

## QUERY

### A Chesterfield Caress

#### Roots x Jane Austen's Willoughby in Jamaica

Dear Agent:

A CHESTERFIELD CARESS, my 85,000-word historical fiction, is a fictionalized narrative inspired by the relationship between two of my ancestors.

As the sun beats down on 25-year-old enslaved mulatto Eliza Wall, she fears her dreams will never come true. She longs for the day she can stop scrubbing clothing on the stones of the Rio Minho that serve as her natural washboard.

When Richard Thornley, the rakish son of a distinguished Lancashire Army captain arrives on Chesterfield Estate to work as a bookkeeper, their attraction is instant, mutual, and overpowering.

The moments they share help them navigate the harsh reality in which they are both trapped. Comforting strokes turn into caresses and passion ignites under tropical skies. After Eliza discovers she is “with child”, Richard promises to work and save the enormous sum required to purchase freedom for Eliza and their unborn child.

When Richard's crushing infidelity creates a love quadrangle, Eliza agonizes over forgiving the man she loves and cannot trust but who holds her future in his hands. Richard struggles to regain her trust. Eliza's resilience and Richard's shot at redemption shape the destiny of future generations.

*A Chesterfield Caress* is based on decades of historical research, revealing that Richard was Bram Stoker's great-great-uncle. Eliza and Richard's descendants include Desirée DaCosta (actor Blair Underwood's wife) and Focus3dots, the multi-platinum Grammy award-winning music producer.

The novel will appeal to readers of Andrea Levy's *The Long Song* and Paula Byrne's *Belle: The Slave Daughter and The Lord Chief Justice*.

I co-authored the non-fiction book *West Indians in Toronto: Implications for Helping Professionals*. I received a Harold Greenberg Award for my original screenplay, *Back A Yard*, about a contemporary Jamaican family

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Thornley-Brown