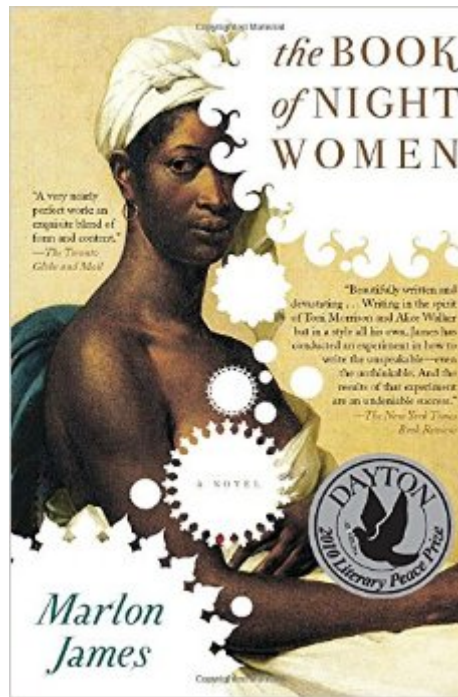


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# The Book Of Night Women



## Synopsis

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 breath-takingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

## Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Riverhead Books; Reprint edition (February 2, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594484368

ISBN-13: 978-1594484360

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (245 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,055 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Historical #2030 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical #2197 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

Marlon James's latest novel, *The Book of Night Women*, opens with an immediate ominous vibe as a much-too-young 13 year-old child dies giving birth to a green-eyed daughter (Lilith) in a dirty, old shack. Merge this unfortunate beginning with the hard living and harder dying on a late 18th century Jamaican sugar cane plantation populated with slaves named after characters portrayed in Greek tragedies and James delivers an intense novel steeped in history, mystery, with a touch of mysticism. At its core, this is a historical novel narrated by the slave, Lilith, and an unknown voice

(which is revealed at the end) in heavy Jamaican patois and broken English. Orphaned at birth, she is raised by the barren and cruel concubine-of-sorts, Circe, and the insane, but caring, Tantalus. Puberty brings unwanted attention and in a brutal act of self-defense, the pretty Lilith is ostracized and placed in Homer's care at the "big house." Drama and more trouble ensue as Lilith vies for the master's attention and affection foregoing Homer's warnings and advice. Homer and Lilith's dialogue and experiences reveal the inter-/intra-relationships and the complex hierarchical strata and blended culture among slaves (house, field, Johnny-jumper), whites (British, French, Irish, Creole, owners, and overseers), Maroons, and Africans (Ashanti, Igbo, etc.). Homer, understanding the power of superstition, practices myal and inflicts an obeah-inspired method of control and revenge across the plantation. The Night Women are a group led by Homer, a natural leader and planner, who has been plotting revenge and a multi-plantation rebellion with other like-minded women on neighboring estates.

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