



The Book of Night Women

By Marlon James

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From the **WINNER** of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*

"An undeniable success." — *The New York Times Book Review*

A true triumph of voice and storytelling, *The Book of Night Women* rings with both profound authenticity and a distinctly contemporary energy. It is the story of Lilith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a dark power that they- and she-will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Lilith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans. But when she begins to understand her own feelings, desires, and identity, Lilith starts to push at the edges of what is imaginable for the life of a slave woman, and risks becoming the conspiracy's weak link. But the real revelation of the book-the secret to the stirring imagery and insistent prose-is Marlon James himself, a young writer at once breathtakingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

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The Book of Night Women By Marlon James Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

By exploring the ferociously cruel and dehumanizing practices of slavery in Jamaica, James adds a new chapter to the history of human bondage in the Americas -- "a story we may dare to think we already know" (*New York Times Book Review*). Powerful and eloquent, *The Book of Night Women* is narrated in a lilting Jamaican patois that at once underscores and eerily conflicts with the disturbing images of violence and degradation that James conjures. Though the novel is filled with familiar figures -- dissolute masters, jealous mistresses, house and field slaves -- James never lets them devolve into clichés or ciphers; instead, he creates convincingly human characters. A stunning testament to the dynamics of ultimate power and powerlessness, *Night Women* will keep readers up at night. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC

Review

"Both beautifully written and devastating... Writing in the spirit of Toni Morrison and Alice Walker but in a style all his own, James has conducted an experiment in how to write the unspeakable— even the unthinkable. And the results of that experiment are an undeniable success."

— *The New York Times Book Review*

"The narrative voice is so assured and the descriptions so detailed and believable that one can't help being engaged. This is a book to love. . . . *The Book of Night Women* is hard to pick up, even harder to put down . . . and it deserves to be read."

— *Chicago Tribune*

"*The Book of Night Women* is a searing read, full of blood, tears, and the stench of misery. It's barbaric and ancient, but also familiar in the ways that people, consumed by their differences and divisions, easily overlook all that binds them— the desire for independence, the right to a civilized life, and the need to give and receive love."

— *The Boston Globe*

"*The Book of Night Women* is not merely a historical novel. It is a book as heavily peopled and dark as the night in this isolated and brutal place. It is a canticle of love and hate."

— *Los Angeles Times*

"[Marlon James] has carved strong and compelling female figures out of the harsh landscape of nineteenth-century British-ruled Jamaica . . . *The Book of Night Women's* most poignant feature is James's sensitive and layered treatment of the unlikely romance that blossoms between Lilith and her Irish overseer."

— *The Miami Herald*

"When a novel casts a powerful spell, I find myself trying to locate where it got hold of me. I knew *The Book of Night Women* had me when I started waking at night to worry about its characters. . . . Enslave one people and all are trapped. That familiar concept wears flesh and bone in *The Book of Night Women*. It stands in the wake of Toni Morrison's transcendent slave literature, and it holds its own."

— *The Cleveland Plain- Dealer*

"James has given us an epic novel of late-eighteenth-century West Indian slavery, complete with all its carnage and brutishness, but one that, like a Toni Morrison novel, whispers rather than shouts its horrors."

— *Time Out New York*

“The narrative voice, with its idiosyncratic inflections and storytelling warmth, will pull you into this outsized, marvelous account . . . James re-creates a world and brushes it with an element of the fantastic, but the emotions he conveys are all too real and heartbreaking.”

— *Flavorpill*

“If you pick up *The Book of Night Women*, you might lose a little sleep. The second novel from Kingston native Marlon James will have you flipping pages, thirsty for more story, late into the night. . . . Well crafted and beautifully written...it will stay in your mind for weeks to come.”

—*BookPage*

“Darkly powerful.”

—*The Washington Post*

“*The Book of Night Women* is a slave narrative, a story of rebellion, and a testament to the human heart in conflict with itself. It is a book of rip and rhythm. Of violence and tenderness. Of the healing glance in all the hatred. It reads like Faulkner in another skin. It is a brave book. And like the best, and most dangerous, of stories, it seems as if it was just waiting to be told.”

—Colum McCann

“Marlon James has written an exquisite, haunting, and beautiful novel, impossible to resist. Like the best of literature, *The Book of Night Women* deserves to be passed down hand to hand, generation to generation.”

—Dinaw Mengestu

“With *The Book of Night Women*, Marlon James proves himself to be Jamaica’s answer to Junot Díaz, Edwidge Danticat, and Zadie Smith. James imbues his lively, energetic prose and unforgettable characters with a precocious wisdom about love, race, and history that none of us has ever seen before, but that feels alive, even definitive, as soon as we’ve read it.”

—Colin Channer, author of *The Girl with the Golden Shoes*

“Marlon James’s writing brings to mind early Toni Morrison, Jessica Hagedorn, and Gabriel García Márquez.”

— Kaylie Jones, author of *A Soldier’s Daughter Never Cries*

“Pile them up, a Marlon James character says repeatedly, and Marlon does just that. Pile them up: language, imagery, technique, imagination. All fresh, all exciting.”

—Chris Abani, author of *The Virgin of Flames* and *GraceLand*

“[An] epic narrative . . . as lyrical as it is hypnotic, even in the most violent passages.”

— *The Independent*

“A very nearly perfect work; an exquisite blend of form and content. . . . He bestows on the slave account authenticity and authority.”

— *The Toronto Globe and Mail*

About the Author

Marlon James was born in Jamaica in 1970. His most recent novel is *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, which was shortlisted for the 2015 Man Booker Prize. He is also the author of *The Book of Night Women*, which won the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Minnesota Book Award, and was a finalist for the

2010 National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction and an NAACP Image Award. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for first fiction and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. James lives in Minneapolis.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Laura Mason:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Book of Night Women* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

James Johnson:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The e-book lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, short story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not attempting *The Book of Night Women* that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world considerably better then how they react toward the world. It can't be said constantly that reading routine only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for every you who want to start examining as your good habit, you could pick *The Book of Night Women* become your own starter.

William Medellin:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our information for everything. By a publication we can know everything we would like. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This guide *The Book of Night Women* was filled in relation to science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has several feel when they reading the book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book you wanted.

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