

# The Inconvenient Child

An abandoned  
Australian child struggles  
to survive and find her  
African American father

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[www.TheInconvenientChild.com](http://www.TheInconvenientChild.com)

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My Princess Mummy



My mother Grace Samuels, circa 1948



My confirmation at  
St Martha's, aged about nine



Me, aged about seven, on a Sunday outing  
in the park with Princess Mummy



Me in late 1961,  
just turned thirteen



In a very stylish dress I'd made  
in sewing class in junior  
high school, 1963



Morning Muster beyond the Covered Way at Parramatta Girls' Home. On the right was our dance area and notice the in-girls' steps on the left.



Looking down the Covered Way, the scene of so much misery yet also joy, with dancing and family visits



My first glimpse of Parramatta Girls' Home:  
the main building and high wall



A girl arriving at Hay Institution for Girls, a brutal maximum-security  
institution for teenage girls



Inside the cell block at Hay Institution for Girls. 'Eyes down, quick march.' We never walked but marched everywhere.



Standing 'at ease' at our cabin doors, waiting for our turn in the ablu-tion parade. I am last in line, at top left, aged only sixteen.



Hard labour, harsh discipline and extreme punishment were standard at Hay



'Eyes down, knees high, elbows in, on the double!' I should have been punished severely for surreptitiously adjusting my glasses without permission.





Free at last. In my mother's kitchen in Townsville, 1966.



Nurse Sharyn: during my nurse's training in Townsville, 1966



'Georgia' and 'Sheeba' in the Paradise Club, Kings Cross, 1973



*Let My People Come days, 1977*



During the years of production shows: 1981 to 1984. I am now Sharyn Crystal.



The band singer: weddings, parties, anything, 1978 to 1981



Me, resplendent in Big Bird, late 1980s. I've even added feathers!



Ray Charles with my tall son Anthony and me, 1990



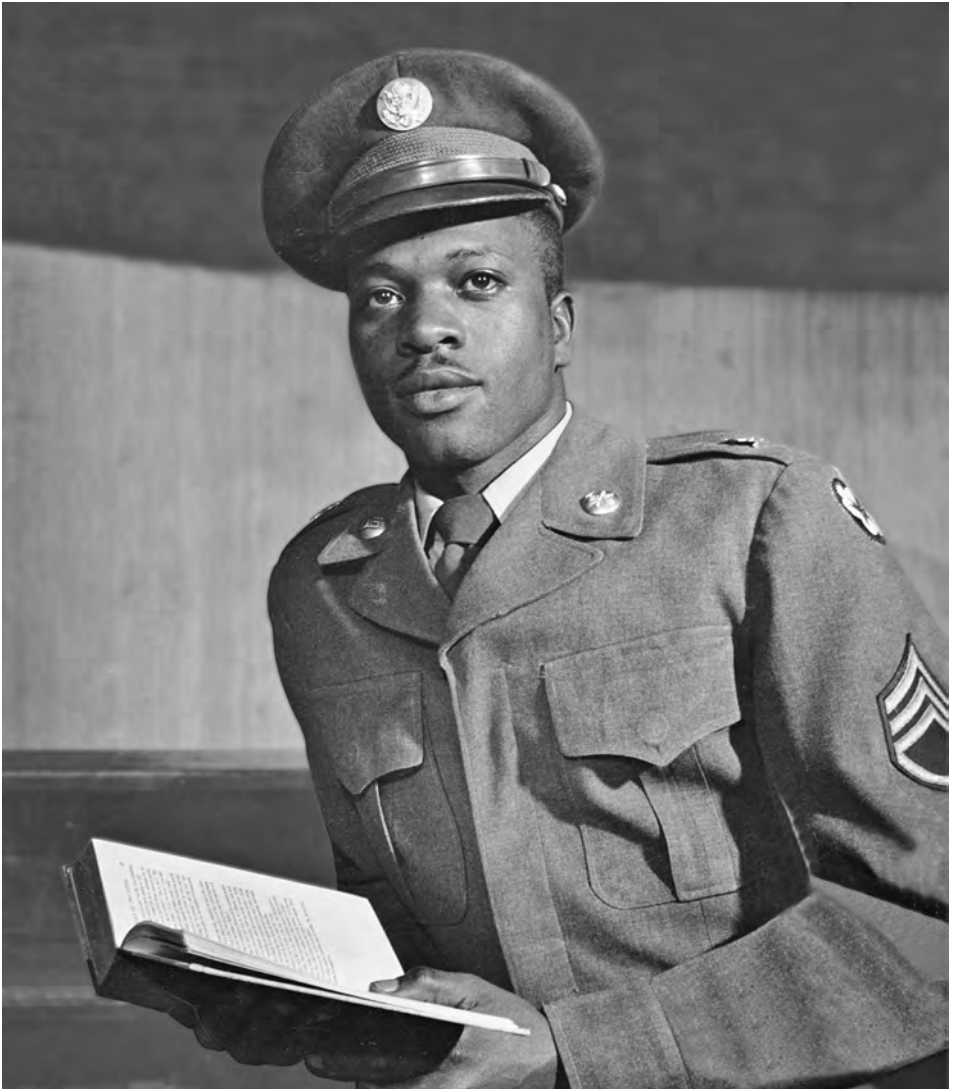
BB King and me on the Phillip Morris Superband Tour, 1991



My home-away-from-home: the lovely *Fairstar*, circa 1991



Me with the love of my life: my Allan



Thaddeus Killens



Sandra, Thaddeus Jr, Debra and me in New York, 1996.  
Donna and me (inset).



With Ellen and Richard Killens in North Carolina



The inimitable Aunt Decie and me in Fairmont,  
North Carolina, 2001



After church, with Aunt Decie and Albert, standing  
beside his shining Cadillac Seville, 2001





Sharyn Crystal: Entertainer (PHOTOGRAPH BY GEOFF DAUTH)