



## Caribbean-American Heritage Month Official 2025 Book List Book Bankra

The 2025 Caribbean-American Heritage Month will once again be recognized in June. There are many activities planned for each week in June, including discussions of environmental issues and a domestic agenda, a recognition of Restaurant week, and a business conference.

As a part of the celebration, we will release a list of [thirty](#) books released between 2023 and 2025; Caribbean literature written by Caribbean-connected authors with Caribbean themes. The list includes literary work, horror, mystery, romance, poetry, non-fiction, children, all in one. We will also have a different book-related event every Tuesday evening in June on Zoom.

We welcome you to take part in our [Book Bankra](#). A bankra basket is a large woven basket used in the Caribbean to carry produce and other possessions. At the Caribbean-American Heritage Month Book Bankra, we invite everyone to put down their literal and figurative baskets, relieve themselves from the weariness of the day, and enjoy stories, truths, and recipes from a broad range of Caribbean islands.

The list is below grouped by genre with summaries pulled from descriptions made public by the publishers. The links are affiliate links, so ICS will earn a small amount if you purchase the book, but the price of the book to you does not change.

Also look at the books we highlighted on the [2024 list](#).

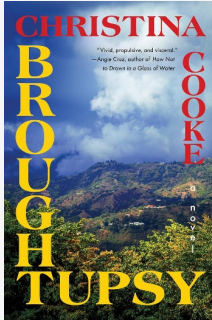
## Fiction

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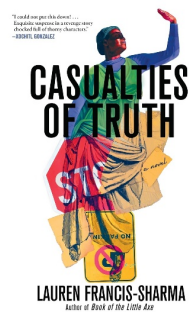
A House for Miss Pauline by Diana MacCaluay (Algonquin Books 2025) A timely and nuanced story about identity, colonialism, and land which introduces an unforgettable 95-year old heroine who is a model for living life on her own terms.

2



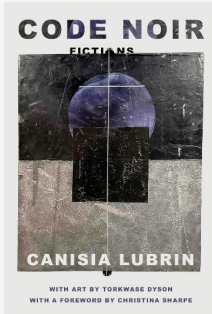
Broughtupsy Christina Cook (Catapult 2024) At once cinematic yet intimate, *Broughtupsy* is an enthralling debut novel about a young Jamaican woman grappling with grief as she discovers her family, her home, is always just out of reach.

3



Casualties of Truth by Lauren Francis-Sharma (Atlantic Monthly Press 2025) A riveting literary novel with the sharp edges of a thriller about the abuses of history and the costs of revenge, set between Washington, D.C., and Johannesburg, South Africa.

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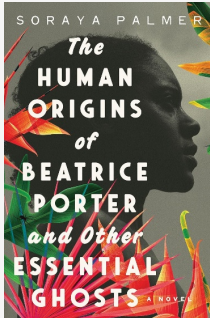
Code Noir: Fictions by Canisia Lubrin (Soft Skull 2025) Based on the infamous Code Noir, a set of real historical decrees originally passed in 1685 by King Louis XIV of France defining the conditions of slavery in the French colonial empire, *Code Noir* is a collection of stories ranging in style from contemporary realism to dystopian literature, from futuristic fantasy to historical fiction.

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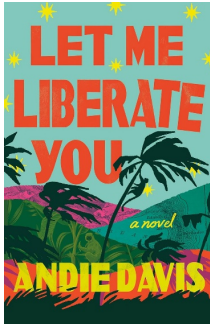
The Dating Countdown (Island Bites) by N.G. Peltier (Independent 2024) Remi Daniels knows what she wants. Maxine King. She screwed up when they were teenagers allowing them to part on bad terms, but now that Maxine is divorced and back on the island their chemistry can't be denied. And Remi is ready to pick up right where they left off.

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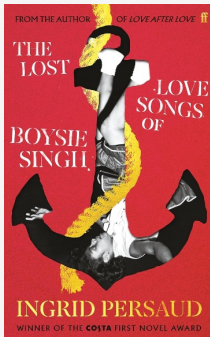
The Human Origins of Beatrice Porter and Other Essential Ghosts: A Novel by Soraya Palmer (Catapult 2024) Sisters Zora and Sasha wrestle with family secrets and reckon with Caribbean folklore in this story of the love between sisters who don't always see eye to eye.

7



Let Me Liberate You by Andie Davis (Little A 2024) A restless New York artist searching for purpose returns to Barbados and stumbles into the role of activist in this scathingly funny satire about privilege, family discord, and performative do-gooding.

