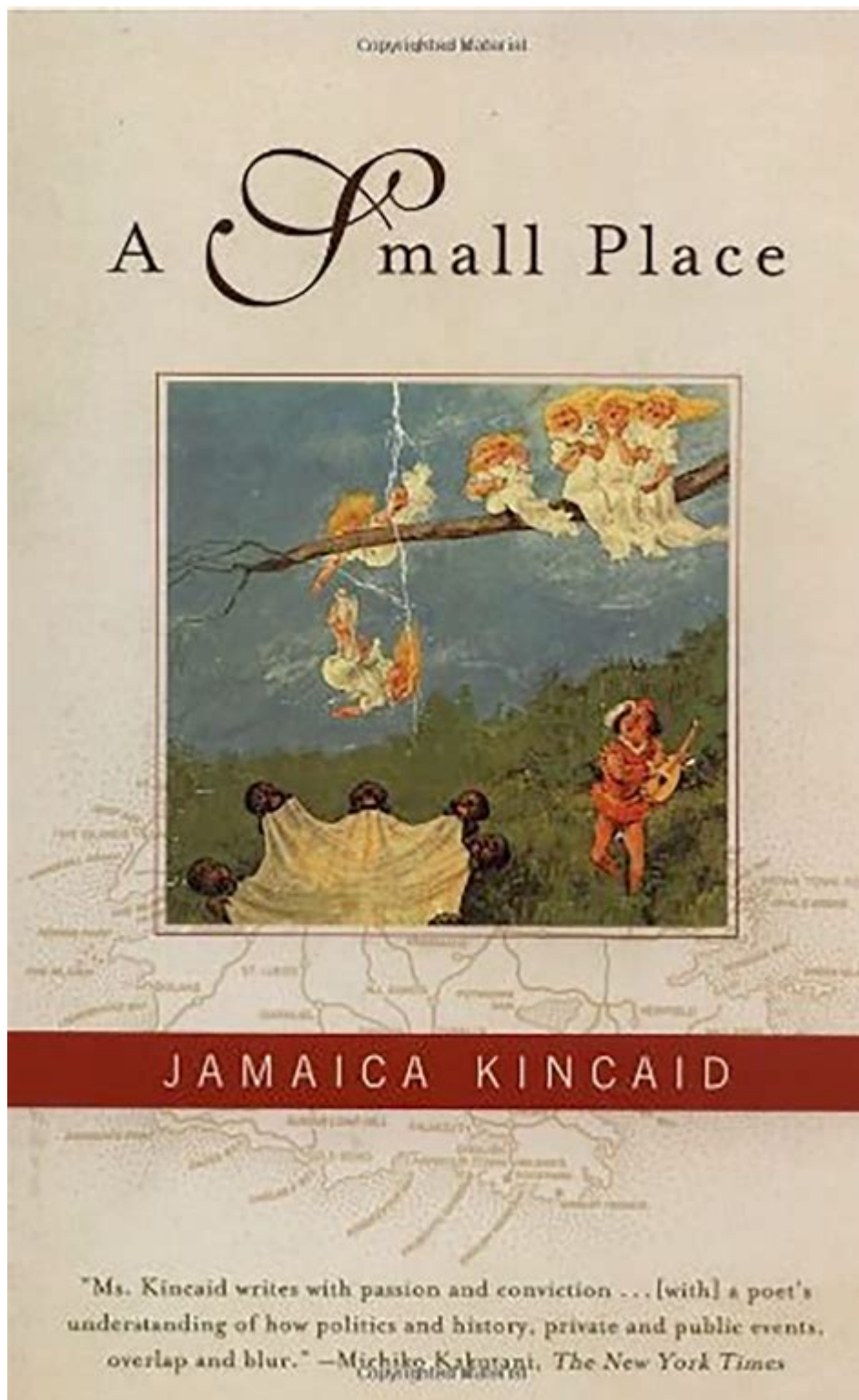


A Small Place By Jamaica Kincaid



A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid: A Scathing Love

Letter to Antigua

Are you ready to delve into a literary experience that's both brutally honest and deeply affecting? Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* isn't your typical travelogue. It's a visceral, unflinching examination of colonialism's lingering impact on Antigua, delivered with a raw intensity that will leave you breathless. This post will dissect Kincaid's masterpiece, exploring its themes, writing style, and enduring relevance in today's world. We'll uncover why it's a must-read for anyone interested in post-colonial literature, Caribbean history, and the complexities of identity.

The Unflinching Gaze of a Native Daughter

A Small Place isn't a romanticized portrayal of Antigua. Kincaid, writing from a place of profound personal connection and deep-seated frustration, dissects the island's history with a scalpel's precision. This isn't a nostalgic recollection; it's a confrontational reckoning with the legacy of colonialism and its continuing effects on the Antiguan people and landscape. Her narrative voice is sharp, indignant, and fiercely intelligent, refusing to sugarcoat the harsh realities of life on the island.

The Scars of Colonialism: A Legacy of Exploitation

Kincaid masterfully exposes the insidious nature of colonial exploitation. She meticulously details how tourism, often presented as a boon to the economy, actually perpetuates a cycle of dependency and inequality. The narrative challenges the reader to confront the often-unseen consequences of this exploitative system, questioning who truly benefits from the idyllic image projected to tourists. She doesn't shy away from naming names, criticizing the indifference of tourists and the complicity of the Antiguan government.

A Complex Relationship with Identity and Place

The book transcends a simple critique of colonialism. It's also a profound exploration of Kincaid's own identity and her complex relationship with her homeland. The narrative is intensely personal, intertwining her experiences with broader historical and socio-political observations. This intimate perspective lends the book its raw power and emotional depth, making the reader feel deeply connected to the author's struggle to reconcile her love for Antigua with her profound anger at its failings.

