

Cambridge Caryl Phillips

writing in the key of life is the first critical collection devoted to the british caribbean author caryl phillips a major voice in contemporary anglophone literatures phillips s impressive body of fiction drama and non fiction has garnered wide praise for its formal inventiveness and its incisive social criticism as well as its unusually sensitive understanding of the human condition the twenty six contributions offered here including two by phillips himself address the fundamental issues that have preoccupied the writer in his now three decades long career the enduring legacy of history the intricate workings of identity and the pervasive role of race class and gender in societies worldwide most of phillips s writing is covered here in essays that approach it from various thematic and interpretative angles these include the interplay of fact and fiction phillips s sometimes ambiguous literary affiliations his long standing interest in the black and jewish diasporas his exploration of britain and its others and his recurrent use of motifs such as masking and concealment writing in the

key of life testifies to the vitality of phillipsian scholarship and confirms the significance of an artist whose concerns at once universal and topical find particular resonance with the state of the world at the beginning of the twenty first century contributors thomas bonnici fatim boutros gordon collier sandra courtman stef craps alessandra di maio malik ferdinand cindy gabrielle lucie gillet dave gunning tsunehiko kato wendy knepper bénédict le dent john mcleod peter h marsden joan miller powell imen najar caryl phillips renée schatteman kirpal singh petra tournay theodotou chika unigwe itala vivan abigail ward louise yelin

thematically and structurally the work of the kittitian british writer caryl phillips reimagines the notion of genealogy phillips s fiction drama and non fiction foreground broken filiations and forever deferred promises of new affiliations in the aftermath of slavery and colonization his texts are also in dialogue with multiple historical figures and literary influences imagining around the life of the african american comedian bert williams and the caribbean writer jean rhys or retelling the story of othello additionally phillips s work resonates with that of other writers and visual artists such as derek walcott toni morrison or isaac julien written to honor the career of renown phillipsian scholar bénédict le dent the contributions to this volume including one by phillips himself explore the multiple ramifications of genealogy across and beyond phillips s work

seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject english language and literature studies literature grade 13 university of louvain language english abstract in our postcolonial time many novels have tackled and still tackle issues such as slavery racism belonging and identity in this essay we will mainly focus on one author that belongs to this wave namely caryl phillips he was born in st kitts a caribbean island in 1958 1 he came to britain at the age of four months and studied english literature at oxford university 2 he is currently a well known postcolonial writer whose works largely focus on the legacy of the atlantic slave trade and its consequences for the african diaspora 1 in this essay we will analyze phillips fourth novel cambridge3 which won the sunday times young writer of the year award 1 we will deal with the issue of the identity of the slaves especially with regards to naming in fact slaves were always given a new name by their owners thus we will analyze the impact of this naming on the slaves identity and the ambiguity to which it can lead however we will first provide a definition of the concept of identity then we will go through how naming was applied in the history of the slaves and what was its significance finally we will undertake an analysis of two characters of cambridge and focus on their identity with regards to their different names in addition we will refer to another recent postcolonial novel namely the long song4 by andrea levy

this monograph examines caryl phillips s the nature of blood 1997 a novel exploring recurring expressions of exclusion and discrimination throughout history with particular focus on jewish and african diasporas and the storytelling of its migrant characters particular attention is given to the analysis of characters revealing different facets of the jewish question maria festa also provides a historical excursus on the notion of race and considers another character alluding to shakespeare s othello to expose the paradoxes of

the relationship between subjugator and subjugated the study makes the case that among the novel's most remarkable achievements is Phillips's effort to redress the absence of the other from our history that by depicting experiences of displacement and by confronting readers with seemingly disconnected narrative fragments the nature of blood is a reminder of the missing stories the voices marginalised and often racialized that western history has consistently failed to include in its accounts of the past and arguably its present

three plays by playwright and novelist Caryl Phillips written in the 1980s and collected here for the first time Strange Fruit is a powerful study of a black family caught between two cultures where there is darkness examines the plight of a West Indian man Albert Williams on the eve of his return to the Caribbean after an absence of twenty five years The Shelter alternates between the late eighteenth century and 1950s London exploring the relationship between a black man and a white woman

the powerful and evocative story of a young West Indian man's search for home in 1960s London by the multi award winning author dubbed one of the literary giants of our time New York Times

