

the farming of bones

the farming of bones is a poignant term that resonates in literature and history, specifically referencing the tumultuous period of the 1937 Parsley Massacre and its lasting impact on the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This comprehensive article explores the origins and significance of "the farming of bones," delving into its literary context, historical background, thematic elements, and the broader implications for memory and identity. Readers will discover how this phrase encapsulates issues of migration, trauma, and survival, while also highlighting its relevance in modern discussions about cultural heritage and historical reflection. From examining Edwidge Danticat's acclaimed novel to understanding the massacre's legacy, this guide aims to provide authoritative insight into a complex and meaningful topic. The farming of bones is not only a story about loss and endurance but also a testament to the resilience of affected communities. Read on for an in-depth exploration that sheds light on one of the most significant episodes in Caribbean history and literature.

- Understanding the Farming of Bones: Origins and Meaning
- Historical Context: The Parsley Massacre of 1937
- Literary Analysis: Edwidge Danticat's The Farming of Bones
- Thematic Elements: Trauma, Memory, and Survival
- Cultural and Societal Impacts
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Understanding the Farming of Bones: Origins and Meaning

The phrase "the farming of bones" carries layered meanings, both metaphorical and literal, especially within Caribbean history and literature. Rooted in the lived experiences of Haitian laborers in the Dominican Republic, the term is closely associated with the arduous and perilous work in sugarcane fields. Sugarcane, often referred to as "bones," symbolizes both sustenance and suffering for those who toil in its cultivation. In literary contexts, particularly in Edwidge Danticat's novel, the phrase takes on deeper significance, representing the harvesting of memories, pain, and lost lives. The farming of bones thus serves as a powerful metaphor for exploitation,

resilience, and the enduring struggle for recognition and justice among marginalized communities.

This concept extends beyond agriculture, encapsulating how historical trauma is processed and remembered. It invites reflection on the cycles of violence and survival that shape the identities of those affected by displacement, forced labor, and ethnic persecution. The farming of bones stands as a testament to the collective memory of a people and the ongoing quest to honor their stories.

Historical Context: The Parsley Massacre of 1937

Background and Causes

The farming of bones is inextricably linked to the 1937 Parsley Massacre, a tragic event in Dominican-Haitian history. The massacre arose from political tensions, economic competition, and deep-seated prejudices between the neighboring nations. Under the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo, Dominican authorities sought to "purify" border areas by eliminating thousands of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent. The event was named after the Spanish word for parsley ("perejil"), which was used as a linguistic

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The Farming of Bones: Unearthing the Power of Ruthless Storytelling

Are you ready to delve into a world of chilling beauty, where history and fiction intertwine to create a narrative both haunting and unforgettable? This blog post will explore the profound impact of Edwidge Danticat's *The Farming of Bones*, a novel that transcends its historical setting to offer a timeless exploration of trauma, resilience, and the enduring power of memory. We'll unpack the novel's compelling narrative, analyze its thematic depth, and examine its continued relevance in today's world. Prepare to uncover the layers of meaning embedded within this powerful story.

H2: A Brutal History, a Powerful Narrative

The Farming of Bones isn't just a story; it's a visceral confrontation with the Parsley Massacre, a horrific event in Haitian history during which thousands of Haitian citizens of Dominican descent were brutally murdered in 1937. Danticat masterfully weaves a fictional narrative around this real-life tragedy, focusing on the experiences of Amabelle, a young Haitian woman caught in the crosshairs of this state-sponsored violence. The novel doesn't shy away from depicting the gruesome realities of the massacre, making it a challenging but ultimately rewarding read for those willing to engage with a difficult piece of history.

H2: Exploring the Themes of Trauma and Resilience

Beyond the historical backdrop, The Farming of Bones explores universal themes that resonate deeply with readers. The novel is a poignant examination of trauma, both individual and collective. Amabelle's experiences, and those of the other characters, serve as a testament to the lasting impact of violence and the struggle to rebuild lives in its aftermath. However, the novel also celebrates resilience, demonstrating the remarkable capacity of the human spirit to endure, adapt, and find hope even in the darkest of times.

H3: The Power of Memory and Storytelling

Memory plays a crucial role in the novel's narrative structure. Amabelle's memories, fragmented and often painful, are central to her journey of healing and self-discovery. The act of storytelling itself becomes a form of resistance, a way to preserve the memory of those lost and to ensure that the horrors of the past are not forgotten. Danticat uses the narrative to reclaim the voices of those silenced by violence, giving them a platform to tell their stories and demand recognition.

H2: Analyzing the Novel's Literary Techniques

Danticat's masterful prose elevates The Farming of Bones beyond a historical account. She employs a variety of literary devices to enhance the emotional impact of the narrative. The use of vivid imagery, evocative language, and shifting perspectives creates a powerful and immersive reading experience. The novel's structure, which interweaves past and present, further emphasizes the lingering effects of the trauma on the characters and the community. This stylistic approach makes the story both accessible and deeply affecting.

H3: The Significance of the Title: "The Farming of Bones"

The title itself is symbolic, hinting at the brutal reality of the massacre and the subsequent efforts to bury and erase the evidence. The image of "farming bones" evokes the dehumanizing aspect of the violence, reducing individuals to mere casualties in a horrifying historical event. It also suggests the ongoing struggle to remember and reconcile with the past, to cultivate a future from the ashes of a devastating tragedy.

