

CARIBBEAN FICTION



[Dancing to Almendra](#) / by Mayra Montero; trans. by Edith Grossman
FIC MONTERO

In Havana just prior to the revolution, young reporter Joaquin Porrata is covering the entertainment scene when he's given an assignment to investigate the death of a hippopotamus at the city zoo. Thinking it just another boring side story, Joaquin investigates only to unearth a much graver story involving the island's ties to the Italian Mafia.

[He Drown She In The Sea](#) / by Shani Mootoo
FIC MOOTOO

On the Caribbean island of Guanagasp (fictional), half-caste Harry St. George falls hopelessly in love with wealthy society girl Rose, the daughter of his mother's employer. Doomed to love her from afar throughout adolescence and into early adulthood, Harry is forced to forget about her when he moves to Canada. But fate brings them together again when Rose also relocates to the same Canadian city. Can their love bloom now that the social divides have changed?

[A House for Mr. Biswas](#) / by V.S. Naipaul
FIC NAIPAUL

Born to Indian immigrants on the British colonial island of Trinidad, Mohun Biswas has been declared something of a bad seed since birth, a local Hindu prophet stating that he'd soon be the downfall of his parents and a constant bane to the local Indian community. Knowing this, Mohun has always yearned for a place to live, a place he can call his own even though it's evident that luck is never on his side. But with his plucky initiative, it's clear that Mr. Biswas is one islander who won't be put down by obstacles.

[Prospero's Daughter](#) / by Elizabeth Nunez
FIC NUNEZ

In this retelling of Shakespeare's "The Tempest", fugitive English doctor Peter Gardner has managed to abscond with his three-year-old daughter, Virginia, to a small island off the coast of Trinidad. Befriending them there is five-year-old native boy Carlos who gradually entwines himself into the lives of the two new arrivals.

[Ruins](#) / by Achy Obejas
FIC OBEJAS

In Havana in the early 1990's, times are desperate for a man named Usnavy (christened at birth after the U.S. Naval ships in Guantanamo bay) and his family who live in a one-room house and feed off sparse rations of beef broth. Seeing his neighbors and childhood friends flee Cuba for the States, Usnavy tries to maintain his optimism, drawing hope from his most prized possession—an elaborately crafted antique lamp bequeathed to him by his grandmother.

[Wide Sargasso Sea](#) / by Jean Rhys
FIC RHYS

In this classic prequel to Charlotte Bronte's [Jane Eyre](#), wealthy English gentleman Mr. Rochester is sent to the Caribbean island of Jamiaca to oversee his family's business interests and plantation holdings. But he never expected to be captivated by a beautiful creole girl whom he falls in love with, marries against the wishes of his family and ultimately takes back home to England.

[Broken Paradise: A Novel](#) / by Cecilia Samartin
FIC SAMARTIN

In Cuba of 1956, cousins Nora and Alicia are members of the privileged class enjoying a life of lavish parties, fine dining and idyllic days at the beach. But in the coming years, as revolution washes over the island and Fidel Castro oversees the removal of aristocratic advantages, Nora and Alicia are forced to depart ways with Nora emigrating to America and Alicia staying behind. As the years then decades pass, the two keep in touch, each remembering a past gone forever amid an always uncertain present.

[Lime Tree Can't Bear Orange: A Novel](#) / by Amanda Smyth
FIC SMYTH

Celia lives on the island of Tobago with her aunt and uncle, a crazy pair who she's never felt comfortable around. When her uncle, nicknamed "Allah" for his god-like complex, performs an unforgiveable act, Celia runs away to the island's capital city where she finds her place as an independent woman. But soon she finds herself torn between two lovers: one, a quiet gardener who loves her with his heart and the other, a dashing and passionate young entrepreneur.

[Bay of Souls](#) / by Robert Stone
FIC STONE

American academic Michael Ahearn has a reasonably nice life as a husband, father and English professor until a new staff member, Lara Purcell, arrives from the Caribbean and instantly captivates him with her exquisite beauty and exotic aura. Led on by her charm, an affair ensues with Michael agreeing to accompany Lara back to her home on the island of St. Trinity to repossess the soul she believes has been captured by a voodoo priestess.

[The Feast of the Goat](#) / by Mario Vargas Llosa
FIC VARGASLL

In the final days of the Trujillo regime, the dictator himself goes about his business, seemingly waiting patiently for his impending assassination. Meanwhile his Secretary of State has sequestered himself and his family into self-imposed exile in another country. Nearly thirty years later the former secretary's youngest daughter, Urania, returns to her birthplace to confront the after effects of her home country.

MYSTERY & SF

[Haiti Noir](#) / edited by Edwidge Danticat
MYS HAITI

With submissions by some of Haiti's most well-known authors as well as some new names, this book displays a side of the island which the public never sees, a world where murder, exploitation and a shaky reality permeate through society.

[Havana Noir](#) / edited by Achy Obejas
MYS HAVANA

In a city so close to the US border yet culturally so far from the reality of American life, multiple Cuban authors illustrate a side of the Havana which is even more seldom seen by American readers.