Kincaid's Unique Narrative Style: Intimacy and Directness

Kincaid's writing style is as distinctive as her perspective. The prose is direct, even confrontational, eschewing flowery language in favor of stark, unadorned truths. This directness, coupled with the intensely personal nature of the narrative, creates an intimate connection between the author and the reader. It's a conversational style that, despite its anger, feels incredibly vulnerable and ultimately, incredibly human.

The Enduring Relevance of *A Small Place*

Despite being published in 1988, *A Small Place* remains strikingly relevant today. The themes of neo-colonialism, economic inequality, and the lasting scars of historical trauma resonate deeply in the modern world. Its unflinching honesty serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by post-colonial nations and the importance of critically examining the narratives we're told about the world. It encourages a deeper understanding of the complexities of tourism, global power dynamics, and the insidious ways in which colonial ideologies continue to shape contemporary society.

Beyond the Tourist Brochure: A Deeper Look at Antigua's Reality

A Small Place challenges the idyllic image of Antigua often presented in tourist brochures. It reveals the stark realities of poverty, inequality, and the lingering effects of centuries of exploitation. Kincaid forces the reader to confront the uncomfortable truths about the island's history and its present-day struggles. By dismantling the romanticized notion of paradise, she sheds light on the urgent need for social and economic justice in Antigua and other post-colonial nations.

Conclusion

A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid is not just a book; it's an experience. It's a visceral, emotionally charged journey into the heart of Antigua, revealing the complexities of its history and its present. Kincaid's unflinching honesty and powerful prose make this a truly unforgettable and essential read, leaving a lasting impact long after the final page is turned. It's a call to action, a demand for a more critical and responsible engagement with the world, and a testament to the enduring power of literature to challenge, provoke, and inspire change.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What is the main theme of *A Small Place*?

A1: The main theme revolves around the lasting impact of colonialism on Antigua, exploring issues of exploitation, economic inequality, and the complexities of identity and place. It's a powerful critique of neo-colonialism and the ways in which historical injustices continue to shape the present.

Q2: What makes Kincaid's writing style unique?

A2: Kincaid's style is characterized by its directness, intimacy, and lack of sentimentality. She employs a conversational tone, making the reader feel as though they're engaging in a direct, unfiltered conversation with the author. This raw honesty is both unsettling and deeply affecting.

Q3: Who is the intended audience for *A Small Place*?

A3: *A Small Place* appeals to a broad audience, including those interested in post-colonial literature, Caribbean history, travel writing (though unconventional), socio-political analysis, and anyone interested in a powerful and unflinching exploration of a complex relationship between a writer and their homeland.

Q4: How does *A Small Place* relate to contemporary issues?

A4: The themes of economic inequality, neo-colonialism, and the lasting effects of historical trauma are highly relevant to contemporary issues worldwide. The book's critique of exploitative tourism practices and global power dynamics remains strikingly relevant in our increasingly interconnected world.

Q5: Is *A Small Place* a difficult read?

A5: While the subject matter is challenging, the writing itself is accessible. Kincaid's directness might initially feel confrontational, but her honesty and vulnerability create a compelling and ultimately deeply human narrative. The intensity of the emotions expressed is certainly powerful, but this intensity is part of the book's unique strength.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *A Small Place* Jamaica Kincaid, 2000-04-28 A brilliant look at colonialism and its effects in Antigua--by the author of *Annie John* If you go to Antigua as a tourist, this is what you will see. If you come by aeroplane, you will land at the V. C. Bird International Airport. Vere Cornwall (V. C.) Bird is the Prime Minister of Antigua. You may be the sort of tourist who would wonder why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him--why not a school, why not a hospital, why not some great public monument. You are a tourist and you have not yet seen . . . So begins Jamaica Kincaid's expansive essay, which shows us what we have not yet seen of the ten-by-twelve-mile island in the British West Indies where she grew up. Lyrical, sardonic, and forthright by turns, in a Swiftian mode, *A Small Place* cannot help but amplify our vision of one small place and all that it signifies.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: My Favourite Plant Jamaica Kincaid, 1999