H2: The Lasting Impact and Relevance of The Farming of Bones

The Farming of Bones is not simply a historical novel; it is a timeless exploration of themes that continue to resonate today. The novel's exploration of violence, displacement, and the search for identity remains powerfully relevant in a world still grappling with conflict and injustice. It serves as a potent reminder of the importance of remembering the past, learning from its mistakes, and working towards a future free from the horrors of state-sponsored violence and oppression. The book's enduring popularity speaks to its ability to connect with readers on an emotional level, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths and consider their own place in a complex world.

Conclusion

The Farming of Bones is a profoundly moving and impactful novel that demands to be read, discussed, and remembered. Danticat's skillful storytelling brings to life a dark chapter in Haitian history, revealing the enduring strength of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity. Its exploration of trauma, resilience, and the power of memory makes it a vital contribution to contemporary literature, reminding us of the importance of bearing witness to history and striving for a more just future.

FAQs

1. Is The Farming of Bones a difficult book to read? Yes, the novel depicts graphic violence and explores difficult themes of trauma and loss. However, its literary merit and powerful message make it a rewarding, albeit challenging, read.
2. What historical event inspired the novel? The novel is based on the Parsley Massacre, a horrific event in Haitian history in which thousands of Haitians were murdered in 1937.

3. What are the main themes of *The Farming of Bones*? The main themes include trauma, resilience, memory, storytelling, identity, and the enduring effects of historical violence.
4. What makes Danticat's writing style unique? Danticat's writing is characterized by its vivid imagery, evocative language, and powerful emotional impact. She masterfully blends historical context with fictional narrative.
5. Why is *The Farming of Bones* still relevant today? The novel's exploration of violence, displacement, and the search for identity remains powerfully relevant in a world still grappling with conflict and injustice. It reminds us of the importance of remembering the past to build a better future.

the farming of bones: *The Farming of Bones* Edwidge Danticat, 1998 From the acclaimed author of *Krik? Krak!*. 1937: On the Dominican side of the Haiti border, Amabelle, a maid to the young wife of an army colonel falls in love with sugarcane cutter Sebastien. She longs to become his wife and walk into their future. Instead, terror unfolds them. But the story does not end here: it begins.

the farming of bones: *A Study Guide for Edwidge Danticat's "The Farming of Bones"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016

the farming of bones: *The Farming of Bones* Edwidge Danticat, 1999 Memorializing the forgotten victims of ethnic cleansing in Haiti in the 1930s, this novel revolves around a Haitian-born servant girl and her lover, an itinerant sugarcane cutter, as they struggle against the violence.

the farming of bones: *The Dew Breaker* Edwidge Danticat, 2007-12-18 We meet him late in life: a quiet man, a good father and husband, a fixture in his Brooklyn neighborhood, a landlord and barber with a terrifying scar across his face. As the book unfolds, moving seamlessly between Haiti in the 1960s and New York City today, we enter the lives of those around him, and learn that he has also kept a vital, dangerous secret. Edwidge Danticat's brilliant exploration of the "dew breaker"--or torturer--is an unforgettable story of love, remorse, and hope; of personal and political rebellions; and of the compromises we make to move beyond the most intimate brushes with history. It firmly establishes her as one of America's most essential writers. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Edwidge Danticat's *Claire of the Sea Light*.

the farming of bones: *Breath, Eyes, Memory* Edwidge Danticat, 2015-02-24 The 20th anniversary edition of Edwidge Danticat's groundbreaking debut, now an established classic--revised and with a new introduction by the author, and including extensive bonus materials At the age of twelve, Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished Haitian village to New York to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers secrets that no child should ever know, and a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti—to the women who first reared her. What ensues is a passionate journey through a landscape charged with the supernatural and scarred by political violence. In her stunning literary debut, Danticat evokes the wonder, terror, and heartache of her native Haiti—and the enduring strength of Haiti's women—with vibrant imagery and narrative grace that bear witness to her people's suffering and courage.

the farming of bones: *Untwine* Edwidge Danticat, 2015-09-29 "A genuinely moving exploration of the pain of separation" from the New York Times-bestselling author and National Book Award finalist (The New York Times Book Review). NAACP Image Awards Outstanding Literary Work 2015 VOYA Magazine Perfect Ten CCBC Choices List Selection Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year, 2016 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens Selection Giselle Boyer and her identical twin, Isabelle, are as close as sisters can be, even as their family seems to be unraveling. Then the Boyers have a tragic encounter that will shatter everyone's world forever. Giselle wakes up in the hospital, injured and unable to speak or move. Trapped in the prison of her own body, Giselle must revisit her past in order to understand how the people closest

to her—her friends, her parents, and above all, Isabelle, her twin—have shaped and defined her. Will she allow her love for her family and friends to lead her to recovery? Or will she remain lost in a spiral of longing and regret? Untwine is a spellbinding tale, lyrical and filled with love, mystery, humor, and heartbreak. Award-winning author Edwidge Danticat brings her extraordinary talent to this graceful and unflinching examination of the bonds of friendship, romance, family, the horrors of loss, and the strength we must discover in ourselves when all seems hopeless. “While Danticat fully grounds Giselle in her identity as a Haitian-American teen in Miami, this gentle young artist could speak to any teen anywhere coping with a major loss.” —The Philadelphia Inquirer