[The New Moon's Arms](#) / by Nalo Hopkinson
SF HOPKINSON

Calamity, a woman who's changed her name from Chastity to better to suit her life circumstances, is 50-year-old woman living on the Caribbean island of Dolorosse (fictional). Undergoing menopause, Calamity discovers that her body has regained a magical power she once held as a child but which left her in adolescence. She once again has the ability to find lost things. Lost objects, lost memories and even lost people are now within her power to rediscover.

MOORE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
1701 9TH AVENUE NORTH
TEXAS CITY, TX 77590
(409) 643-5977
WWW.TEXASCITY-LIBRARY.ORG

FICTION

[In The Name of Salome: A Novel](#) / by Julia Alvarez
FIC ALVAREZ

The life of Salome Urena, called the “Emily Dickinson of the Dominican Republic”, begins in 1850 when she’s born into a country undergoing intense political upheaval and equally fervent cultural tension. A brilliant writer with a beautifully poetic soul, Salome is only 17 when she publishes her first set of captivatingly patriotic poems instantly transforming her into a national icon. But her fame comes at a price, as witnessed by the travails of her and her daughter Camila later in life.

[Island Beneath The Sea](#) / by Isabel Allende
FIC ALLENDE

In 1700, Zariete is born a slave in Haiti (then called Saint-Domingue) and soon bought by plantation owner Toulouse Valmorain. Though a reasonable master, Toulouse is soon consumed by the complications of plantation life where it seems the only means to make a profit is through brutality and oppression. Things change quickly when, following Overture’s legendary slave revolt, Zariete and Toulouse are forced to escape with their two children, had illegitimately, to the bawdy streets of New Orleans and a new and different life.

[Carnival](#) / by Robert Antoni
FIC ANTONI

Writer William Fletcher of New York City suddenly runs into two of his very oldest and dearest friends: Laurence, once a poor island boy now an Oxford scholar; and Rachel, his second cousin once removed and his first love. Together they decide to attend “Carnival” on Trinidad, their native home, and a place where more than a few secrets are sure to be unearthed.

[A Habit of the Blood](#) / by Lois Battle
FIC BATTLE

A member of one of the island’s oldest and most well-established families, Cecily Haron is a beautiful young Jamaican woman living the high life in America. Following a falling out with her father and a humiliating abandonment by her philandering lover, Cecily returns to home to Kingston where other members of her family willingly take her in.

“The Haitian Revolutionary” trilogy / by Madison Smartt Bell
FIC BELL

The history of the Haitian slave uprising is presented in three novels by Bell. In [All Soul’s Rising](#), the Haiti of 1791 is threatened with war as the imperial powers divide and conquer. In [Master of the Crossroads](#), the figure of Toussaint Louverture takes center stage and finally, in [The Stone That the Builder Refused](#), the revolution comes full circle and Napoleon enters the scene.

[In Another Place, Not Here](#) / by Dionne Brand
FIC BRAND

In the 1970’s, Elizete works as a sugarcane cutter on the island of Trinidad where little has changed since the days of slavery. All of the workers like her are desperately poor with little hope of a better life. But when Verlia, a native who’s visiting from Canada, approaches Elizete and the other workers with new socialist ideas and advocacy about the current Black Power Movement, things begin to change.

[A Thirst For Rain](#) / by Roslyn Carrington
FIC CARRINGT

In the northern foothills of Trinidad, one of the worst droughts in years has caused island residents to fall on hard times. In a house divided into four single-family homes, a set of individuals have some strange relations. Soulful Myra, her straight-arrow daughter Odile and Myra’s sometimes crazy father Sebastian live together. Meanwhile quiet boy Rory loves Odile from afar while envying Slim, Odile’s lover.

[Texaco](#) / by Patrick Chamoiseau
FIC CHAMOISE

Marie-Sophie Laborieux, the daughter of former slaves, is an urban planner in Haiti where she’s more than well-aware of the problems faced by her people daily. The issues are many and complex as both the external pressure of landholders and the internal squabbling of those in the town illustrate the frustration and plight of her fellow Caribbean islanders in the post-Colonial world.

[I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem](#) / by Maryse Conde
FIC CONDE

In 1692 in Salem Massachusetts, West Indian slave Tituba is convicted of witchcraft and sent to jail to await her fate. But Tituba’s “divinations” have been intended only as healing remedies, treatments she learned as a young girl on her native island of Barbados from her adopted parents. Now, in order to find mercy, Tituba will need to plan how to plead her case, drawing on her past to help her in the present.

[The Dew Breaker](#) / by Edwidge Danticat
FIC DANTICAT

In modern times, “the Dew Breaker” is seen by those around his Brooklyn neighborhood as a quiet, kind family man and upstanding citizen. But in his former life in Haiti, he was a brutally violent individual, a “torturer” and murderer of many, his vulgar bloodlust virtually knew no end. Jumping back and forth through time, the dual lives of the man known as the Dew Breaker resonates at a particularly keen level, showing how the past contributes to the present and some men are never as they seem.

