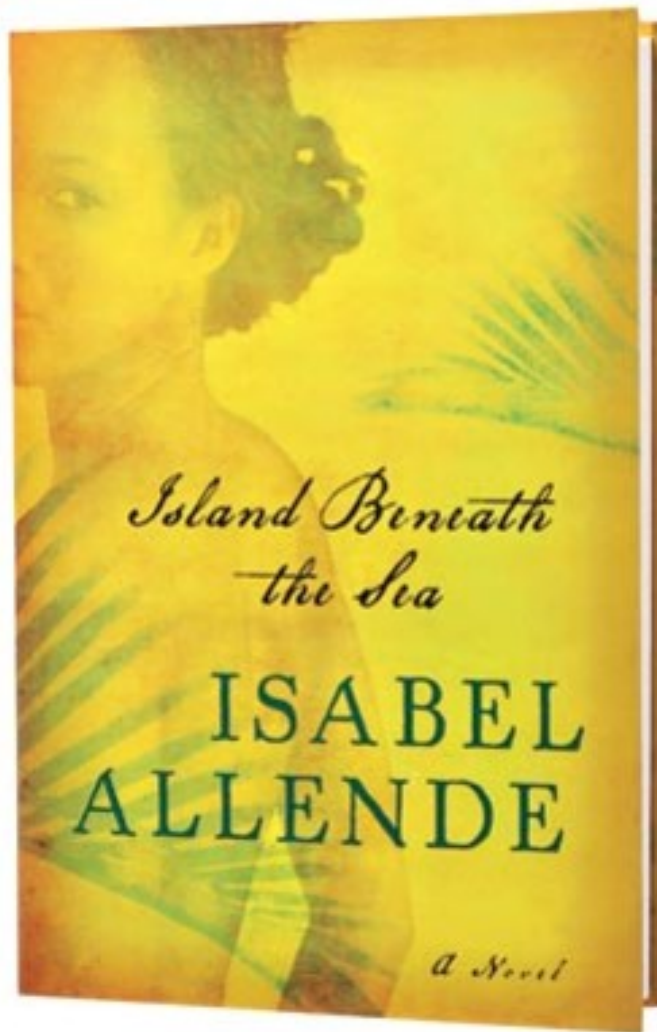


Reader's Roadmap

Helping you navigate the world of books



F A4325is

Book of the Month
September 2010



Reader's Roadmaps enable readers to pursue threads of interest inspired by a book they've just read.

Island Beneath the Sea

F A4325is

The novel begins in the sugar plantations of Saint-Domingue (today's Haiti) and ends in the lavish parlours of New Orleans. It is a lush epic of slavery, forbidden love, struggles over secret children, racial castes, and the only successful slave revolt in history. Spanning four decades it tells the story of Zarité known as Tété, who was born a slave on the Island of Saint-Domingue and who was the daughter of an African mother she never knew and one of the white sailors who raped her and brought her into bondage. Tété, while still a child, becomes a house slave for the French owner of the sugarcane plantation, Toulouse Valmorain, to look after his sickly wife. As a teenager she becomes his concubine and bears him children. Against the murderous backdrop of the sugarcane plantation, their lives become even more intertwined when the bloody revolution of Toussaint Louverture arrives and they must flee the island that will soon become Haiti. They head for the opportunity and decadence of New Orleans of the time.



Though Tété's childhood is one of brutality and fear, she finds solace in the traditional rhythms of African drums and in the voodoo spirits she discovers through her fellow slaves and through dancing. She becomes determined to find love amid loss, to offer humanity though her own has been battered, and to pursue her own identity in the cruelest circumstances.

Isabel Allende

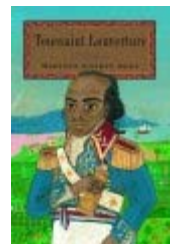
Isabel Allende, an entrancing and lyrical storyteller, cherished the world over, was born in Peru, raised in Chile and now lives in California. She was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Letters in 2004. Her books have been translated in several languages and have become bestsellers across the world. She states that in her research for this novel, she found that the French flavour of New Orleans, the cooking, the voodoo and a lot of the customs were brought in by refugees who fled Haiti during the slave revolution at the end of the 18th century.



She maintains that the publication of the novel in English this year was a coincidence and was definitely not to take advantage of the situation of Haiti's most recent misfortunes in January 2010, since the book was published in Spanish in 2009.

Haiti -- History -- Revolution, 1791-1804 --

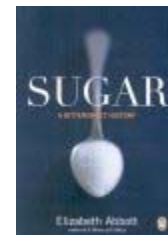
- Bell, Madison Smartt. Toussaint Louverture : a Biography
972.9403 T734b
- Carpentier, Alejo The Kingdom of This World
F C2975k



Haiti -- Religious Life and Customs

- Davis, Wade. The Serpent and the Rainbow
299.67 D265

- Wilentz, Amy. The Rainy Season : Haiti Since Duvalier
972.9407 W676

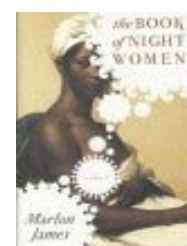


Sugar

- Abbott, Elizabeth. Sugar: a Bittersweet History
641.336 A131
- Mintz, Sidney Wilfred. Sweetness and Power: the Place of Sugar in Modern History
641.336 M667

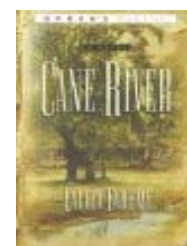
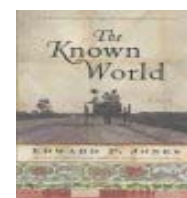
Sugarcane Plantations - Fiction

- Levy, Andrea. The Long Song
F L6681L
- James, Marlon. The Book of Night Women
F J283b
- Martin, Valerie, Property
F M3833p
- Phillips, Caryl. Cambridge
F P5585c



Slaves and Slavery - Fiction

- Condé, Maryse. Victoire : My Mother's Mother
F C745v
- Grissom, Kathleen. The Kitchen House
F G8694k
- Hill, Lawrence. The Book of Negroes
F H646b
- Jones, Edward P. The Known World
F J764k
- Phillips, Caryl. Crossing the River
F P585cr
- Straight, Susan. A Million Nightingales
F S896m
- Tademy, Lalita. Cane River
F T121c



Magic Realism

- Bulgakov, Mikhail Afanasevich. The Master and Margarita
F B933
- Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate
F E77
- Gaiman, Neil. American Gods



F G141a

- García Márquez, Gabriel. One Hundred Years of Solitude
F G216
- Martel, Yann. Life of Pi
F M3761L
- Murakami, Haruki. The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle
F M9725w
- Rushdie, Salman. Midnight's Children
F R953m



Haitian Authors

Danticat, Edwige
Lafferrière, Dany
Philoctète, René



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