



Claudia Coleman's One and Only Case: The Trauma of Detection in *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson

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Abstract. This essay draws on narratology and contemporary analyses of post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma to argue that *Monday's Not Coming* (2018) by Tiffany D. Jackson reflects the trauma of successful detection in its narrative structure while highlighting the inequities of attention to crime and associated trauma in BIPOC communities.

Given growing awareness of how mainstream media and investigators often ignore the cases of missing or murdered BIPOC people, Tiffany D. Jackson's young adult novel *Monday's Not Coming* (2018) strikes a timely note with the story of Black teenager Claudia Coleman's search for her missing best friend and classmate, Monday. Claudia's narration opens by stating that "nobody cared until they found her . . . one year later" (1), ominous phrasing that, combined with the frontispiece where Claudia reports being asked if she had noticed any "red flags," indicates something terrible and mysterious has happened to Monday. While the story of an individual crime against Monday emerges, the roadblocks Claudia encounters during her search reveal the numerous ways the United States fails Monday and other girls like her. However, while the novel's primary mystery centers on what happened to Monday, a second mystery emerges: what happened to Claudia? The novel's innovative narrative structure plays with detective fiction's usual narrative patterns by hiding this second mystery even as it reveals the first mystery and points

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