[The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#) / by Junot Diaz
FIC DIAZ

In late seventies/early eighties New Jersey, young Oscar Wao, his mother and older sister Lola are the veritable refugees of a Dominican Republic still defined by the deplorable regime of Rafael Trujillo (“the dictatingest dictator who ever dictated”). The story of the nerdy but soulful Oscar is one which reaches back to the very heyday of Trujillo era (1930-1960), a time and a place—Santo Domingo—where his mother and countless others met with tremendous suffering and untold tragedy. Diaz won both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer for this book in 2008.

[White Rose = Una Rosa Blanca: A Novel](#) / by Amy Ephron
FIC EPHRON

Just prior to the Spanish-American War the 1890’s, reporter Karl Decker is sent on a covert mission to Havana to rescue one Evangelina Cisneros, a young and beautiful Cuban revolutionary and living legend. For helping her father, a political prisoner, Evangelina is currently awaiting deportation to the Spanish penal colony of Cueta, a place no one has survived. Decker will need more than just bravery to succeed amid the danger present.

[Eccentric Neighborhoods](#) / by Rosario Ferre
FIC FERRE

Frustrated because her limited education is intended as a precursor to life as a homemaker, feminist Elvira Vernet rebels against her traditionalist parents in 1940’s Puerto Rico. Dissecting her family history, including how her distant relatives first came to the island, Elvira ultimately rebels against her mother wishes (or so she thinks) by marrying a man she hopes will provide her with the kind of physical and intellectual freedom she yearns for.

[Beautiful Maria of My Soul: Or The True Story of Maria Garcia y Cifuentes, the Lady Behind A Famous Song: A Novel](#) / by Oscar Hijuelos
FIC HIJUELOS

Maria Garcia y Cifuentes is the jewel of post-WWII Havana. A poor girl who has risen to prominence through her distinguished beauty, she can be seen everywhere from advertisements in magazines, dancing in nightclub hotspots and walking the streets on the arm of one of the city’s richest and most powerful businessmen. But it’s all come at a very high price, one which becomes even costlier with the onset of the Cuban revolution. ‘Beautiful Maria’ is a sequel to Hijuelos’ Pulitzer winning novel [The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love](#).

[The Book of Night Women](#) / by Marlon James
FIC JAMES

In early 19th century Jamaica, slave Lilith is both feared and ostracized for her fiery green eyes which immediately set her apart from others on the plantation. But after killing a slave driver who tries to rape her, Lilith catches the attention of the Night Women, a secret society plotting a rebellion against the plantation owners. Soon a plan of action towards revolt is put into motion with Lilith squarely in the middle of things.

[Unburnable](#) / by Marie-Elena John
FIC JOHN

After fleeing her childhood on the island of Dominica when she was only 14, Lillian Baptiste has returned twenty years later to finally face the scandal which prompted her original exodus. Tentative about how the past can affect her present yet needing to face her demons, Lillian seeks out her birth mother, a half-mad woman, with the help of Teddy, a man whose love she spurned many years ago.

[Annie John](#) / by Jamaica Kincaid
FIC KINCAID

On the island of Antigua, 10-year-old Annie John lives with her mother and attends the local grammar school for girls. In the succeeding years as Annie reaches adolescence and womanhood as well as the recognition of her growing clinical depression. With time, she’s propelled toward the critical decision of whether to depart from her home and native culture or remain near the family and heritage she loves.

[The Long Song](#) / by Andrea Levy
FIC LEVY

A slave revolt is brewing on the island of Jamaica as the fourth decade of the 19th century begins. July, a slave born as a result of a rape in a field, narrates her own part amid the incredible tension brewing both between the slaves and masters and within the slaves themselves. When July is seduced by her plantation’s overseer, ultimately becoming his mistress, she becomes the object of scorn among those who see her as a traitor.

[Daughters of the Stone](#) / by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa
FIC LLANOSFI

Five generations of Afro-Puerto Rican women are chronicled in this epic saga of family life telling the transition from the Old World to the new and the still lingering legacy of slavery. Passed from each woman to her daughter is a precious stone originally brought by Fela, the family matriarch, from West Africa. The stone is one which possesses a special, undeniable magic for its handler.

[Daughters](#) / Paule Marshall
FIC MARSHALL

New York City professional Ursa McKenzie likes to think her Caribbean heritage is something of the past. But these days she finds it catching up with her in the form of her parents who still live on the island of Triunion. Her father, one of the island’s political leaders nicknamed “The PM”, is planning to sell out to real estate developers and Ursa’s mother, Estelle, has called her to return home to talk some sense into him.

[Caribbean](#) / by James A. Michener
FIC MICHENER

Known mostly to westerners as the “New World”, the Caribbean islands have a history and heritage all their own. Over the centuries and many years before even Columbus set ashore at Hispaniola, the Islands have seen peoples and cultures come and go, leaders rise and fall, and legends live and die. In his characteristic epic style, James Michener delivers a sweeping novel on the lands and peoples of this exquisite region.