

Jackie Cannon Artist's Bio

As an avid bookworm since childhood, Reading and English were always my favorite subjects in school. I remember writing poetry at a very young age. Now, I'm a book collector, as well. When I was nine, my Uncle Tom (yes, that was his name) gave me a paper bag full of *Star Trek* books. I had seen the TV shows and loved them, but I had no idea there were books available with the series shows written down. From that day forward, my love of science fiction and fantasy solidified, and I knew I wanted to write a novel of my own one day.

Being a huge *Star Wars* fan (I'm in love with Pedro Pascal!), my favorite author is Kevin J. Anderson. He and his wife, Rebecca Moesta, wrote the Junior Jedi Knights series, which is one of my favorites. As a person of color, it was hard finding science fiction and fantasy written by black authors, let alone showcasing black characters, when I was young. More black authors are writing science fiction and fantasy now, and being published, but we still need more.

As an adult, I've surprised myself by adding horror to my interests now. It's a genre that has captivated me in the last few years, so much so that I've written a novella and a short screenplay in the genre. I love writing in a variety of formats, as well. As I mentioned, poetry was my first love, but I have since added short stories, comic books (love!), novels and now screenplays. I have a middle-grade fantasy and a space opera which I've been working on the past few years.

In this fellowship, I would want to concentrate on my middle-grade fantasy novel. I believe it's a solid story but needs finessing to become a great story. My dream writing project would be working on my fantasy or space opera stories for which I have a three-book outline for both, and then, having them turned into a film series. Although, I could say the same for my crime fighter comic book/screenplay.

I have had several poems and a few short stories published, and I've had my horror novella beta read and will submit to a competition this month.

When not writing, I'm reading, making jewelry or bingeing on Disney+. Although not born in Austin, I've been here since 1976, so I'd say I'm a local. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin for my undergraduate in Radio-TV-Film and attended Keller Graduate School of Management for my MBA. When the travel bug hits me, which it does often, I head to various U.S. states, Mexico, Europe or the Caribbean. My bucket list includes Asia, South America and Norway, to see the northern lights.