



## The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories

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Some of the freshest, most vital, and diverse new literature written in the twentieth century has emerged from the Caribbean. And central to Caribbean literature is the short story, with its ties with the oral tradition. Now, *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories*, edited by Stewart Brown and John Wickham, brings together fifty-two stories in a major anthology representing over a century's worth of pan-Caribbean short fiction. This breathtaking collection is unique--and indispensable--in its inclusion of authors from the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

The distinctly Anglophone viewpoint of such prominent authors as Jean Rhys, Sam Sevon, V.S. Naipual, and E.A. Markham is richly contrasted by contributions from French, Spanish, and Dutch writers like Alejo Carpentier, René Depestre, and Thea Doelwijt, while the new generation--represented by such writers as Edwidge Danticat and Patrick Chamoiseau--points the way forward for Caribbean writing into the twenty-first century. With his stimulating introduction, Brown provides an up-to-date overview of Caribbean writing. Exploring the literature's themes of history, race, social justice, identity, and migration, he traces its evolution from the gritty naturalism of the Anglophone tradition to the magical realism of the French and Spanish traditions to a body of contemporary pan-Caribbean literature that cannot be contained in any convenient linguistic, geographical, or thematic definition.

Charting the shifting ideologies and styles of this century--from the flamboyant wit of Samuel Selvon to the deceptive simplicity of Jamaica Kincaid--*The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories* delivers a wealth of satisfactions in a single volume with unprecedented range.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

This comprehensive collection by 51 20th-century Caribbean writers is as rich and diverse as the cultures and authors who created them. From Cuba and Haiti to Colombia and Guyana, these stories combine a unique sense of place with universal themes. World-renowned authors like Gabriel Garcia Marquez and V. S. Naipaul are included alongside prominent Caribbean authors Patrick Chamoiseau and Juan Bosch and relative newcomers Edwidge Danticat and Alicia McKenzie. While the majority of pieces portray the area's ties to England and the United States, translations from Spanish, French, and Dutch illustrate that there is not one Caribbean culture or literature, but many. While the stories stand well on their own, the editors' organization, introduction, and bibliography provide valuable historical and literary background. Lyrical and well crafted, these stories are a feast for the ear as well as the mind. Highly recommended for all collections. ?Ellen Flexman, Indianapolis-Marion Cty. P.L.  
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Review

`...Part of what distinguishes the Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories from the Penguin anthology of 1996 is the fact that it contains more stories which were created will away from this anglophone turf...It is a measure of the collective talent of these writers, and of the editors' judiciousness, that the book's egalitarian, inclusive aim does not diminish the quality of its contents. For the most part, both students and the general rfeader will find an array of gelaming starting points for further exploration..." Bill Broun, TLS 14/5/99

A vast, cruise liner of antholoy. Its historical sweep and suggestions for wider reading make it a useful primer for students of West Indian Litrature. Independent on Sunday - 04/07/99

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'Fine anthology.' Max Davidson, Daily Telegraph, 9.10.99

About the Author

**Stewart Brown** is a poet and critic who teaches African and Caribbean literature at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

**John Wickham** is literary editor of the *Nation* newspaper (Barbados) and editor of *Bim*, the Caribbean's longest-established literary journal. One of the most respected figures in Caribbean literature, he also served as a Senator in the Barbados parliament.

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has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is actually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories.

#### **Corey Valenzuela:**

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