this book offers a timely intervention in current debates on diaspora and diasporic identity by affirming the importance of narrative as a discursive mode to understand the human face of contemporary migrations and dislocations focusing on the Caribbean double diaspora Pulitano offers a close reading of a range of popular works by four well known writers currently living in the United States Jamaica Kincaid Michelle Cliff Edwidge Danticat and Caryl Phillips navigating the map of fictional characters testimonial accounts and autobiographical experiences Pulitano draws attention to the lived experience of contemporary diasporic formations the book offers a provocative re thinking of socio scientific analyses of diaspora by discussing the embodied experience of contemporary diasporic communities drawing on disciplines such as Caribbean postcolonial diaspora and indigenous studies along with theories on border thinking and coloniality modernity contesting restrictive national and linguistic boundaries when discussing literature originating from the Caribbean Pulitano situates the transnational location of Caribbean born writers within current debates of transnational American studies and investigates the role of immigrant writers in discourses of race ethnicity citizenship and belonging exploring the multifarious intersections between home exile migration and displacement the book makes a significant contribution to memory and trauma studies human rights debates and international law aiming at a wide range of scholars and specialized agents beyond the strictly literary circle this volume affirms the humanity of personal stories and experiences against the invisibility of immigrant subjects in most theoretical accounts of diaspora and migration

Conversations with Caryl Phillips collects nineteen interviews conducted over more than two decades on both sides of the Atlantic and in

the caribbean while phillips b 1958 admittedly tends to hide behind his characters in his fiction he is completely forthcoming in his interviews where he describes in detail the personal experiences of migration and dislocation that inspired his writing he shares ideas about his aesthetics in particular his noted use of a fractured polyphonic form these exchanges demonstrate phillips s knowledge about the contemporary world of politics and of writing while revealing his engaging humor his sharp intelligence and his deep commitment to the overarching aims of his work

this examination of caryl phillips novels ranges from the final passage to the nature of blood and considers them in relation to his plays and essays starting with a textual analysis of his fiction it examines how it charts a diasporic awareness

european writers in exile collects a series of original essays that address the writers universal existential dilemma when viewed through the lens of exile who am i where am i from and what do i write and to whom while we often understand the term exile to refer to writers who have either been forced to leave their home country or region or chosen self exile this term need not be defined so narrowly and the contributors to this volume explore a range of interesting and evolving definitions various countries in europe have long been both a refuge for people and writers from many countries and a strife torn region which has forced many to flee within the continent or beyond it the phrase in exile involves writers moving across borders in multiple directions and for multiple reasons including for reasons of duress or personal quest and these themes are addressed and critiqued in these essays this volume naturally examines the cataclysmic and near universal exilic experiences relating to the world wars including essays on thomas mann vladimir nabokov hannah arendt and leo strauss additionally essays address the unique early twentieth century experiences of emile zola franz kafka joseph conrad and james joyce more contemporary essay subjects include milan kundera norman mane a eva hoffman caryl phillips and w g sebald this collection of transnational globalized european literature studies envisions understanding the intersection of our contemporary world and various writers in exile in new cultural historical spatial and epistemological frameworks how does literary production in an increasingly globalized world when seen from exile affect a view back towards a country or region left behind or conversely how does exile push a writer to look outward to new trans nationalized space s these and other questions are important to investigate taken in sum european writers in exile offers an academically rigorous important and cohesive volume

this book investigates the nature of home and nation in post imperial british novels which deal with the loss of empire and its uncanny presence at home it delves into histories of british colonialism the end of the empire decolonisation post second world war nation building and devolution all of which resurface in four selected novels of the late twentieth and early twenty first centuries marina warner s indigo 1992 caryl phillips s the nature of blood 1997 julian barnes s arthur george 2005 and zadie smith s nw 2012 soody gholami draws on postcolonial theory and freud s unheimlich translated as unhomely and uncanny to investigate the novels engagement

with postwar government policies specifically in the areas of social housing the british welfare state and the national curriculum the analytical perspective highlights the novels evocation of unhomely england that challenges underlying illiberal and jingoistic national narratives exploring the writers different depictions of home interiors architectural features and british local landscapes this book argues that post imperial british novels continue to highlight racial gendered and class inequalities that undergird domestic perceptions of belonging and national identity in post imperial britain gholami also refers to brexit as the symptom and result of the unresolved history and legacy of colonialism which the novels studied have anticipated all along combining postcolonial literary critical and psychoanalytical methodology this book will be of interest to scholars of literature postcolonial studies social policy and other disciplines that engage with the concept of home

