE!	THROWDOWN THURSDAY 4	FREEPLAY FRIDAY 5	SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY 6 SFP: 2X REWARDS PAPERBOY
SO-LONG SUNDAY 7	NEW MEMBER MONDAY TSM: ROYAL ROMANCE TREASURE HUNT 8	TIPS + TRICKS TUESDAY 9	WIN-IT-WEDNESDAY 10	THROWDOWN THURSDAY 11	FREEPLAY FRIDAY 12 SFP: NEW! MATERNITY PACK 18	SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY 13 TSM: WUMPLES #49
SO-LONG SUNDAY 14 	THE SIMS NATION MAGAZINE ISSUE 2 RELEASE SFP: LIVE EVENT! BELLE HOTEL 15	TIPS + TRICKS TUESDAY TSM: PARTY UPDATE HOST A PARTY ON ANY LOT 16	WIN-IT-WEDNESDAY 17	THROWDOWN THURSDAY 18	FREEPLAY FRIDAY 19	SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY 20
SO-LONG SUNDAY 21	NEW MEMBER MONDAY TSM: A VERY SIMLISH ANNIVERSARY STS 22	TIPS + TRICKS TUESDAY 23	WIN-IT-WEDNESDAY 24	THROWDOWN THURSDAY 25	FREEPLAY FRIDAY 26 SFP: SIMCHASE S25: BAR BRAWL!	SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY 27
SO-LONG SUNDAY 28						

At The Sims Nation, we know Black Lives Matter every day of the year. #SimsNationBHM