the farming of bones: Krik? Krak! Edwidge Danticat, 2004-01-01 Arriving one year after the Haitian-American's first novel (*Breath, Eyes, Memory*) alerted critics to her compelling voice, these 10 stories, some of which have appeared in small literary journals, confirm Danticat's reputation as a remarkably gifted writer. Examining the lives of ordinary Haitians, particularly those struggling to survive under the brutal Duvalier regime, Danticat illuminates the distance between people's desires and the stifling reality of their lives. A profound mix of Catholicism and voodoo spirituality informs the tales, bestowing a mythic importance on people described in the opening story, *Children of the Sea*, as those in this world whose names don't matter to anyone but themselves. The ceaseless grip of dictatorship often leads men to emotionally abandon their families, like the husband in *A Wall of Fire Rising*, who dreams of escaping in a neighbor's hot-air balloon. The women exhibit more resilience, largely because of their insistence on finding meaning and solidarity through storytelling; but Danticat portrays these bonds with an honesty that shows that sisterhood, too, has its power plays. In the book's final piece, *Epilogue: Women Like Us*, she writes: Are there women who both cook and write? Kitchen poets, they call them. They slip phrases into their stew and wrap meaning around their pork before frying it. They make narrative dumplings and stuff their daughter's mouths so they say nothing more. The stories inform and enrich one another, as the female characters reveal a common ancestry and ties to the fictional Ville Rose. In addition to the power of Danticat's themes, the book is enhanced by an element of suspense (we're never certain, for example, if a rickety boat packed with refugees introduced in the first tale will reach the Florida coast). Spare, elegant and moving, these stories cohere into a superb collection.

the farming of bones: Brother, I'm Dying Edwidge Danticat, 2007 In a personal memoir, the author describes her relationships with the two men closest to her—her father and his brother, Joseph, a charismatic pastor with whom she lived after her parents emigrated from Haiti to the United States.

the farming of bones: Everything Inside Edwidge Danticat, 2019-08-27 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • Unforgettable tales of families and lovers—from Haiti to Miami, Brooklyn, and beyond—often struggling with grief, loss, and missed connections.” —Vanity Fair • A TODAY Show Read with Jenna Book Club Pick! A romance unexpectedly sparks between two wounded friends. A marriage ends for what seem like noble reasons, but with irreparable consequences. A young woman holds on to an impossible dream even as she fights for her survival. Two lovers reunite after unimaginable tragedy, both for their country and in their lives. A baby's christening brings three generations of a family to a precarious dance between old and new. A man falls to his death in slow motion, reliving the defining moments of the life he is about to lose. Set in locales from Miami and Port-au-Prince to a small unnamed country in the Caribbean and beyond, here are eight emotionally absorbing stories, rich with hard-won wisdom and humanity. At once wide in scope and intimate, *Everything Inside* explores with quiet power and elegance the forces that pull us together or drive us apart, sometimes in the same searing instant.

the farming of bones: Krik? Krak! Edwidge Danticat, 1995 Nine powerful stories about life under Haiti's dictatorships: the terrorism of the Tonton Macoutes; the slaughtering of hope and the resiliency of love; about those who fled to America to give their children a better life and those who stayed behind in the villages; about the linkages of generations of women through the magical tradition of storytelling.

the farming of bones: The Art of Death Edwidge Danticat, 2017-07-11 A moving reflection on

a subject that touches us all, by the bestselling author of *Claire of the Sea* Light Edwidge Danticat's *The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story* is at once a personal account of her mother dying from cancer and a deeply considered reckoning with the ways that other writers have approached death in their own work. "Writing has been the primary way I have tried to make sense of my losses," Danticat notes in her introduction. "I have been writing about death for as long as I have been writing." The book moves outward from the shock of her mother's diagnosis and sifts through Danticat's writing life and personal history, all the while shifting fluidly from examples that range from Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* to Toni Morrison's *Sula*. The narrative, which continually circles the many incarnations of death from individual to large-scale catastrophes, culminates in a beautiful, heartrending prayer in the voice of Danticat's mother. A moving tribute and a work of astute criticism, *The Art of Death* is a book that will profoundly alter all who encounter it.

the farming of bones: Behind the Mountains Edwidge Danticat, 2022-04-05 A lyrical and poignant coming-of-age story about one girl's immigration experience, as she moves from Haiti to New York City, by award-winning author Edwidge Danticat. It is election time in Haiti, and bombs are going off in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. During a visit from her home in rural Haiti, Celiane Espérance and her mother are nearly killed. Looking at her country with new eyes, Celiane gains a fresh resolve to be reunited with her father in Brooklyn, New York. The harsh winter and concrete landscape of her new home are a shock to Celiane, who witnesses her parents' struggle to earn a living and her brother's uneasy adjustment to American society, and at the same time encounters her own challenges with learning and school violence. National Book Award finalist Edwidge Danticat weaves a beautiful, honest, and timely story of the American immigrant experience in this luminous novel about resilience, hope, and family.