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Lucy* Jamaica Kincaid, 2002-09-04 The coming-of-age story of one of Jamaica Kincaid's most admired creations--available now in an e-book edition. Lucy, a teenage girl from the West Indies, comes to America to work as an au pair for a wealthy couple. She begins to notice cracks in their beautiful façade at the same time that the mysteries of own sexuality begin to unravel. Jamaica Kincaid has created a startling new heroine who is destined to win a place of honor in contemporary fiction.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *My Garden (Book)* Jamaica Kincaid, 2001-05-15 One of our finest writers on one of her greatest loves. Jamaica Kincaid's first garden in Vermont was a plot in the middle of her front lawn. There, to the consternation of more experienced friends, she planted only seeds of the flowers she liked best. In *My Garden (Book)* she gathers all she loves about gardening and plants, and examines it generously, passionately, and with sharp, idiosyncratic discrimination. Kincaid's affections are matched in intensity only by her dislikes. She loves spring and summer but cannot bring herself to love winter, for it hides the garden. She adores the rhododendron Jane Grant, and appreciates ordinary Blue Lake string beans, but abhors the Asiatic lily. The sources of her inspiration -- seed catalogues, the gardener Gertrude Jekyll, gardens like Monet's at Giverny -- are subjected to intense scrutiny. She also examines the idea of the garden on Antigua, where she grew up. *My Garden (Book)* is an intimate, playful, and penetrating book on gardens, the plants that fill them, and the persons who tend them.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Jamaica Kincaid's 'A Small Place': An Analysis Lea Williwald, 2021 Essay in the subject Literature - Basics, language: English, abstract: The reflective analysis of Kincaid's observations, ideas and approaches as well as literary style will seek to elaborate the dynamics that dominate the global economy, as well as the economies of singular countries. Furthermore, the parallels between colonization and globalization shall be highlighted. This examination will effectively lead to an answer to the question of whether Kincaid seeks retribution and reparations or complete independence from the Political West and her former as well as current oppressors.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Please Miss Grace Lavery, 2022-02-08 "The queer memoir you've been waiting for"—Carmen Maria Machado Grace Lavery is a reformed druggie, an unreformed omnisexual chaos Muppet, and 100 percent, all-natural, synthetic female hormone monster. As soon as she solves her "penis problem," she begins receiving anonymous letters, seemingly sent by a cult of sinister clowns, and sets out on a magical mystery tour to find the source of these surreal missives. Misadventures abound: Grace performs in a David Lynch remake of Sunset Boulevard and is reprogrammed as a sixties femmefbot; she writes a Juggalo Ghostbusters prequel and a socialist manifesto disguised as a porn parody of a quiz show. Or is it vice versa? As Grace fumbles toward a new trans identity, she tries on dozens of different voices, creating a coat of many colors. With more dick jokes than a transsexual should be able to pull off, Please Miss gives us what we came for, then slaps us in the face and orders us to come again.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Talk Stories Jamaica Kincaid, 2002-01-09 From The Talk of the Town, Jamaica Kincaid's first impressions of snobbish, mobbish New York Talk Pieces is a collection of Jamaica Kincaid's original writing for the New Yorker's Talk of the Town, composed during the time when she first came to the United States from Antigua, from 1978 to 1983. Kincaid found a unique voice, at once in sync with William Shawn's tone for the quintessential elite insider's magazine, and (though unsigned) all her own—wonderingly alive to the ironies and screwball details that characterized her adopted city. New York is a town that, in return, fast adopts those who embrace it, and in these early pieces Kincaid discovers many of its hilarious secrets and urban mannerisms. She meets Miss Jamaica, visiting from Kingston, and escorts the reader to the West Indian-American Day parade in Brooklyn; she sees Ed Koch don his Cheshire-cat smile and watches Tammy Wynette autograph a copy of Lattimore's *Odyssey*; she learns the worlds of publishing and partying, of fashion and popular music, and how to call a cauliflower a crudite. The book also records Kincaid's development as a young writer—the newcomer who sensitively records her impressions here takes root to become one of our most respected authors.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Mr. Potter Jamaica Kincaid, 2003-07-16 The story of an ordinary man, his century, and his home: Kincaid's most poetic and affecting novel to date (Robert Antoni, *The Washington Post Book World*) Jamaica Kincaid's first obsession, the island of Antigua, comes vibrantly to life under the gaze of Mr. Potter, an illiterate taxi chauffeur who makes his living along the roads that pass through the only towns he has ever seen and the graveyard where he will be buried. The sun shines squarely overhead, the ocean lies on every side, and suppressed passion fills the air. Ignoring the legacy of his father, a poor fisherman, and his mother, who committed suicide, Mr. Potter struggles to live at ease amid his surroundings: to purchase a car, to have girlfriends, and to shake off the encumbrance of his daughters—one of whom will return to Antigua after he dies and tell his story with equal measures of distance and sympathy. In *Mr. Potter*, Kincaid breathes life into a figure unlike any other in contemporary fiction, an individual consciousness emerging gloriously out of an unexamined life.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: My Brother Jamaica Kincaid, 1998-11-09 Jamaica Kincaid's brother Devon Drew died of AIDS on January 19, 1996, at the age of thirty-three. Kincaid's incantatory, poetic, and often shockingly frank recounting of her brother's life and death is also a story of her family on the island of Antigua, a constellation centered on the powerful, sometimes threatening figure of the writer's mother. *My Brother* is an unblinking record of a life that ended too early, and it speaks volumes about the difficult truths at the heart of all families. *My Brother* is a

