

## **Our Harlem**

**By Michael Sloman**

### **Characters still needed**

**JOSEPH LERNER** (Male, 30's- white) Passionate teacher from the suburbs of upstate New York, Joseph has a deep sense of compassion and caring for others. He is very naive towards black culture but is willing to expand beyond his parameters as a white man and educate himself. As Joseph begins to learn more about the Five Percenters, he begins to incorporate the supreme lessons into his consciousness as a human in an unjust world known as Harlem.

**SARAH LERNER** (Female, 30's-Biracial) Raised in a suburban household where her recognition of her blackness is virtually non-existent, Sarah is reeling from the loss of her twin brother Ben to an opioid overdose. Determined to make a change in her life, Sarah enrolls in nursing school and moves with her husband Joseph to Harlem, where the greatest challenges she's ever faced await her.

**DETECTIVE BARON (Male, 40's- white)**- The antagonist to every character in the story, the heinous looking Detective Baron is determined to make Prince's life out on parole a living hell for allegedly shooting him and killing his partner twenty years ago. A serial predator, Baron will stop at no cost to get what or who he wants.

**SHAYAAN** (Male, teenager- Black) A natural born leader, Shayaan is a member of the Nation of the Gods and Earths (Five Percenters). Impressionable and intelligent, Shayaan seeks to debunk Joseph's Eurocentric naivety. As a result, Joseph cannot galvanize the class until he earns Shayaan's respect.

**ANNAHERRA WILLIAMS** (Female, 60's- 70's- Black) A bereaved opioid abuser, Annaherra is still suffering over the loss of her son D'andre to police. Unable to step out of her own way and contribute to paying the increasing rent due to gentrification, Annaherra lives with her son Prince, resentful towards white people due to the changes in her community.