the farming of bones: The Bones of Plenty Lois Phillips Hudson, 1984 Lois Phillips Hudson eloquently portrays George Custer, a determined and angry man who must battle both the land and the landlord; his hard-working wife Rachel; and their young and vulnerable daughter Lucy. Through their compelling story looms a sense of a whole nation's tragedy during the Great Depression. Reviews of *The Bones of Plenty*: It is possible . . . that literary historians of the future will decide that *The Bones of Plenty* was the farm novel of the Great Drought of the 1920s and 1930s and the Great Depression. Better than any other novel of the period with which I am familiar, Lois Phillips Hudson's story presents, with intelligence and rare understanding, the frightful disaster that closed thousands of rural banks and drove farmers off their farms, the hopes and savings of a lifetime in ruins about them.--New York Times Book Review Hudson does a superb job of revealing the physical texture of farm life on the prairie--its sounds, smells, colors, sensations. Then she goes further, examining the spiritual texture as well. Her characters are bound to each other and to their land in a kind of harsh intimacy from which there is no relief. Weather, poverty, anger, and pride are the forces that drive them and ultimately wear them down. . . Like the best books of any era, it convinces us of its characters' enduring humanity, and surprises us, again and again, with the depth of emotion it makes us feel.--Minneapolis Star Tribune At her best, Lois Phillips Hudson can make the American Ordeal of the 1930s so real that you can all but feel the gritty dust in your teeth.--Omaha World-Herald

the farming of bones: Create Dangerously Edwidge Danticat, 2011-09-20 A New York Times Notable Book A Miami Herald Best Book of the Year In this deeply personal book, the celebrated Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat reflects on art and exile. Inspired by Albert Camus and adapted from her own lectures for Princeton University's Toni Morrison Lecture Series, here Danticat tells stories of artists who create despite (or because of) the horrors that drove them from their homelands. Combining memoir and essay, these moving and eloquent pieces examine what it means to be an artist from a country in crisis.

the farming of bones: American Harvest Marie Mutsuki Mockett, 2020-04-07 An epic story of the American wheat harvest, the politics of food, and the culture of the Great Plains For over one hundred years, the Mockett family has owned a seven-thousand-acre wheat farm in the panhandle of

Nebraska, where Marie Mutsuki Mockett's father was raised. Mockett, who grew up in bohemian Carmel, California, with her father and her Japanese mother, knew little about farming when she inherited this land. Her father had all but forsworn it. In *American Harvest*, Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the heartland at the invitation of Eric Wolgemuth, the conservative farmer who has cut her family's fields for decades. As Mockett follows Wolgemuth's crew on the trail of ripening wheat from Texas to Idaho, they contemplate what Wolgemuth refers to as "the divide," inadvertently peeling back layers of the American story to expose its contradictions and unhealed wounds. She joins the crew in the fields, attends church, and struggles to adapt to the rhythms of rural life, all the while continually reminded of her own status as a person who signals "not white," but who people she encounters can't quite categorize. *American Harvest* is an extraordinary evocation of the land and a thoughtful exploration of ingrained beliefs, from evangelical skepticism of evolution to cosmopolitan assumptions about food production and farming. With exquisite lyricism and humanity, this astonishing book attempts to reconcile competing versions of our national story.

the farming of bones: A Study Guide for Edwidge Danticat's "The Farming of Bones"
Cengage Learning Gale, 2017-07-25

the farming of bones: *Why the Cocks Fight* Michele Wucker, 2014-04-08 Like two roosters in a fighting arena, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are encircled by barriers of geography and poverty. They co-inhabit the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, but their histories are as deeply divided as their cultures: one French-speaking and black, one Spanish-speaking and mulatto. Yet, despite their antagonism, the two countries share a national symbol in the rooster--and a fundamental activity and favorite sport in the cockfight. In this book, Michele Wucker asks: If the symbols that dominate a culture accurately express a nation's character, what kind of a country draws so heavily on images of cockfighting and roosters, birds bred to be aggressive? What does it mean when not one but two countries that are neighbors choose these symbols? Why do the cocks fight, and why do humans watch and glorify them? Wucker studies the cockfight ritual in considerable detail, focusing as much on the customs and histories of these two nations as on their contemporary lifestyles and politics. Her well-cited and comprehensive volume also explores the relations of each nation toward the United States, which twice invaded both Haiti (in 1915 and 1994) and the Dominican Republic (in 1916 and 1965) during the twentieth century. Just as the owners of gamecocks contrive battles between their birds as a way of playing out human conflicts, Wucker argues, Haitian and Dominican leaders often stir up nationalist disputes and exaggerate their cultural and racial differences as a way of deflecting other kinds of turmoil. Thus *Why the Cocks Fight* highlights the factors in Caribbean history that still affect Hispaniola today, including the often contradictory policies of the U.S.