1997 National Book Award Finalist for Nonfiction.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *What We Lose* Zinzi Clemmons, 2017-07-11 A National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree NBCC John Leonard First Book Prize Finalist Aspen Words Literary Prize Finalist Named a Best Book of the Year by Vogue, NPR, Elle, Esquire, BuzzFeed, San Francisco Chronicle, Cosmopolitan, The Huffington Post, The A.V. Club, The Root, Harper's Bazaar, Paste, Bustle, Kirkus Reviews, Electric Literature, LitHub, New York Post, Los Angeles Review of Books, and Bust "The debut novel of the year." —Vogue "Like so many stories of the black diaspora, *What We Lose* is an examination of haunting." —Doreen St. Félix, The New Yorker "Raw and ravishing, this novel pulses with vulnerability and shimmering anger." —Nicole Dennis-Benn, O, the Oprah Magazine "Stunning. . . . Powerfully moving and beautifully wrought, *What We Lose* reflects on family, love, loss, race, womanhood, and the places we feel home." —Buzzfeed "Remember this name: Zinzi Clemmons. Long may she thrill us with exquisite works like *What We Lose*. . . . The book is a remarkable journey." —Essence From an author of rare, haunting power, a stunning novel about a young African-American woman coming of age—a deeply felt meditation on race, sex, family, and country Raised in Pennsylvania, Thandi views the world of her mother's childhood in Johannesburg as both impossibly distant and ever present. She is an outsider wherever she goes, caught between being black and white, American and not. She tries to connect these dislocated pieces of her life, and as her mother succumbs to cancer, Thandi searches for an anchor—someone, or something, to love. In arresting and unsettling prose, we watch Thandi's life unfold, from losing her mother and learning to live without the person who has most profoundly shaped her existence, to her own encounters with romance and unexpected motherhood. Through exquisite and emotional vignettes, Clemmons creates a stunning portrayal of what it means to choose to live, after loss. An elegiac distillation, at once intellectual and visceral, of a young woman's understanding of absence and identity that spans continents and decades, *What We Lose* heralds the arrival of a virtuosic new voice in fiction.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Annie John* Jamaica Kincaid, 1997-06 Annie John grows from a precocious, fearless, ten-year-old living in a Caribbean paradise into a young woman who realizes she must leave Antigua to escape her mother's shadow.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *See Now Then* Jamaica Kincaid, 2013-02-05 In *See Now Then*, the brilliant and evocative new novel from Jamaica Kincaid—her first in ten years—a marriage is revealed in all its joys and agonies. This piercing examination of the manifold ways in which the passing of time operates on the human consciousness unfolds gracefully, and Kincaid inhabits each of her characters—a mother, a father, and their two children, living in a small village in New England—as they move, in their own minds, between the present, the past, and the future: for, as she writes, the present will be now then and the past is now then and the future will be a now then. Her characters, constrained by the world, despair in their domestic situations. But their minds wander, trying to make linear sense of what is, in fact, nonlinear. *See Now Then* is Kincaid's attempt to make clear what is unclear, and to make unclear what we assumed was clear: that is, the beginning, the middle, and the end. Since the publication of her first short-story collection, *At the Bottom of the River*, which was nominated for a PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, Kincaid has demonstrated a unique talent for seeing beyond and through the surface of things. In *See Now Then*, she envelops the reader in a world that is both familiar and startling—creating her most emotionally and thematically daring work yet.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *This Accident of Being Lost* Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, 2017-04-08 A knife-sharp new collection of stories and songs from award-winning Nishnaabeg storyteller and writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson that rebirths a decolonized reality, one that circles in and out of time and resists dominant narratives or comfortable categorization. This *Accident of Being Lost* is the knife-sharp new collection of stories and songs from award-winning Nishnaabeg storyteller and writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. These visionary pieces build upon Simpson's powerful use of the fragment as a tool for intervention in her critically acclaimed collection *Islands of Decolonial Love*. A crow watches over a deer addicted to road salt; Lake Ontario floods Toronto to remake the world while texting "ARE THEY GETTING IT?"; lovers visit the last

remaining corner of the boreal forest; three comrades guerrilla-tap maples in an upper middle-class neighbourhood; and Kwe gets her firearms license in rural Ontario. Blending elements of Nishnaabeg storytelling, science fiction, contemporary realism, and the lyric voice, *This Accident of Being Lost* burns with a quiet intensity, like a campfire in your backyard, challenging you to reconsider the world you thought you knew.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *The Autobiography of My Mother* Jamaica Kincaid, 1996-01-15 From the recipient of the 2010 Clifton Fadiman Medal, an unforgettable novel of one woman's courageous coming-of-age Jamaica Kincaid's *The Autobiography of My Mother* is a story of love, fear, loss, and the forging of a character, an account of one woman's inexorable evolution evoked in startling and magical poetry. Powerful, disturbing, stirring, Jamaica Kincaid's novel is the deeply charged story of a woman's life on the island of Dominica. Xuela Claudette Richardson, daughter of a Carib mother and a half-Scottish, half-African father, loses her mother to death the moment she is born and must find her way on her own. Kincaid takes us from Xuela's childhood in a home where she could hear the song of the sea to the tin-roofed room where she lives as a schoolgirl in the house of Jack Labatte, who becomes her first lover. Xuela develops a passion for the stevedore Roland, who steals bolts of Irish linen for her from the ships he unloads, but she eventually marries an English doctor, Philip Bailey. Xuela's is an intensely physical world, redolent of overripe fruit, gentian violet, sulfur, and rain on the road, and it seethes with her sorrow, her deep sympathy for those who share her history, her fear of her father, her desperate loneliness. But underlying all is the black room of the world that is Xuela's barrenness and motherlessness.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: **Jamaica Kincaid** Moira Ferguson, 1994 As a writer who has been quoted as saying she writes to save her life- that is she couldn't write, she would be a revolutionary- Antiguan novelist Jamaica Kincaid translates this passion into searing, exhilarating prose. Her weaving of history, autobiography, fiction, and polemic has won her a large readership. In this first book-length study of her work, Moira Ferguson examines all of Kincaid's writing up to 1992, focusing especially on their entwinement of personal and political identity. In doing so, she draws a parallel between the dynamics of the mother-daughter relationship in Kincaid's fiction and the more political relationship of the colonizer and the colonized. Ferguson calls this effect the doubled mother- a conception of motherhood as both colonial and biological.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: **Understanding Jamaica Kincaid** Justin D. Edwards, 2007 *Understanding Jamaica Kincaid* introduces readers to the prizewinning author best known for the novels *Annie John*, *Lucy*, and *The Autobiography of My Mother*. Justin D. Edwards surveys Jamaica Kincaid's life, career, and major works of fiction and nonfiction to identify and discuss her recurring interests in familial relations, Caribbean culture, and the aftermath of colonialism and exploitation. In addition to examining the haunting prose, rich detail, and personal insight that have brought Kincaid widespread praise, Edwards also identifies and analyzes the novelist's primary thematic concerns - the flow of power and the injustices faced by people undergoing social, economic, and political change. Edwards chronicles Kincaid's childhood in Antigua, her development as a writer, and her early journalistic work as published in the *New Yorker* and other magazines. In separate chapters he provides critical appraisals of Kincaid's early novels; her works of nonfiction, including *My Brother* and *A Small Place*; and her more recent novels, including *Mr. Potter*. colonization and neocolonization and warns her readers about the dire consequences of inequality in the era of globalization.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: **Bad Tourist** Suzanne Roberts, 2020-10 2021 Independent Publisher Book Awards, Gold Medal Winner 2021 National Indie Excellent Awards Finalist 2020 Bronze Award for Travel Book or Guide from the North American Travel Journalists Association 2020 Bronze Winner for Travel in the Foreword INDIES Both a memoir in travel essays and an anti-guidebook, *Bad Tourist* takes us across four continents to fifteen countries, showing us what not to do when traveling. A woman learning to claim her own desires and adventures, Suzanne Roberts encounters lightning and landslides, sharks and piranha-infested waters, a nightclub drugging, burning bodies, and brief affairs as she searches for the love of her life and finally herself.

