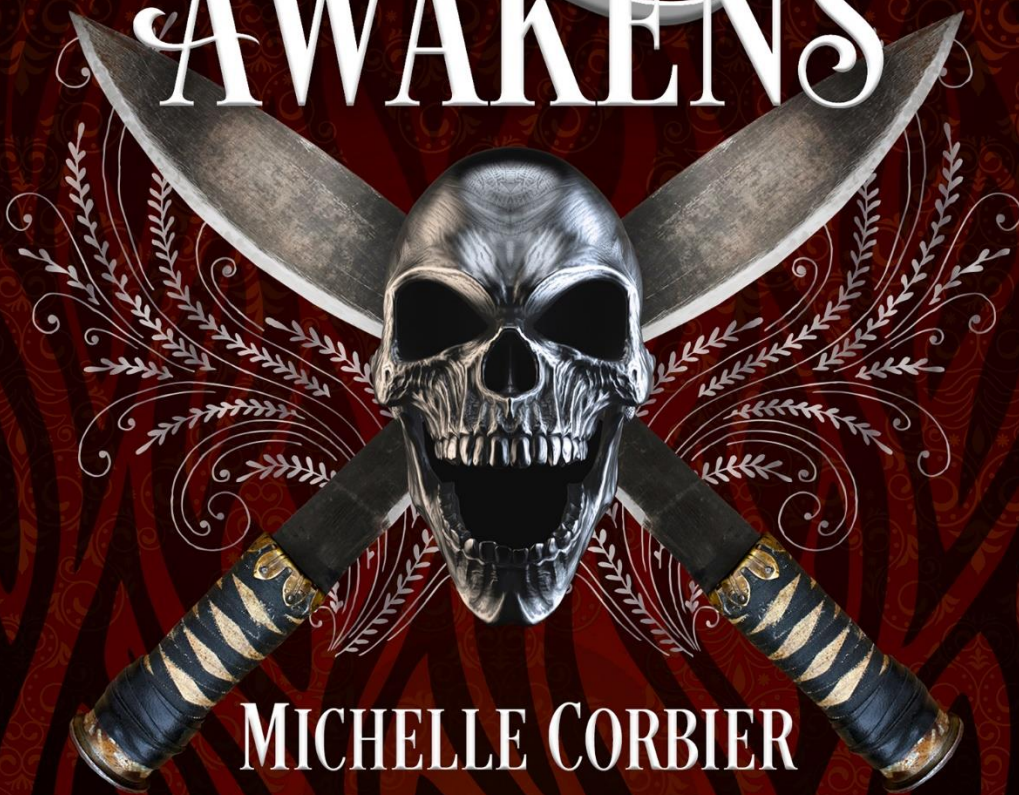MWINDAJI SERIES • BOOK ONE

DARK BLOOD AWAKENS

MICHELLE CORBIER

Author Biography

Born in Illinois, as a military dependent, Michelle moved every two to four years usually between San Diego, California and Charleston, South Carolina. A career in medicine brought her to Michigan State where she completed a Pediatric residency program in Flint, Michigan. Appointed chief resident in her final year, she relocated to Alabama. In Montgomery, Alabama she opened a private medical practice. Her career encompassed working in private practice, large HMOs, community health centers and locums tenens. After over twenty years in clinical medical practice, she accepted a position with the state of California as a medical consultant.

A member of Sisters in Crime, California Writers Club -Sacramento, and Capitol Crimes, her writing interests cover many genres—mystery, paranormal, thrillers and suspense. Since childhood, she has collected stamps. Most days, you can find her outside in her garden, drinking tea or reading a book.

Find out more about her books at www.MichelleCorbier.com.

Book Details

Author: Michelle Corbier

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Dark Blood Awakens is a paranormal urban fantasy incorporating Black girl magic with myths from the African diaspora.

As a child, Makeda's mom forced her to abandon sorcery. Instead, she pursued a career in nursing while killing monsters with her family of mwindaji. For over a millennium, the mwindaji have hunted Korlemo, a 1000-year-old vampire.

While working in Haiti, Makeda's desire to recapture her sorcery skills increases. When a lead takes her to a Kentucky rural hospital searching for Korlemo, she uses Baoumali, the language of sorceresses, to reclaim her heritage. During her investigation, Makeda develops a steamy romance with the local sheriff and uncovers a macabre secret the hospital administration will kill to keep silent.

With time running out, Makeda must recapture her sorcery and choose where her alliances lie. If the mwindaji cannot destroy the monsters haunting the hospital, people will die—starting with her boyfriend.

Chapter 9 Excerpt

In the old-world study, a clock chimed the hour. Korlemo glowered.

The zauber's lips trembled. "A woman will kill—"

Before she finished, his canines ripped apart her throat, caving in the side of her neck, leaving the esophagus exposed. Torn circulatory vessels gushed blood as the woman collapsed. In seconds, blood pooled around her head. Empty globes stared up at him from her stony, terrified face.

Korlemo stomped over her rumpled body and made his way to a chair beside the hearth. His nostrils flared, stung by a pungent stench. The zauber must have urinated right as he squashed her neck. A sneer curled at the corner of his lips.

With his head bowed, a servant waited beside the fireplace.

Korlemo waved him over. "Clean up that mess."

Without questioning the command or raising his head, the servant fell to the ground and wiped foul liquids off the wooden floors.

A security guard entered the study and stared down at the zauber lying abandoned on the ground. With his foot, he tapped the body. "What do you want us to do with it?"

