



Caribbean-American Heritage Month Official 2024 Book List

This is a resource of 30 book covers, write-ups and affiliate links for the books that have been selected for 2024 NCAHM book list from books by Caribbean authors published between 2022-2024. There are many, many wonderful Caribbean books that are not included. If you see a book on this list that you would like to create a syllabus or teaching tool for, please reach contact, ncahm.committee@icsdc.org

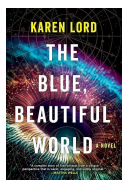
Descriptions excerpted from the publishers.

Fiction and Poetry



1. [Blue: A Novel](#) by Emmelie Prophets Translated by Tina Kover (Amazon Crossing January 2022)

An award-winning Haitian novel about silence, beauty, and the solidarity of tears.



2. [The Blue, Beautiful World: A Novel](#) by Karen Lord (Del Rey August 2023)

As first alien contact transforms Earth, a team of gifted visionaries races to create a new future in this wondrous science fiction novel from the award-winning author of *The Best of All Possible Worlds*.



3. [Console: Poems](#) by Colin Channel (Farrar, Straus and Giroux July 2023)

With allusive links to photography, music, sea mammals, mistranslation, and the universal ritual of “the walk,” *Console* reorganizes our sense of time, collapses and rebreaks the remembered and certain, renames the familiar, reaches for settled etymologies, and turns words inside out.

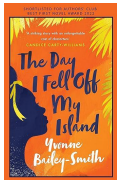
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4. [The Day I Fell Off My Island](#) by Yvonne Bailey-Smith (Myriad Editions May 2022)

The sudden death of her beloved grandmother leads Erna, a teenage Jamaican girl, to be uprooted from her island. Reunited in England with her siblings and a mother she barely knows, Erna spends the next decade on a complex journey of estrangement and arrival, new beginnings and the uncovering of long-buried secrets.



5. [Family Lore](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo (Ecco August 2023)

Spanning the three days prior to the living wake of their sister and cousin, Flor, national bestseller *Family Lore* traces the lives of each of the Marte women, weaving together past and present, Santo Domingo and New York City.



6. [The God of Good Looks](#) by Breanne McIvor (William Morrow May 16, 2023)

Disgraced model-writer Bianca Bridge can't stand hotshot makeup maven Obadiah Cortland. And he lets her know the feeling is mutual. But when working together is their last resort, they must navigate scandal, revenge, and unexpected affection to unlock the beauty that's found in redemption.



7. [Goodbye Bay](#) by Jennifer Rahim (Peepal Tree Press 2023)

It is 1963, one year after Trinidad's Independence, but for Anna Bridgemohan, the year is one of personal crisis. She takes up a temporary post in the remote coastal village of Macaima, hoping to find space and time to reflect. But long before the year is up, Anna has been immersed in an intense seasoning in Macaima that will change her forever.

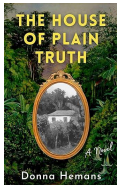
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8. [The House of Plain Truth](#) by Donna Hemans (Zibby Books January 2024)

When Pearline travels from Brooklyn to her childhood home in Jamaica to be at her father's side, Pearline isn't prepared for a tense reunion with her sisters or for her father's startling deathbed wish that she repair their long-broken family legacy and find the sister and two brothers no one has seen in more than 50 years.



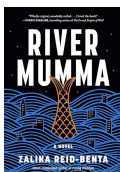
9. [How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water](#) by Angie Cruz (Flatiron Books September 2023)

When, in her mid-50s, Cara Romero loses her job, she is set up with a job counselor, to find work but Cara instead narrates the story of her life. Over the course of twelve hilarious sessions, Cara confronts the darkest secrets and regrets of a woman buffeted by life but still full of fight.



10. [Island Man](#) by Joanne Skerret (Red Hen Press August 2023)

A grieving Hector Peterson and his estranged father Winston Telemacque arrive on the island of Dominica to spread his mother's ashes when Hurricane Maria strikes. Amid the devastation, the fragile peace between father and son is tested as long-buried family secrets at the heart of Hector's identity are unearthed.