Throughout her travels Roberts tries hard not to be a bad tourist, but owing to her cultural blind spots, things don't always go as planned. Fearlessly confessional, shamelessly funny, and wholly unapologetic, Roberts offers a refreshingly honest account of the joys and absurdities of confronting new landscapes and cultures, as well as new versions of herself. Raw, bawdy, and self-effacing, *Bad Tourist* is a journey packed with delights and surprises—both of the greater world and of the mysterious workings of the heart.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Unfamiliar Fishes Sarah Vowell, 2011-03-22 From the author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, an examination of Hawaii, the place where Manifest Destiny got a sunburn. Many think of 1776 as the defining year of American history, when we became a nation devoted to the pursuit of happiness through self-government. In *Unfamiliar Fishes*, Sarah Vowell argues that 1898 might be a year just as defining, when, in an orgy of imperialism, the United States annexed Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and invaded first Cuba, then the Philippines, becoming an international superpower practically overnight. Among the developments in these outposts of 1898, Vowell considers the Americanization of Hawaii the most intriguing. From the arrival of New England missionaries in 1820, their goal to Christianize the local heathen, to the coup d'état of the missionaries' sons in 1893, which overthrew the Hawaiian queen, the events leading up to American annexation feature a cast of beguiling, and often appealing or tragic, characters: whalers who fired cannons at the Bible-thumpers denying them their God-given right to whores, an incestuous princess pulled between her new god and her brother-husband, sugar barons, lepers, con men, Theodore Roosevelt, and the last Hawaiian queen, a songwriter whose sentimental ode Aloha 'Oe serenaded the first Hawaiian president of the United States during his 2009 inaugural parade. With her trademark smart-alecky insights and reporting, Vowell lights out to discover the off, emblematic, and exceptional history of the fiftieth state, and in so doing finds America, warts and all.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: You Will Be Safe Here Damian Barr, 2019-05-07 From the author of the acclaimed memoir *Maggie & Me* comes a stunning debut novel about the legacies of abuse, redemption, and the strength of the human spirit, set in South Africa over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. South Africa, 1901: At the height of the Second Boer War, Sarah van der Watt and her son are taken from their farm by force to Bloemfontein Concentration Camp where, the English promise, they will be safe. Johannesburg, 2010: Sixteen-year-old outsider Willem just wants to be left alone with his books and his dog. Worried he's not turning out right, his mother and her boyfriend send him to New Dawn Safari Training Camp. Here they "make men out of boys." Guaranteed. *You Will Be Safe Here* is a deeply moving novel of two connected parts. Inspired by real events, it uncovers a hidden colonial history and present-day darkness while exploring our capacity for cruelty and kindness.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: The Isle of Youth Laura van den Berg, 2013-11-05 Laura van den Berg's gorgeous new book, *The Isle of Youth*, explores the lives of women mired in secrecy and deception. From a newlywed caught in an inscrutable marriage, to private eyes working a baffling case in South Florida, to a teenager who assists her magician mother and steals from the audience, the characters in these bewitching stories are at once vulnerable and dangerous, bighearted and ruthless, and they will do what it takes to survive. Each tale is spun with elegant urgency, and the reader grows attached to the marginalized young women in these stories—women grappling with the choices they've made and searching for the clues to unlock their inner worlds. This is the work of a fearless writer whose stories feel both magical and mystical, earning her the title of sorceress from her readers. Be prepared to fall under her spell. An NPR Best Book of 2013

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Another Planet Tracey Thorn, 2019-02-07 THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP TEN BESTSELLER SHORTLISTED FOR THE PENDERYN MUSIC BOOK PRIZE 'Tender, wise and funny' Sunday Express 'Beautifully observed, deadly funny' Max Porter Before becoming an acclaimed musician and writer, Tracey Thorn was a typical teenager: bored and cynical, despairing of her aspirational parents. Her only comfort came from house parties and the female pop icons who hinted at a new kind of living. Returning to the scene of her childhood, Thorn takes us beyond the