the farming of bones: *Haiti Noir (Akashic Noir)*. Edwidge Danticat, 2011 Haiti has had a tragic history and continues to be one of the most destitute places on the planet, especially in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake. Here, however, editor Edwidge Danticat reveals that even while the subject matter remains dark, the calibre of Haitian writing is of the highest order. Features stories by Edwidge Danticat, Madison Smartt Bell, Gary Victor, Jessica Fieuvre, Marilene Phipps, Marie Ketsia Theodore-Pharel, Katie Ulysse, Yanick Lahens, Evelyne Trouillot, Kettly Mars, Rodney Saint-Eloi and many more.

the farming of bones: *Dominicana* Angie Cruz, 2019-09-03 A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK Shortlisted for the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction "Through a novel with so much depth, beauty, and grace, we, like Ana, are forever changed." —Jacqueline Woodson, *Vanity Fair* "Gorgeous writing, gorgeous story." —Sandra Cisneros Fifteen-year-old Ana Cancion never dreamed of moving to America, the way the girls she grew up with in the Dominican countryside did. But when Juan Ruiz proposes and promises to take her to New York City, she has to say yes. It doesn't matter that he is twice her age, that there is no love between them. Their marriage is an opportunity for her entire close-knit family to eventually immigrate. So on New Year's Day, 1965, Ana leaves behind everything she knows and becomes Ana Ruiz, a wife confined to a cold six-floor walk-up in

Washington Heights. Lonely and miserable, Ana hatches a reckless plan to escape. But at the bus terminal, she is stopped by Cesar, Juan's free-spirited younger brother, who convinces her to stay. As the Dominican Republic slides into political turmoil, Juan returns to protect his family's assets, leaving Cesar to take care of Ana. Suddenly, Ana is free to take English lessons at a local church, lie on the beach at Coney Island, see a movie at Radio City Music Hall, go dancing with Cesar, and imagine the possibility of a different kind of life in America. When Juan returns, Ana must decide once again between her heart and her duty to her family. In bright, musical prose that reflects the energy of New York City, Angie Cruz's *Dominicana* is a vital portrait of the immigrant experience and the timeless coming-of-age story of a young woman finding her voice in the world.

the farming of bones: Edwidge Danticat Martin Munro, 2010-10-12 *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (1994), the novel born from Edwidge Danticat's childhood in Haiti and immigration to New York City, was one of the great literary debuts of recent times, marking the emergence of an impressive talent in addition to opening up an entire culture to a broad general readership. This gifted author went on to win the American Book Award in 1999 for her novel, *The Farming of Bones* (1998), attracting further critical acclaim. Offering an accessible guide for readers and critics alike, this book is the first publication devoted entirely to Danticat's unique and remarkable work. It is also distinctive in that it addresses all of her published writing up to *The Dew Breaker* (2004), including her writing for children, her travel writing, her short fiction, and her novels. The book contains an exclusive interview with Danticat, in which she discusses her recent memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying* (2007), winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award. It also includes an extensive bibliography. With contributions from Danticat's fellow creative writers from both the Caribbean and the United States as well as leading scholars of Caribbean literature, this collection of essays aims to enrich readers' understanding of the various geographical, literary, and cultural contexts of her work and to demonstrate how it both influences and is influenced by them. Contributors Madison Smartt Bell * Myriam J. A. Chancy * Maryse Condé * J. Michael Dash * Charles Forsdick * Mary Gallagher * Régine Michelle Jean-Charles * Carine Mardorossian * Nadève Ménard * Martin Munro * Nick Nesbitt * Mireille Rosello * Renee H. Shea * Évelyne Trouillot * Lyonel Trouillot * Kiera Vaclavik

the farming of bones: *In the Name of Salome* Julia Alvarez, 2000-06-09 Original and illuminating.—The New York Times Book Review In her most ambitious work since *In the Time of Butterflies*, Julia Alvarez tells the story of a woman whose poetry inspired one Caribbean revolution and of her daughter whose dedication to teaching strengthened another. Camila Henriquez Urena is about to retire from her longtime job teaching Spanish at Vassar College. Only now as she sorts through family papers does she begin to know the woman behind the legend of her mother, the revered Salome Urena, who died when Camila was three. In stark contrast to Salome, who became the Dominican Republic's national poet at the age of seventeen, Camila has spent most of her life trying not to offend anybody. Her mother dedicated her life to educating young women to give them voice in their turbulent new nation; Camila has spent her life quietly and anonymously teaching the Spanish pluperfect to upper-class American girls with no notion of revolution, no knowledge of Salome Urena. Now, in 1960, Camila must choose a final destination for herself. Where will she spend the rest of her days? News of the revolution in Cuba mirrors her own internal upheaval. In the process of deciding her future, Camila uncovers the truth of her mother's tragic personal life and, finally, finds a place for her own passion and commitment. Julia Alvarez has won a large and devoted audience by brilliantly illuminating the history of modern Caribbean America through the personal stories of its people. As a Latina, as a poet and novelist, and as a university professor, Julia Alvarez brings her own experience to this exquisite story. Julia Alvarez's new novel, *Afterlife*, is available now.

the farming of bones: Mama's Nightingale Edwidge Danticat, 2015-09-01 A touching tale of parent-child separation and immigration, from a National Book Award finalist After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her

mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good. With stirring illustrations, this tender tale shows the human side of immigration and imprisonment—and shows how every child has the power to make a difference.