moving beyond the postcolonial literature field s traditional focus on the novel this book shines a light on the minor genres in which postcolonial issues are also explored the contributors examine the intersection of generic issues with postcolonial realities in regions such as south africa nigeria new zealand indonesia australia the united kingdom and the caribbean these minor genres include crime fiction letter writing radio plays poetry the novel in verse and short stories as well as blogs and essays the volume closes with robert antoni s discussion of his use of the vernacular and digital resources in *as flies to whatless boys* 2013 and suggests that major genres might yield new webs of meaning when digital media are mobilized with a view to creating new forms of hybridity and multiplicity that push genre boundaries in focusing on underrepresented and understudied genres this book pays justice to the multiplicity of the field of postcolonial studies and gives voice to certain literary traditions within which the novel occupies a less central position this book was originally published as a special issue of the journal of postcolonial writing

born in st kitts and brought up in the uk bestselling author caryl phillips has written about and explored the experience of migration for more than thirty years through his spellbinding and award winning novels plays and essays now in a magnificent and beautifully written new book phillips reflects on the shifting notions of race culture and belonging before and after the september 11 attacks on the world trade center *color me english* opens with an inspired story from his boyhood a poignant account of a shared sense of isolation he felt with the first muslim boy who joined his school phillips then turns to his years living and teaching in the united states including a moving account of the day the twin towers fell we follow him across europe and through africa while he grapples with making sense of colonial histories and contemporary migrations engaging with legendary african american and international writers from james baldwin and richard wright to chinua achebe and ha jin who have aspired to see themselves and their own societies more clearly a truly transnational reflection on race and culture in a post 9 11 world *color me english* is a stunning collection of writing that is at once timeless and urgent

offering a wide ranging study of contemporary literature film visual art and performance by writers and artists who live and work in the united kingdom but also maintain strong ties to postcolonial africa and the caribbean living cargo explores how contemporary black british culture makers have engaged with the institutional archives of colonialism and the atlantic slave trade in order to reimagine blackness in british history and to make claims for social and political redress steven blevins calls this reimagining unhousing history an aesthetic and political practice that animates and improvises on the institutional archive repurposing it toward different ends and new possibilities he discusses the work of novelists including caryl phillips fred d aguiar david dabdeen and bernardine evaristo filmmakers isaac julien and inge blackman performance poet dorothea smartt fashion designer ozwald boateng artists hew locke and yinka shonibare and the urban redevelopment of bristol england which unfolded alongside the public demand to remember the city s slave trading past living cargo argues that the colonial archive is neither static nor residual but emergent by reassembling historical fragments and traces consolidated in the archive these artists not only perform a kind of counter historiography they also imagine future worlds that might offer amends for the atrocities of the past

this study presents a critical examination of caryl phillips fictional and non fictional explorations of the black diaspora

social worker keith separated from his wife and their teenage son is floundering in a world of fraught sexual politics parental responsibilities and class expectations he takes refuge from his domestic problems in a long cherished writing project and a renewed relationship with his aging father who came to britain as part of the windrush generation but for the first time in his life he begins to feel extremely vulnerable as a black man in english society meanwhile annabelle watches the man she married against the wishes of her parents struggle with his grip on reality despite their three year estrangement she realises that they have no choice but to close ranks if they are to protect their son from a world of street gangs and violence

a brilliant hybrid of reportage fiction and historical fact that tells the stories of three black men whose tragic lives speak resoundingly to the place and role of the foreigner in english society observer francis barber given to the great eighteenth century writer samuel johnson afforded an unusual depth of freedom which after johnson s death would help hasten his wretched demise randolph turpin britain s first black world champion boxer who made history in 1951 by defeating sugar ray robinson and who ended his life in debt and despair david oluwale a nigerian stowaway who arrived in leeds in 1949 the events of whose life and death would question the reality of english justice and serve as a wake up call for the entire nation each of these men s stories is told in a different perfectly realized voice each illuminates the complexity and drama that lie behind the tragedy of their lives and each explores the themes at the heart of caryl phillips work belonging identity and race

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