bus shelters, the pub car parks and the weekly discos, to the parents who wanted so much for their children and the children who wanted none of it. With great wit and insight, Thorn reconsiders the Green Belt post-war dream so many artists have mocked, and yet so many artists have come from.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Island Paradise: The Myth* Melanie A. Murray, 2009-01-01 A colonial discourse has perpetuated the literary notion of islands as paradisa. This study explores how the notions of island paradise have been represented in European literature, the oral and literary indigenous traditions of the Caribbean and Sri Lanka, a colonial literary influence in these islands, and the literary experience after independence in these nations. Persistent themes of colonial narratives foreground the aesthetic and ignore the workforce in a representation of island space as idealized, insular, and vulnerable to conquest; an ideal space for management and control. English landscape has been replicated in islands through literature and in reality - the 'Great House' being an ideological symbol of power. *Island Paradise: The Myth* investigates how these entrenched notions of paradise, which islands have traditionally represented metonymically, are contested in the works of four postcolonial authors: Jamaica Kincaid, Lawrence Scott, Romesh Gunsekera, and Jean Arasanayagam, from the island nations of the Caribbean and Sri Lanka. It analyzes texts which focus on gardens, island space, and houses to examine how these motifs are used to re-vision colonial/contested sites. This book examines the relationship between landscape and identity and, with reference to Homi K. Bhabha, considers how these writers offer an alternative space for negotiating the ambivalence of hybridity.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Among Flowers* Jamaica Kincaid, 2011-06-15 In this delightful hybrid of a book—part memoir and part travel journal—the bestselling author takes us deep into the mountains of Nepal with a trio of botanist friends in search of native Himalayan plants that will grow in her Vermont garden. Alighting from a plane in the dramatic Annapurna Valley, the ominous signs of Nepal's Maoist guerrillas are all around—an alarming presence that accompanies the travelers throughout their trek. Undaunted, the group sets off into the mountains with Sherpas and bearers, entering an exotic world of spectacular landscapes, vertiginous slopes, isolated villages, herds of yaks, and giant rhododendron, thirty feet tall. The landscape and flora and so much else of what Kincaid finds in the Himalaya—including fruit bats, colorful Buddhist prayer flags, and the hated leeches that plague much of the trip—are new to her, and she approaches it all with an acute sense of wonder and a deft eye for detail. In beautiful, introspective prose, Kincaid intertwines the harrowing Maoist encounters with exciting botanical discoveries, fascinating daily details, and lyrical musings on gardens, nature, home, and family. From the Trade Paperback edition.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Happiness, as Such* Natalia Ginzburg, 2019-06-25 The hauntingly beautiful epistolary novel from “a glowing light of modern Italian literature” (New York Times Book Review) Longlisted for the PEN Translation Award At the heart of *Happiness, as Such* is an absence—an abyss that pulls everyone to its brink—created by a family's only son, Michele, who has fled from Italy to England to escape the dangers and threats of his radical political ties. This novel is part epistolary: his mother writes letters to him, nagging him; his sister Angelica writes, missing him; so does Mara, his former lover, telling him about the birth of her son who may be his own. Left to clean up Michele's mess, his family and friends complain, commiserate, tease, and grieve, struggling valiantly with the small and large calamities of their interconnected lives. Natalia Ginzburg's most beloved book in Italy and one of her finest achievements, *Happiness, as Such* is an original, wise, raw, comic novel that cuts to the bone.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Island People* Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, 2016-11-22 A masterwork of travel literature and of history: voyaging from Cuba to Jamaica, Puerto Rico to Trinidad, Haiti to Barbados, and islands in between, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of each society, its culture and politics, connecting this region's common heritage to its fierce grip on the world's imagination. From the moment Columbus gazed out from the Santa María's deck in 1492 at what he mistook for an island off Asia, the Caribbean has been subjected to the misunderstandings and fantasies of outsiders. Running roughshod over the place, they have viewed these islands and their inhabitants as exotic allure to be consumed or conquered. The

Caribbean stood at the center of the transatlantic slave trade for more than three hundred years, with societies shaped by mass migrations and forced labor. But its people, scattered across a vast archipelago and separated by the languages of their colonizers, have nonetheless together helped make the modern world—its politics, religion, economics, music, and culture. Jelly-Schapiro gives a sweeping account of how these islands' inhabitants have searched and fought for better lives. With wit and erudition, he chronicles this "place where globalization began," and introduces us to its forty million people who continue to decisively shape our world.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Lying Lauren Slater, 2012-11-14 The beauty of Lauren Slater's prose is shocking, said *Newsday* about *Welcome to My Country*, and now, in this powerful and provocative new book, Slater brilliantly explores a mind, a body, and a life under siege. Diagnosed as a child with a strange illness, brought up in a family given to fantasy and ambition, Lauren Slater developed seizures, auras, neurological disturbances--and an ability to lie. In *Lying: A Metaphorical Memoir*, Slater blends a coming-of-age story with an electrifying exploration of the nature of truth, and of whether it is ever possible to tell--or to know--the facts about a self, a human being, a life. *Lying* chronicles the doctors, the tests, the seizures, the family embarrassments, even as it explores a sensitive child's illness as both metaphor and a means of attention-getting--a human being's susceptibility to malady, and to storytelling as an act of healing and as part of the quest for love. This mesmerizing memoir openly questions the reliability of memoir itself, the trickiness of the mind in perceiving reality, the slippery nature of illness and diagnosis--the shifting perceptions and images of who we are and what, for God's sake, is the matter with us. In *Lying*, Lauren Slater forces us to redraw the boundary between what we know as fact and what we believe we create as fiction. Here a young woman discovers not only what plagues her but also what heals her--the birth of sensuality, her creativity as an artist--in a book that reaffirms how a fine writer can reveal what is common to us all in the course of telling her own unique story. About *Welcome to My Country*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, Every page brims with beautifully rendered images of thoughts, feelings, emotional states. The same can be said about *Lying: A Metaphorical Memoir*.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: The Men's Club Leonard Michaels, 2008-07-08 First published in 1981, Leonard Michaels's *The Men's Club* is a scathing, pitying, absurdly dark and funny novel about manhood in the age of therapy. The climax is fitting, horrific, and wonderfully droll (*The New York Times Book Review*). Seven men, friends and strangers, gather in a house in Berkeley. They intend to start a men's club, the purpose of which isn't immediately clear to any of them; but very quickly they discover a powerful and passionate desire to talk.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Postcolonial Resistance David Jefferess, 2008-05-24 Despite being central to the project of postcolonialism, the concept of resistance has received only limited theoretical examination. Writers such as Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, and Homi K. Bhabha have explored instances of revolt, opposition, or subversion, but there has been insufficient critical analysis of the concept of resistance, particularly as it relates to liberation or social and cultural transformation. In *Postcolonial Resistance*, David Jefferess looks to redress this critical imbalance. Jefferess argues that interpreting resistance, as these critics have done, as either acts of opposition or practices of subversion is insufficient. He discerns in the existing critical literature an alternate paradigm for postcolonial politics, and through close analyses of the work of Mohandas Gandhi and the South African reconciliation project, *Postcolonial Resistance* seeks to redefine resistance to reconnect an analysis of colonial discourse to material structures of colonial exploitation and inequality. Engaging works of postcolonial fiction, literary criticism, historiography, and cultural theory, Jefferess conceives of resistance and reconciliation as dependent upon the transformation of both the colonial subject and the antagonistic nature of colonial power. In doing so, he reframes postcolonial conceptions of resistance, violence, and liberation, thus inviting future scholarship in the field to reconsider past conceptualizations of political power and opposition to that power.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: The Matter of Black Lives Jelani Cobb, David Remnick, 2021-09-28 A collection of *The New Yorker's* groundbreaking writing on race in America—including work by James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Hilton Als, Zadie Smith, and more—with a

