

MEDIA RELEASE

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**AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR DANIELLE Y.C. MCCLEAN DEBUTS CHILDREN'S FANTASY
ADVENTURE BOOK AT 5th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR**

Baltimore, MD (April 18, 2017) — Children's author Danielle Y.C. McClean will debut her fantasy adventure book, *Secrets of Oscuros: The Protectors' Pledge* on May 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 5th African American Children's Book Fair at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202. A third-place winner of the CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature (the largest prize for Caribbean children's literature), *The Protectors' Pledge* is a fast-paced adventure set deep in a Caribbean forest with JV, a twelve-year-old hero who must risk everything to save the forest and his village.

McClean breathes life into the exciting story centered around JV who can't wait to spend his vacation exploring the Oscuros Forest. Everyone in the village of Alcavere believes the Oscuros Forest is a place to be feared, inhabited by dangerous and magical beings. But JV is not afraid, even when his first trip into the forest brings him face-to-face with a mysterious creature. Then the disappearance of one of their own shakes the village and JV joins the search. He finds himself deep in the Oscuros Forest on a rescue mission and committed to a promise, a promise which the Protectors of the forest insist he keep no matter how dangerous things get. Can JV complete his daring quest even as he uncovers in the process, a shocking secret that will force him to question everything he thought he knew?

"Writing The Protectors' Pledge was a labor of love to celebrate and share my Caribbean heritage with children in an exciting and engaging way. To win a CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature means I achieved that goal and inspires me to keep moving forward on my journey as an author," says McClean.

"Exciting and fun filled...The tale is emotionally alive with vivid, engaging characters, memorable scenes, full of magic and light...Sprinkled with beautiful prose and descriptions." – 2016 Burt Award Judges

Award-winning author, Danielle Y. C. McClean was born on the Caribbean island of Trinidad in a home where books were valued and plentiful. Though she went on to earn advanced degrees in French and Spanish translation as well as a law degree, McClean retained a love of books and a desire to become an author. In 2016, her debut novel, *Secrets of Oscuros: The Protectors' Pledge*, won a CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature. McClean lives with her husband and two children in Tennessee, where she is a translator, interpreter and Spanish teacher.

The Protectors' Pledge is published by CaribbeanReads Publishing. E-books and print books are available for purchase at select bookstores and all online booksellers. Visit www.daniellemcclean.com for details.

**Sponsored by CODE and made possible by the generosity of William Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation, the annual CODE Burt Award recognizes three English-language literary works for young adults written by Caribbean authors.*