11. [Mumma River](#) by Zaliqa Reid-Benta (Penguin Canada August 2023)

When the Jamaican deity, River Mumma, appears to Alicia telling her that she has 24 hours to recover her stolen jeweled comb, Alicia and two friends find themselves on a dangerous mission leading them to discover much more than they bargained for.

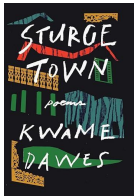
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12. [Sturge Town](#) by Kwame Dawes (Peepal Tree Press October 2023)

The site of the ruined ancestral home of Kwame Dawes's family, in one of the earliest post-slavery free villages in Jamaica, Sturge Town is at once a place of myth and, for Dawes, a metaphor of the journeying that has taken him from Ghana, through Jamaica, and to the United States. In this volume, poet Kwame Dawes explores the mythic, ancestral, and spiritual journeys that make up a life.



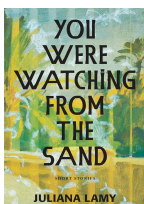
13. [What Start Bad a Mornin'](#) by Carol Mitchell (Central Avenue Publishing September 2023)

Using three interwoven narratives spanning the United States, Trinidad, and Jamaica, *What Start Bad a Mornin'* gives voice to an immigrant woman forced to confront her repressed memories of violent trauma. Only then can she discover what she is capable of when it comes to self-preservation and the protection of her family.



14. [When the Vibe is Right](#) by Sarah Dass (Balzer + Bray May 30, 2023)

Faced with the possible collapse of her family's carnival band, costume designer Tess finds, to her chagrin, that she must team up with annoying social media influencer, Brandon in a desperate attempt to revive the company. Set in lush, gorgeous Trinidad, this is a novel about finding love in the most unexpected places.



15. [You Were Watching from the Sand](#) by Juliana Lamy (Red Hen Press September 2023)

A collection of short stories in which Haitian men, women, and children who find their lives cleaved by the interminably strange bite back at the bizarre with their own oddities.



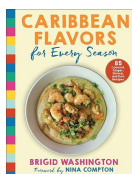
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Non-Fiction



16. [Belmont Portfolio](#) by John Robert Lee (Peepal Tree Press November 2023)

A varied collection of poems in which the observational, the sacramental, the elegiac, the prophetic and the personal mesh together.



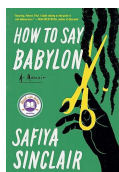
17. [Caribbean Flavors for Every Season : 85 Coconut, Ginger, Shrimp, and Rum Recipes](#) by Brigid Washington (Skyhorse June 2022)

This innovative cookbook looks at the four seasons through four ingredients that are integral to Caribbean flavors and culture, but available everywhere: coconut, ginger, shrimp, and rum.



18. [Harvesting Haiti: Reflections on Natural Disasters](#) by Myriam J A Chancy (University of Texas Press October 2023)

In *Harvesting Haiti*, Chancy examines the structures that have resulted in Haiti's post-earthquake conditions and reflects at key points after the earthquake on its effects on vulnerable communities. Longlisted for the 2024 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.



19. [How to Say Babylon](#) by Safiya Sinclair (37 Ink October 2023)

With echoes of *Educated* and *Born a Crime*, *How to Say Babylon* is the stunning story of the author's struggle to break free of her rigid Rastafarian upbringing, ruled by her father's strict patriarchal views and repressive control of her childhood, to find her own voice as a woman and poet.

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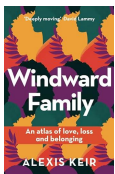


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20. [Love the Dark Days](#) by Ira Mather (Peepal Tree Press July 2022)

Set in India, England, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, *Love the Dark Days* follows the story of a girl of mixed middle-class Hindu and Elite Muslim parentage from post-independent India to her family's migration to post-colonial Trinidad.