Tossing his hand in the air, Korlemo dismissed the question. "Remove her."

During Korlemo's exchange with the zauber, Herman had sought shelter near the large windows facing the backyard. Korlemo thought his friend would faint when he chomped into the zauber's carotid. Despite being a lupasteri, Herman had always been squeamish around blood.

Approaching the guard, Herman avoided looking down at the butchered zauber. "Take her out and bury her in the woods."

Another guard, stockier than the first, entered the study. He joined the first guard standing near the zauber. "Can we have her?"

Simultaneously, Korlemo replied "yes" as Herman said "no." The former chuckled.

"Do what you want. She served her purpose."

"Thank you, Korlemo," the first guard said.

The stocky guard bent down and broke off one of the zauber's fingers. Crunching loudly, he chewed on the digit, spitting out a polished fingernail into his hairy palm.

Sample Interview Questions

1. Why did you decide to self-publish?

2. Did your medical career prepare you for a career in writing?

3. How do you find time to write?

4. Do you use your books for a platform for medicine?

5. Why did you make all your main characters people of color?

6. What would you like to convey through your writing?

7. Do you place your patients in your writing?

8. Do you read anything besides mysteries?

9. What can a reader expect to be different about your books compared to other mysteries?

10. What would you like readers to understand about you as an author?

Main Characters

Makeda Crawford is a nurse traveling around the country filling monsters with her family of mwindaji, hunters. She also has a secret that could rip apart her family.

James Crawford is Makeda's father and leader of their mwindaji group.

Peter and Thomas Crawford are Makeda's brothers.

Korlemo Ibori is an ancient mobowou (vampire) masquerading as a medical physician. His tribe journeyed from present day West Africa around 1000 AD.

Michael Wilson is the sheriff in Ramsey, Kentucky. He develops a personal relationship with Makeda.

John Hill, Zeke, and Brian are mwindajis and members of James' group.

Dr. Sylvia Senegal is a lupasteri (werewolf) medical director of Lebanon Memorial Hospital in Ramsey

Herman Baptiste is a lupasteri and lead accountant at Lebanon Memorial. His family protect Korlemo.

Dr. Neil Bones is a pathologist and medical examiner whose family have lived in Kentucky for generations.

Nadege Toussaint is a Haitian woman, zauber (sorceress), Makeda nursed in Haiti after the devasting earthquake in 2010.
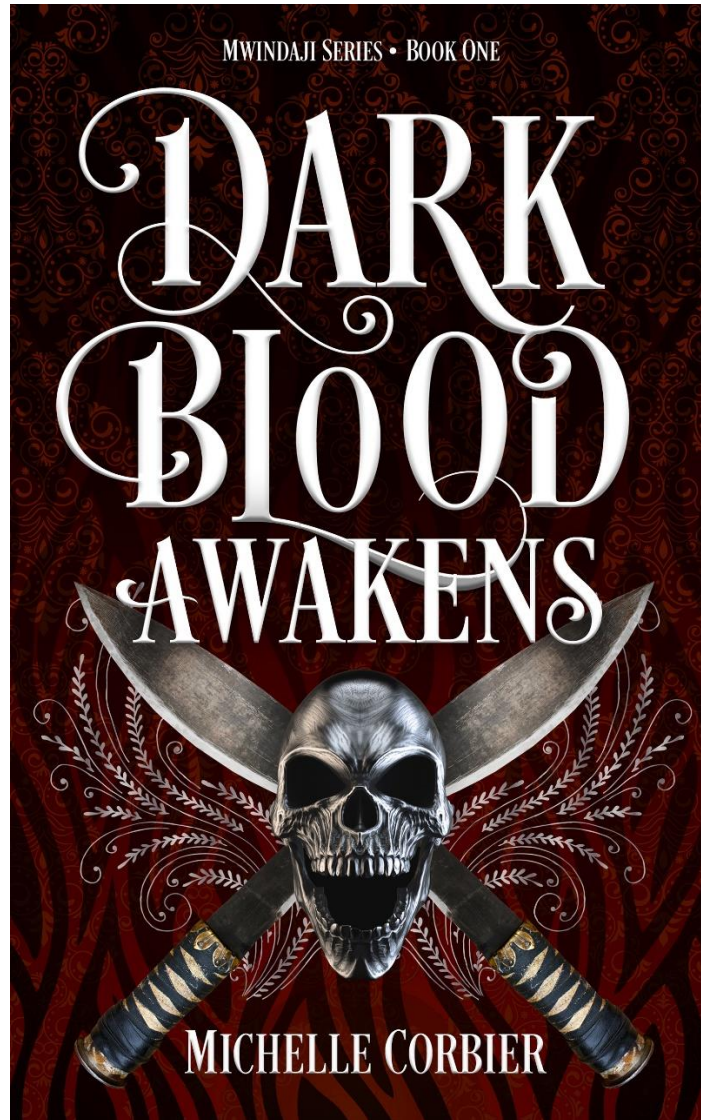
Yewande is Makeda's great grandmother, a zauber.

Target Audience

PARANORMAL URBAN FANTASY READERS

Fans of paranormal fantasy stories will enjoy this novel that introduces readers to Makeda Crawford and the mwindaji. The author created a fictious language called Baoumali, a compilation of West African dialects and Haitian creole. Incorporating myths from the African diaspora, the novel presents new fictional monsters to tantalize readers' imagination.

Downloadable Cover Image

Contact the author at web@MichelleCorbier.com to request a copy of the cover image for usage in articles and other media coverage.

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