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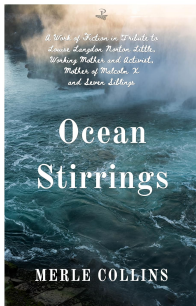
The Lost Love Songs of Boysie Singh by Ingrid Persaud (Faber & Faber 2024) Four lives, connected and controlled by one man: the notorious, charismatic gangster Boysie Singh.

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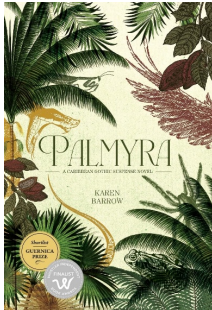
**The Nightward: Book One of the Waters of Lethe** by R. S. Garcia (HarperCollins 2024) In this world of Caribbean mythology where women warrior-magicians rule, a child princess and her bodyguard must flee an attempted coup and evade the wave of darkness sent to kill her.

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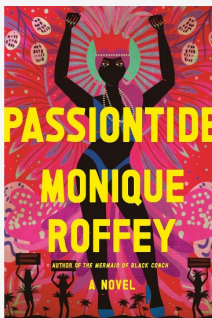
**Ocean Stirrings** by Merle Collins (Peepal Tree Press Ltd. 2023) A mix of fictive narrative, letters and poetry, with episodes of great warmth, exuberant humor, drama, and heartbreak, telling a story of Louse Little, the Grenadian mother of the revolutionary firebrand Malcolm X.

11




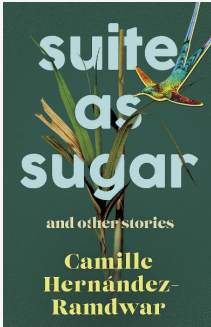
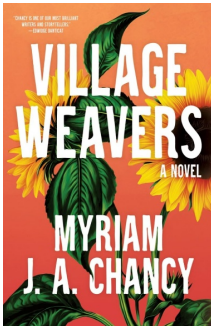
**Palmyra** by Karen Barrow (FriesenPress 2024) A part coming-of-age story, part Gothic mystery, Palmyra conjures a world teeming with divided loyalties, family secrets, and ambition.

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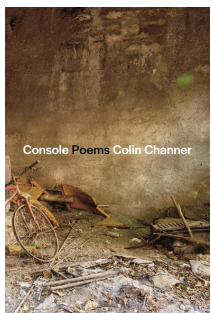


**Passiontide** by Monique Roffey (Knopf 2024) When a female musician is found murdered on a small tropical island, after a string of similar deaths, outraged local women take matters into their own hands.

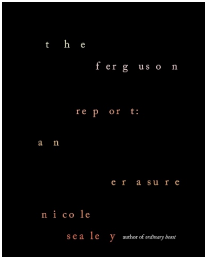



- 13  *Skin Thief* by Suzan Palumbo (Neon Hemlock Press 2023) The stories in this collection of dark fantasy and horror short stories grapple with the complexities of identity, racism, homophobia, immigration, oppression and patriarchy through nature, gothic hauntings, Trinidadian folklore and shape shifting.
- 14  *Suite as Sugar: and Other Stories* by Camille Hernández-Ramdwar (Ecco May 2024) *Suite as Sugar* is a testimony to the unseen forces, always vigilant, ever ready, imbuing the characters in this collection with both resilience and trauma.
- 15  *Village Weavers* by Myriam J. A. Chancy (Tin House Books 2024) An extraordinary and enduring story of two families—forever joined by country, and by long-held secrets—and two girls with a bond that refuses to be broken.

## Poetry

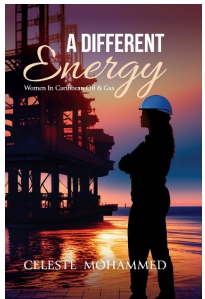
- 16  *Console: Poems* by Colin Channer (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023) With allusive links to photography, music, sea mammals, mistranslation, and the universal ritual of “the walk,” *Console* reorganizes our sense of time, collapses and rebreaks the remembered and certain, renames the familiar, reaches for settled etymologies, and turns words inside out.

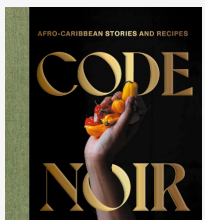
- 17  Earthly Gods by Jessica Nirvana Ram (Variant Literature 2024) A poetry collection about expectations and the search for the definition of *holy*.