the farming of bones: Claire of the Sea Light Edwidge Danticat, 2013-08-27 From the national bestselling author of *Brother, I'm Dying* and *The Dew Breaker*: a “fiercely beautiful” novel (Los Angeles Times) that brings us deep into the intertwined lives of a small seaside town where a little girl, the daughter of a fisherman, has gone missing. Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè—Claire of the Sea Light—suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed. In this stunning novel about intertwined lives, Edwidge Danticat crafts a tightly woven, breathtaking tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share—with the natural world and with one another.

the farming of bones: Passive Intruder Michael Upchurch, 1995 When a paranoid young woman and a troubled gay psychiatrist cross paths in Seattle, their pasts come threatening to life, in a novel that explores the shifting boundaries of gender, the sexuality of photography, and the impact of AIDS.

the farming of bones: The Patient in Room Nine Says He's God Louis Profeta, 2010 A young Jewish doctor prays to a coma patient's Blessed Mother on Christmas Eve, only to have the woman suddenly awakened; there is the voice that tells a too-busy ER doctor to stop a patient walking out, discovering an embolus that would have killed him. The late-night passing of a beloved aunt summons a childhood bully who shows up minutes later, after twenty-five years, to be forgiven and to heal a broken doctor. This ER doctor finds God's opposite in: a battered child's bruises covered over by make-up, a dying patient whose son finally shows up at the end to reclaim the man's high-top sneakers, the rich or celebrity patients loaded with prescription drugs from doctor friends who end up addicted. But, his real outrage is directed at our cavalier treatment of the elderly, If you put a G-tube in your 80-year-old mother with Alzheimer's because she's no longer eating, you will probably have a fast track to hell.

the farming of bones: The Butterfly's Way Edwidge Danticat, 2003-07-01 In five sections—Childhood, Migration, Half/First Generation, Return, and Future—the thirty-three contributors to this anthology write movingly, often hauntingly, of their lives in Haiti and the United States. Their diaspora, much like a butterfly's fluctuating path, is a shifting landscape in which there is much travel between two worlds, between their place of origin and their adopted land. This compilation of essays and poetry brings together Haitian-Americans of different generations and backgrounds, linking the voices for whom English is a first language and others whose dreams will always be in French and Kreyòl. Community activists, scholars, visual artists and filmmakers join renowned journalists, poets, novelists and memoirists to produce a poignant portrayal of lives in transition. Edwidge Danticat, in her powerful introduction, pays tribute to Jean Dominique, a sometime participant in the Haitian diaspora and a recent martyr to Haiti's troubled politics, and the many members of the diaspora who refused to be silenced. Their stories confidently and passionately illustrate the joys and heartaches, hopes and aspirations of a relatively new group of immigrants belonging to two countries that have each at times maligned and embraced them.

the farming of bones: Dance on the Volcano Marie Vieux-Chauvet, 2017-01-10 *Dance on the Volcano* tells the story of two sisters growing up during the Haitian Revolution in a culture that swings heavily between decadence and poverty, sensuality and depravity. One sister, because of her singing ability, is able to enter into the white colonial society otherwise generally off limits to people of color. Closely examining a society sagging under the white supremacy of the French colonist rulers, *Dance on the Volcano* is one of only novels to closely depict the seeds and fruition of the Haitian Revolution, tracking an elaborate hierarchy of skin color and class through the experiences of two young women. It is a story about hatred and fear, love and loss, and the complex tensions between colonizer and colonized, masterfully translated by Kaiama L. Glover.

the farming of bones: Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead Olga Tokarczuk, 2019-08-13 WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE A brilliant literary murder mystery. —Chicago Tribune Extraordinary. Tokarczuk's novel is funny, vivid, dangerous, and disturbing, and it raises some fierce questions about human behavior. My sincere admiration for her brilliant work. —Annie Proulx In a remote Polish village, Janina devotes the dark winter days to studying astrology, translating the poetry of William Blake, and taking care of the summer homes of wealthy Warsaw residents. Her reputation as a crank and a recluse is amplified by her not-so-secret preference for the company of animals over humans. Then a neighbor, Big Foot, turns up dead. Soon other bodies are discovered, in increasingly strange circumstances. As suspicions mount, Janina inserts herself into the investigation, certain that she knows whodunit. If only anyone would pay her mind . . . A deeply satisfying thriller cum fairy tale, *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* is a provocative exploration of the murky borderland between sanity and madness, justice and tradition, autonomy and fate. Whom do we deem sane? it asks. Who is worthy of a voice?

the farming of bones: *Eight Days* Edwidge Danticat, 2010 Junior tells of the games he played in his mind during the eight days he was trapped in his house after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Includes author's note about Haitian children before the earthquake and her own children's reactions to the disaster.

the farming of bones: Bones of Faerie Janni Lee Simner, 2009-01-27 The war between humanity and Faerie devastated both sides. Or so 15-year-old Liza has been told. Nothing has been seen or heard from Faerie since, and Liza's world bears the scars of its encounter with magic. Trees move with sinister intention, and the town Liza calls home is surrounded by a forest that threatens to harm all those who wander into it. Then Liza discovers she has the Faerie ability to see—into the past, into the future—and she has no choice but to flee her town. Liza's quest will take her into Faerie and back again, and what she finds along the way may be the key to healing both worlds. Janni Lee Simner's first novel for young adults is a dark fairy-tale twist on apocalyptic fiction—as familiar as a nightmare, yet altogether unique.