21. [Windward Family: An atlas of love, loss and belonging](#) by Alexis Keir (Thread February 2, 2023)

From the Caribbean to England, North America and New Zealand, and spanning generations from the 19th century to the present, *Windward Family* takes you inside a Black British family, separated by thousands of miles but united by love, loss and belonging.

Children's and Young Adult



22. [Big Tune the Rise of the Dance Hall Prince](#) by Alliah L. Agostini, illustrated by Shamar Knight-Justice (Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) March 2023)

Set within a vibrant Caribbean American neighborhood and told to a rhythmic beat, *Big Tune* is a story of Black boy joy that touches on determination, confidence to express who you are, selflessness, and community gratitude.



23. [Good Night My Sweet Island](#) by Petrea Honychurch Seaman, illustrated by Susanne Heitz (Papillote Press September 2023)

Saying goodnight to all things we love on a tropical island. Animals, birds, fish, fruits and forests, drums and dances, the rivers and the rain, all get put to bed as the sun goes down in this poetic and visually stimulating journey.

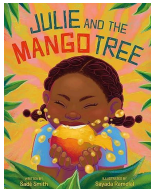
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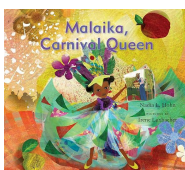
24. [Julie and the Mango Tree](#) by Sade Smith, illustrated by Sayada Ramdial (Feiwe! & Friends August 2023)

Julie loves all kinds of fruit, but mangoes are her favorite. One afternoon, Julie goes to the mango tree in her yard to ask for a snack. But no matter how nicely she asks, the tree just won't drop a single mango! Will Julie be able to convince the tree to release a mango?



25. [Last Canto of the Dead](#) (Outlaw Saints, 2) by Daniel José Older (Rick Riordan Presents May 2023)

Two gods-turned-teenagers, Mateo and Chela, wage simultaneous battles in the Caribbean and Brooklyn. As gods, their powers know no limits. But as teenagers--separated, desperate, grieving--what will become of them? And what will become of their people?



26. [Malaika, Carnival Queen](#) by Nadia L. Hohn, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher (Groundwood Books May 2023)

Malaika learns about her father, who came to Canada as a migrant farm worker when she was just a baby and who shared her love of carnival.



27. [Nightmare Island](#) by Shakirah Bourne (Nightmare Press June 2023)

When her brother is taken for treatment to Duppy Island, Serenity discovers that the island is home to douens—faceless children with backward feet who are trapped in limbo between the world of the living and the land of the dead. And unless Serenity acts soon, her brother is going to join their ranks.

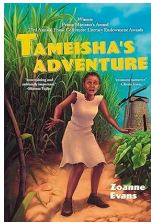
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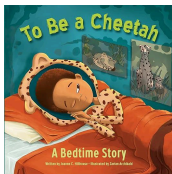


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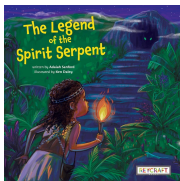
28. [Tameisha's Adventure](#) by Zoanne Evans (CaribbeanReads 2023)

On a fateful visit to the school library, Tameisha finds herself transported to 1840 Barbados, just post-emancipation. Although slavery has ended, the plight of Black people remains dire. Will she find her way back to 21st century Barbados or will she have to stay in the 19th century and accept her awful fate?



29. [To Be a Cheetah A Bedtime Story](#) by Joanne C. Hillhouse, illustrated by Zavian Archibald (Sunbird Books July 4, 2023)

This loving bedtime story transports readers from a cozy bedroom to the savannas of Africa and back again.



30. [The Legend of the Spirit Serpent](#) by Adaiah Sanford, illustrated by Ken Daley (Reycraft Brooks May 2022)

This modern retelling of a traditional Kalinago legend from the Caribbean island of Dominica recounts the story of a huge serpent who once guarded the indigenous people.
