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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monica McKayhan: Redesigning the Landscape of Teen Literature

(New York, NY) Monica McKayhan has been part of the literary scene since 2005. She started her career writing contemporary fiction. In 2007, her publisher began a new imprint, Kimani TRU which publishes Young Adult (YA) novels. Monica was offered the opportunity to launch the imprint with her first YA book entitled, INDIGO SUMMER. McKayhan's book was well received by teen readers and is changing the landscape of teen literature. The positive impact has led to the Indigo series of books based on the experiences of the main character in Monica's first novel. The latest title in the Indigo series, DEAL WITH IT, launches in June 2009. To date the Indigo collection has four titles that currently make up the YA series. The second book in the series, TROUBLE FOLLOWS was published in December 2007. The third title, THE PACT was released in June 2008 and the fourth title, JADED was published at the end of 2008.

These popular, trend-setting novels are crafted specifically to capture the tastes and interests of urban and suburban young adults. Ms. McKayhan's YA titles have been well received by teens, educators and librarians. As the mother of two teenage sons, Monica has first hand experiences with the real life scenarios that face African American youth. "My Mom's books have stories that we relate to," states Monica's son Erik, "She works hard to keep it real." Lexanne, an 8th grade student in New York City agrees. "Our English teacher had the class read; Indigo Summer is my girl! I like the book and want to read all the books about Indigo." The Chicago School District recently ordered copies of THE PACT and distributed them into 80 High Schools. "I continue to have great confidence that the books published by Kimani TRU are of interest and relevance to our teens," states Ms. Perez, Chicago Area Library Coordinator (HS).

School Library Journal featured an article about the Brown Bookshelf's announcement of their second annual 28 Days Later initiative, a month-long celebration of veteran and emerging children's authors of color that included Monica

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McKayhan's titles JADED and THE PACT. "I am honored to be one of the featured authors with The Brown Bookshelf," says Monica McKayhan, "this reinforces the need for contemporary literature that relates to the African American teen experience.

Monica McKayhan is available for media interviews, book signings, school presentations and conferences. For additional information or to schedule Ms. McKayhan, contact Julia Shaw at 917-501-6780 or shawbizgroup@gmail.com

About the Author

Monica McKayhan writes adult and young adult fiction. She currently has seven titles in print. Three are adult novels, and four are a part of an on-going young adult series. The first book in the series, Indigo Summer was the launch title for Harlequin's young adult imprint, Kimani TRU which made its debut in January of 2007. In May of that year, Indigo Summer snagged the #7 position on the Essence bestsellers list, another first for Kimani Press. It also appeared on the bestsellers list in the May 2007 issue of Black Issues Book Review (BIBR). Indigo Summer appeared on the American Library Association (ALA)'s list of 2008 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. Monica most recently placed three additional titles in the series with Harlequin's young adult imprint, Kimani TRU.