the farming of bones: Contemporary Postcolonial Theory Padmini Mongia, 2021-01-07 There is a crisis in contemporary postcolonial theory: while an enormous body of challenging research has been produced under its auspices, severely critical questions about the validity and usefulness of this theory have also been raised. This Reader is positioned at the juncture where it can address these contestations. It makes available some of the 'classics' of the field; engages with the issues raised by contemporary practitioners; but also offers several of the arguments that strongly critique postcolonial theory. Although postcolonial theory purports to be inter-disciplinary and frequently anti-foundationalist, traces of disciplinary formations and linearity have continued to haunt its articulations. This Reader, on the other hand, offers a uniquely inter-disciplinary mapping. It is concerned with three main areas: definitional problems and contests including the current challenges to postcolonial theory; the 'disciplining of knowledge', where the multiple resonances of the word 'disciplining' are all engaged; and the location of practice where the relations between intellectual practice and historical conditions are explored. Finally, since the guiding principle of this Reader is simultaneous attention to the enabling and constraining mechanisms of historical realities and institutional practices, the commentary problematizes the writing of histories, the formations of canons, and indeed the production of Readers.

the farming of bones: Lucy Jamaica Kincaid, 2002-09-04 The coming-of-age story of one of Jamaica Kincaid's most admired creations--available now in an e-book edition. Lucy, a teenage girl from the West Indies, comes to America to work as an au pair for a wealthy couple. She begins to notice cracks in their beautiful façade at the same time that the mysteries of own sexuality begin to unravel. Jamaica Kincaid has created a startling new heroine who is destined to win a place of honor in contemporary fiction.

the farming of bones: August Into Winter Guy Vanderhaeghe, 2021-09-14 NATIONAL BESTSELLER WINNER of the 2022 Glengarry Book Award The first novel in nearly a decade from the three-time Governor General's Award-winning author of *The Last Crossing*, *August Into Winter*

is an epic story of crime and retribution, of war and its long shadow, and of the redemptive possibilities of love. You carried the past into the future on your back, its knees and arms hugging you tighter with every step. It is 1939, with the world on the brink of global war, when Constable Hotchkiss confronts the spoiled, narcissistic man-child Ernie Sickert about a rash of disturbing pranks in their small prairie town. Outraged and cornered, Ernie commits an act of unspeakable violence, setting in motion a course of events that will change forever the lives of all in his wake. With Loretta Pipe—the scrappy twelve-year-old he idealizes as the love of his life—in tow, Ernie flees town. In close pursuit is Corporal Cooper, who enlists the aid of two brothers, veterans of World War One: Jack, a sensitive, spiritual man with a potential for brutal violence; and angry, impetuous Dill, still recovering from the premature death of his wife who, while on her deathbed, developed an inexplicable obsession with the then-teenaged Ernie Sickert. When a powerful storm floods the prairie roads, wreaking havoc, Ernie and Loretta take shelter in a one-room schoolhouse where they are discovered by the newly arrived teacher, Vidalia Taggart. Vidalia has her own haunted past, one that has driven her to this stark and isolated place with only the journals of her lover Dov, recently killed in the Spanish Civil War, for company. Dill, arriving at the schoolhouse on Ernie's trail, falls hard and fast for Vidalia—but questions whether he can compete with the impossible ideal of a dead man. Guy Vanderhaeghe, writing at the height of his celebrated powers, has crafted a tale of unrelenting suspense against a backdrop of great moral searching and depth. His is a canvas of lavish, indelible detail: of character, of landscape, of history—in all their searing beauty but all their ugliness, too. Vanderhaeghe does not shrink from the corruption, cruelty, and treachery that pervade the world. Yet even in his clear-eyed depiction of evil—a depiction that frequently and delightfully turns darkly comic—he will not deny the possibility of love, of light. With *August Into Winter*, Guy Vanderhaeghe has given us a masterfully told, masterfully timed story for our own troubled hearts.

the farming of bones: *Silencing the Past* Michel-Rolph Trouillot, 1995 *Silencing the Past* is a thought-provoking analysis of historical narrative. Taking examples ranging from the Haitian Revolution to Columbus Day, Michel-Rolph Trouillot demonstrates how power operates, often invisibly, at all stages in the making of history to silence certain voices. Makes the postmodernist debate come alive. --Choice Trouillot, a widely respected scholar of Haitian history . . . is a first-rate scholar with provocative ideas . . . Serious students of history should find his work a feast for the mind. --Jay Freedman, Booklist Elegantly written and richly allusive, . . . *Silencing the Past* is an important contribution to the anthropology of history. Its most lasting impression is made perhaps by Trouillot's own voice--endlessly agile, sometimes cuttngly funny, but always evocative in a direct and powerful, almost poetic way. --Donald L. Donham, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute A sparkling interrogation of the past. . . . A beautifully written, superior book. --Foreign Affairs *Silencing the Past* is a polished personal essay on the meanings of history. . . . [It] is filled with wisdom and humanity. --Bernard Mergen, American Studies International An eloquent book. --Choice Written with clarity, wit, and style throughout, this book is for everyone interested in historical culture. --Civilization A beautifully written book, exciting in its challenges. --Eric R. Wolf Aphoristic and witty, . . . a hard-nosed look at the soft edges of public discourse about the past. --Arjun Appadurai

the farming of bones: Masters of the Dew Jacques Roumain, 1978 This outstanding Haitian novel tells of Manuel's struggle to keep his little community from starvation during drought.

