

For Immediate Release

**LITTLE SATCHMO:
Living in the Shadow of My Father Louis Daniel Armstrong
By Sharon Preston-Folta with Denene Millner**

The Never-Before-Told Story of Jazz Legend Louis Armstrong's Secret Love Child

New York, NY - In December 2012, a *New York Times* story reported what Sharon Preston-Folta had known all along. It was a deeply held secret that Preston-Folta kept close to her heart because she'd been told by her mother, Lucille, never to utter the words that the great Louis Armstrong was her birth father. It is important to note that Preston-Folta's mother, Lucille, is not the jazz legend's well-known wife who bears the same name. No, this Lucille was an open secret, a woman with whom Armstrong had a decades-long affair, which ultimately produced his one and only child.

LITTLE SATCHMO: Living in the Shadow of My Father Louis Daniel Armstrong (Amazon Digital Services; ASIN: B00ANUFND6; Publication Date: May 1, 2013; \$2.99 Kindle Edition) (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform Paperback ISBN-10: 1481228234, ISBN-13: 978-1481228237 - \$9.99) (Smashwords ISBN: 9781301411184 - \$2.99) by Sharon Preston-Folta with Denene Millner is the untold story of Louis Armstrong's passionate affair with Lucille Preston. It unfolds in a dramatic series of twists and turns, highs and lows, which build up to a boiling point that leaves Lucille rattled with disappointment, anger, and heartbreak and her daughter without a father and any claim to her paternal birthright.

Preston-Folta's **LITTLE SATCHMO** takes readers back to Armstrong's heyday as a king of jazz, a musician who'd built a legacy based on his musical prowess and creative genius. But along with such extraordinary talent, fame and fortune came Armstrong's complicated history with love and women. Lucille Armstrong was the jazz master's fourth wife and would remain Mrs. Armstrong until her husband's death in 1971.

When Armstrong began the affair with "the other Lucille," she tolerated her husband's indiscretions. Yet, when Lucille gave birth to a daughter, Armstrong's only known child, things changed. Mrs. Armstrong initially took on an active role in personally handling the distribution of the child support payments. It can only be assumed that this was an act less of understanding and agreement and more so one of control over a situation about which displeased her.

The decision to keep Armstrong's love child a secret was one which was made by the adults involved, but none of them ever took into account how the lies and secrets would impact the life of the child. On the surface, things seemed normal. Armstrong spent some quality time with them and even bought a home in Mount Vernon, New York for Lucille and his daughter. That is until at age 10, Preston-Folta found out the truth about her father during an appearance by Armstrong on Johnny Carson's popular television show. It was during this interview that she

learned her father had a wife and another home. It changed her life - and the relationship with her mother - forever.

The final break with Armstrong came about in 1967 after a heated exchange in an Atlantic City hotel suite between the longtime lovers. Lucille was fed up and demanded to know when Armstrong planned to make good on his promises to leave his wife and marry her. The word, "Never!," vibrated through the room, and both mother and daughter realized that their hopes of being a real family with Armstrong were not to be.

While it is true that Preston-Folta does not have DNA evidence to support her claim, there is solid proof that underscores her mother's relationship with Armstrong and the fact that he accepted Preston-Folta as his child. The book reveals personal letters written to her mother, in Armstrong's words and penmanship, such as an excerpt from a letter written on August 31, 1967:

"If you're ready to bury the hatchet, I am...give my little daughter a big kiss from her daddy."

The final letter written on June 12, 1968 further revealed Armstrong's acknowledgement of his daughter:

Sharon may not realize now what I mean to her & doing for her....But I am sure as she matures she'll Dig Pops as the man who'll be loving her until he day he dies, or she dies. That's sincerity and from the heart stuff."

The secret about his love child is a truth that both Armstrong and his wife respectively carried to their graves. However, Sharon Preston-Folta will be denied no more. **LITTLE SATCHMO** reveals how Armstrong and Lucille met, offers intimate details about their relationship, provides both light and dark moments between the two lovers, how they managed to keep the relationship intact with a new baby and an unhappy wife who had no intention of leaving her husband, and finally sheds light on how and why it all came to a devastating end.

We hope that you will keep **LITTLE SATCHMO** in mind as you plan your book review coverage, Father's Day and summer beach round-ups. Ms. Preston-Folta is also available of interviews. **Phone# 516-297-6311 or send an email @ www.littlesatchmo.com.**

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