foreword by Jelani Cobb This anthology from the pages of the New Yorker provides a bold and complex portrait of Black life in America, told through stories of private triumphs and national tragedies, political vision and artistic inspiration. It reaches back across a century, with Rebecca West's classic account of a 1947 lynching trial and James Baldwin's "Letter from a Region in My Mind" (which later formed the basis of *The Fire Next Time*), and yet it also explores our current moment, from the classroom to the prison cell and the upheavals of what Jelani Cobb calls "the American Spring." Bringing together reporting, profiles, memoir, and criticism from writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Elizabeth Alexander, Hilton Als, Vinson Cunningham, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Malcolm Gladwell, Jamaica Kincaid, Kelefa Sanneh, Doreen St. Félix, and others, the collection offers startling insights about this country's relationship with race. *The Matter of Black Lives* reveals the weight of a singular history, and challenges us to envision the future anew.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *The Hopwood Awards* Nicholas Delbanco, Andrea Beauchamp, Michael Barrett, 2006 Collects poetry and prose by renowned writers who won Hopwood Awards when they were students at the University of Michigan

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *The Odyssey* Homer, 2016-10-20 'Tell me, Muse, of the man of many turns, who was driven far and wide after he had sacked the sacred city of Troy' Twenty years after setting out to fight in the Trojan War, Odysseus is yet to return home to Ithaca. His household is in disarray: a horde of over 100 disorderly and arrogant suitors are vying to claim Odysseus' wife Penelope, and his young son Telemachus is powerless to stop them. Meanwhile, Odysseus is driven beyond the limits of the known world, encountering countless divine and earthly challenges. But Odysseus is 'of many wiles' and his cunning and bravery eventually lead him home, to reclaim both his family and his kingdom. The *Odyssey* rivals the *Iliad* as the greatest poem of Western culture and is perhaps the most influential text of classical literature. This elegant and compelling new translation is accompanied by a full introduction and notes that guide the reader in understanding the poem and the many different contexts in which it was performed and read.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: Postcolonial Ecocriticism Graham Huggan, Helen Tiffin, 2009-12-04 In *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*, Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin examine relationships between humans, animals and the environment in postcolonial texts. Divided into two sections that consider the postcolonial first from an environmental and then a zoocritical perspective, the book looks at: narratives of development in postcolonial writing entitlement and belonging in the pastoral genre colonialist 'asset stripping' and the Christian mission the politics of eating and representations of cannibalism animality and spirituality sentimentality and anthropomorphism the place of the human and the animal in a 'posthuman' world. Making use of the work of authors as diverse as J.M. Coetzee, Joseph Conrad, Daniel Defoe, Jamaica Kincaid and V.S. Naipaul, the authors argue that human liberation will never be fully achieved without challenging how human societies have constructed themselves in hierarchical relation to other human and nonhuman communities, and without imagining new ways in which these ecologically connected groupings can be creatively transformed.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: School Days Patrick Chamoiseau, 1997-01-01 *School Days* (*Chemin-d'Ecole*) is a captivating narrative based on Patrick Chamoiseau's childhood in Fort-de-France, Martinique. It is a revelatory account of the colonial world that shaped one of the liveliest and most creative voices in French and Caribbean literature today. Through the eyes of the boy Chamoiseau, we meet his severe, Francophile teacher, a man intent upon banishing all remnants of Creole from his students' speech. This domineering man is succeeded by an equally autocratic teacher, an Africanist and proponent of "Negritude." Along the way we are also introduced to Big Bellybutton, the class scapegoat, whose tales of Creole heroes and heroines, magic, zombies, and fantastic animals provide a fertile contrast to the imported French fairy tales told in school. In prose punctuated by Creolisms and ribald humor, Chamoiseau infuses the universal terrors, joys, and disappointments of a child's early school days with the unique experiences of a Creole boy forced to confront the dominant culture in a colonial school. *School Days* mixes understanding with laughter, knowledge with entertainment—in ways that will fascinate and delight readers of all ages.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *The Other Half of Happiness* Ayisha Malik, 2017-04-06

Sofia Khan is just married. But no-one told her life was going to be this way . . . Her living situation is in dire straits, her husband Conall is distant, and his annoyingly attractive colleague is ringing all sorts of alarm bells. When her mother forces them into a belated wedding ceremony (elopement: you can run, but you can't hide), Sofia wonders if it might be a chance to bring them together. But when it forces Conall to confess his darkest secret, it might just tear them apart. A book to make you smile, laugh and cry, this is the story of a mixed-race marriage and a mixed-up family, for anyone who's ever struggled to balance their pride with their principles, or stuck around to try to mend a broken heart. PRAISE FOR AYISHA MALIK 'Snort-diet-Coke-out-of-your-nostrils funny . . . will resonate with any woman who's looking for love' Red 'Funny and sparky . . . huge fun.' Jenny Colgan 'The feminist romantic comedy you've been waiting for' Elle 'Fun, fresh and funny' Mhairi McFarlane 'The perfect blend of comedy and romance' Independent