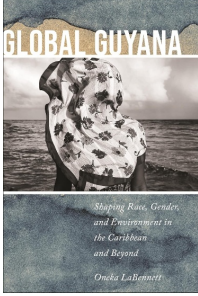
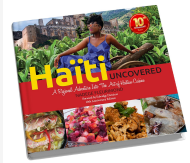
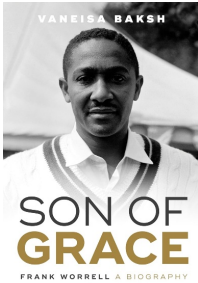
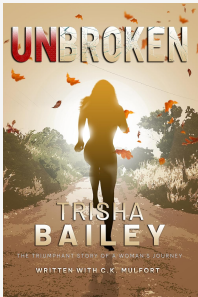
- 18  Makeshift Altar: Poems by Amy Alvarez (The University Press of Kentucky 2024) An exploration of the cultural, spiritual, and place-based experiences of Afro-Caribbean and African American diasporic peoples in this haunting and emotionally charged collection of poems that meditates on the meaning of home and existence.

- 19  Looking for Cazabon by Lawrence Scott (Papillotte Press 2025) The poems celebrate love, friendships and Trinidad's natural beauty but it is a wonderment undercut by violence, both historical and contemporary.


## Non-Fiction

- 20  A Different Energy : Women in Caribbean Oil & Gas by Celeste Mohammed (Words Matter Communications Limited 2023) In powerful, eye-opening portraits of eight Trini, Surinamese and Guyanese women who are employed in the Caribbean oil and gas industry, Mohammed uses a range of styles to keep the gender conversation refreshingly candid, often humorous, and always thought-provoking.

- 21  Code Noir: Afro-Caribbean Stories and Recipes by Lelani Lewis (Tra Publishing 2024) Through 80+ recipes, Code Noir tells the interesting and complex story of Caribbean cuisines that are not only incredibly rich in flavor but also in history.

- 22**  Global Guyana by Oneka LaBennett (NYU Press 2024) *Global Guyana* exposes the global threat of environmental catastrophe and the forms of erasure that structure Caribbean women's lives in the overlooked nation of Guyana.
- 23**  Haiti Uncovered: A Regional Adventure into the Art of Haitian Cuisine 10th anniversary edition by Nadege Fleurimond (Nadege Fleurimond 2024) A culinary coffee table book that embraces the regional cuisine and cooking traditions of Haiti through the author's personal journey, insights and recipes.
- 24**  Son of Grace: Frank Worrell by Vaneisa Baksh Fairfield Books 2024 This biography, a result of years of research, will shed some light on the life and legacy of Sir Frank Mortimer Maglinne Worrell, and his impact on a world that needs heroes more than ever.
- 25**  UNBROKEN: The Triumphant Story of a Woman's Journey by Dr. Trisha Bailey (2023) From Dr. Trisha Bailey, the Jamaican-born self-made billionaire, philanthropist, and founder of Bailey's Medical, comes an empowering and inspiring book that delves into her life journey of overcoming trauma and obstacles to achieve remarkable success.

## Children's and Young Adult

- 26**  Better Must Come by Desmond Hall (Atheneum 2024) A look at the darker side of light-filled Jamaica and how a tragedy and missing drug money helplessly entangle the lives of two teens who want to change their fate. YA

27



Beware the Heart Man by Shakira Bourne (Scholastic Press 2024) In this sequel to *Josephine against the Sea*, Jo battles the fearsome Heartman rumored to steal children's hearts. YA

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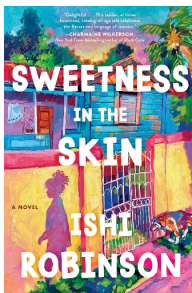
My Name is Marcus by Geoffrey Philp (Blue Banyan Books 2024) A visually-arresting graphic novel and compelling introduction to an iconic Jamaican who challenged the status quo and sparked a global movement for social justice.

29



Moko Magic: Carnival Chaos by Tracey Baptiste (Freedom Fire, 2024) Weirdness and wonders abound in this colorful celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture. When twelve-year-old Misty discovers that she comes from a long line of mokos, people who have special powers meant to help them protect their community, her powers are tested as she tries unveil an evil force trying to stop carnival.

30



Sweetness in the Skin by Ishi Robinson (Harper 2024) A funny and heartbreaking story about a young girl figuring out who she is, what she is capable of—and where she truly belongs. YA