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Colonialism and Gender Relations from Mary*

Wollstonecraft to Jamaica Kincaid Moira Ferguson, 1993 Against the historical background of slavery and colonialism, this study investigates how white and Afro-Caribbean women writers have responded to feminist, abolitionist and post-emancipationist issues. It aims to reveal a relationship between colonial exploitation and female sexual oppression.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Ayiti* Roxane Gay, 2018-06-12 From the New York

Times–bestselling author of *Hunger* and *Bad Feminist*, a powerful short story collection exploring the Haitian diaspora experience. In *Ayiti*, a married couple seeking boat passage to America prepares to leave their homeland. A young woman procures a voodoo love potion to ensnare a childhood classmate. A mother takes a foreign soldier into her home as a boarder, and into her bed. And a woman conceives a daughter on the bank of a river while fleeing a horrific massacre, a daughter who later moves to America for a new life but is perpetually haunted by the mysterious scent of blood. Roxane Gay is an award-winning literary voice praised for her fearless and vivid prose, and her debut collection *Ayiti* exemplifies the raw talent that made her “one of the voices of our age” (National Post, Canada). Praise for *Ayiti* “Highly dimensioned characters and unforgettable moments. . . . Dismantling the glib misconceptions of her complex ancestral home, Gay cuts and thrills. Readers will find her powerful first book difficult to put down.” —Booklist “The themes explored in Gay’s nonfiction, such as the transactional nature of violence and the ways in which stereotypes of poverty add another layer of dehumanization, are just as potent here. Even her more lyrical mode is filtered through a keen sense of the lost promise of one country and the blinkered privilege of the other. It’s Gay’s unflinching directness—the sense that her characters are in the room with you, telling it like it is—that makes her irresistible.” —Vogue “A set of brief, tart stories mostly set amid the Haitian-American community and circling around themes of violation, abuse, and heartbreak . . . This book set the tone that still characterizes much of Gay’s writing: clean, unaffected, allowing the (often furious) emotions to rise naturally out of calm, declarative sentences. That gives her briefest stories a punch even when they come in at two pages or fewer, sketching out the challenges of assimilation in terms of accents, meals, or ‘What You Need to Know About a Haitian Woman’. . . . This debut amply contains the righteous energy that drives all her work.” —Kirkus Reviews

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *If I Could Write this in Fire* Michelle Cliff, 2008 In her first

book-length collection of nonfiction, Cliff interweaves reflections on her life in Jamaica, England, and the United States with a powerful and sustained critique of racism, homophobia, and social injustice. *If I Could Write This in Fire* begins by tracing her transatlantic journey from Jamaica to England, coalescing around a graceful, elliptical account of her childhood friendship with Zoe, who is dark-skinned and from an impoverished, rural background; the divergent life courses that each is forced to take; and the class and color tensions that shape their lives as adults. In other essays and poems, Cliff writes about the discovery of her distinctive, diasporic literary voice, recalls her wild colonial girlhood and sexual awakening, and recounts traveling through an American landscape of racism, colonialism, and genocide - a history of violence embodied in seemingly innocuous souvenirs

and tourist sites.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Where Europe Begins: Stories* Yoko Tawada, 2007-05-17 A gorgeous collection of fantastic and dreamlike tales by one of the world's most innovative contemporary writers. Chosen as a 2005 Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year, *Where Europe Begins* has been described by the Russian literary phenomenon Victor Pelevin as a spectacular journey through a world of colliding languages and multiplying cities. In these stories' disparate settings—Japan, Siberia, Russia, and Germany—the reader becomes as much a foreigner as the author, or the figures that fill this book: the ghost of a burned woman, a traveler on the Trans-Siberian railroad, a mechanical doll, a tongue, a monk who leaps into his own reflection. Through the timeless art of storytelling, Yoko Tawada discloses the virtues of bewilderment, estrangement, and Hilaritas: the goddess of rejoicing.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *Mutual Aid* Dean Spade, 2020-10-27 Mutual aid is the radical act of caring for each other while working to change the world. Around the globe, people are faced with a spiralling succession of crises, from the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change-induced fires, floods, and storms to the ongoing horrors of mass incarceration, racist policing, brutal immigration enforcement, endemic gender violence, and severe wealth inequality. As governments fail to respond to—or actively engineer—each crisis, ordinary people are finding bold and innovative ways to share resources and support the vulnerable. Survival work, when done alongside social movement demands for transformative change, is called mutual aid. This book is about mutual aid: why it is so important, what it looks like, and how to do it. It provides a grassroots theory of mutual aid, describes how mutual aid is a crucial part of powerful movements for social justice, and offers concrete tools for organizing, such as how to work in groups, how to foster a collective decision-making process, how to prevent and address conflict, and how to deal with burnout. Writing for those new to activism as well as those who have been in social movements for a long time, Dean Spade draws on years of organizing to offer a radical vision of community mobilization, social transformation, compassionate activism, and solidarity.

a small place by jamaica kincaid: *The Girl with the Silver Eyes* Willo Davis Roberts, 2017-10-03 “There’s something strange about that kid.” At least that’s what everyone says, but they don’t know the truth. Perfect for fans of *Stranger Things*, this classic novel continues to enthrall. Katie Welker is used to being alone. She would rather read a book than deal with other people. Other people don’t have silver eyes. Other people can’t make things happen just by thinking about them! But these special powers make Katie unusual, and it’s hard to make friends when you’re unusual. Katie knows that she’s different but she’s never done anything to hurt anyone so why is everyone afraid of her? Maybe there are other kids out there who have the same silver eyes...and the same talents...and maybe they’ll be willing to help her.

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