the farming of bones: My Mother's House Francesca Momplaisir, 2020-05-12 One of the Best Books of the Year: Elle, Harper's Bazaar, Vulture • This uncompromising look at the immigrant experience, and the depravity of one man, is an electrifying page-turner rooted in a magical reality • "Impossible to stop reading" —Vulture When Lucien flees Haiti with his wife, Marie-Ange, and their three children to New York City's South Ozone Park, he does so hoping for reinvention, wealth, and comfort. He buys a run-down house in a quickly changing community, and begins life anew. Lucien and Marie-Ange call their home La Kay—"my mother's house"—and it becomes a place where their fellow immigrants can find peace, a good meal, and necessary legal help. But as a severely

emotionally damaged man emigrating from a country whose evils he knows to one whose evils he doesn't, Lucien soon falls into his worst habits and impulses, with La Kay as the backdrop for his lasciviousness. What he can't begin to fathom is that the house is watching, passing judgment, and deciding to put an end to all the sins it has been made to hold. But only after it has set itself aflame will frightened whispers reveal Lucien's ultimate evil.

the farming of bones: In the Time of the Butterflies Julia Alvarez, 2010-01-12 Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, internationally bestselling author and literary icon Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* is beautiful, heartbreaking and alive ... a lyrical work of historical fiction based on the story of the Mirabal sisters, revolutionary heroes who had opposed and fought against Trujillo. (Concepción de León, *New York Times*) Alvarez's new novel, *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, is coming April 2, 2024. Pre-order now! It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leónidas Trujillo's dictatorship. It doesn't have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas—the Butterflies. In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters—Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé—speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from secret crushes to gunrunning, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo's rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez's imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human costs of political oppression. Alvarez helped blaze the trail for Latina authors to break into the literary mainstream, with novels like *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* winning praise from critics and gracing best-seller lists across the Americas.—Francisco Cantú, *The New York Times Book Review* This Julia Alvarez classic is a must-read for anyone of Latinx descent. —Popsugar.com A gorgeous and sensitive novel . . . A compelling story of courage, patriotism and familial devotion. —People Shimmering . . . Valuable and necessary. —Los Angeles Times A magnificent treasure for all cultures and all time." —St. Petersburg Times Alvarez does a remarkable job illustrating the ruinous effect the 30-year dictatorship had on the Dominican Republic and the very real human cost it entailed.—Cosmopolitan.com

the farming of bones: A Walk Through Carnival Edwidge Danticat, 2016-01-26 A Vintage Shorts Travel Selection Growing up in Haiti, Edwidge Danticat kept well clear of carnival—terrified by the stories of danger and debauchery that her uncle told her. Decades later, a grown woman and accomplished author, she returns home to find out what she's been missing. In this selection from *After the Dance*, Danticat fuses her present-day observations with her own childhood memories and weaves a deeply personal reflection on the home she left behind. Through conversations with other attendees and her own deft reporting, she takes readers into the very heart of the festival. *A Walk Through Carnival* is as much memoir as it is travelogue; and, in these pages, the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *Brother, I'm Dying* brings the electric spirit of carnival vividly to life. An eBook short.

the farming of bones: Walking on Fire Beverly Bell, 2013-09-15 Haiti, long noted for poverty and repression, has a powerful and too-often-overlooked history of resistance. Women in Haiti have played a large role in changing the balance of political and social power, even as they have endured rampant and devastating state-sponsored violence, including torture, rape, abuse, illegal arrest, disappearance, and assassination. Beverly Bell, an activist and an expert on Haitian social movements, brings together thirty-eight oral histories from a diverse group of Haitian women. The interviewees include, for example, a former prime minister, an illiterate poet, a leading feminist theologian, and a vodou dancer. Defying victim status despite gender- and state-based repression, they tell how Haiti's poor and dispossessed women have fought for their personal and collective survival. The women's powerfully moving accounts of horror and heroism can best be characterized by the Creole word *istwa*, which means both story and history. They combine theory with case studies concerning resistance, gender, and alternative models of power. Photographs of the women

who have lived through Haiti's recent past accompany their words to further personalize the interviews in *Walking on Fire*.

the farming of bones: This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm Ted Genoways, 2017-09-19 Winner of the Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize 2019 selection for the One Book One Nebraska and All Iowa state reading programs Genoways gives the reader a kitchen-table view of the vagaries, complexities, and frustrations of modern farming...Insightful and empathetic. —Milwaukee Journal Sentinel The family farm lies at the heart of our national identity, and yet its future is in peril. Rick Hammond grew up on a farm, and for forty years he has raised cattle and crops on his wife's fifth-generation homestead in Nebraska, in hopes of passing it on to their four children. But as the handoff nears, their family farm—and their entire way of life—are under siege on many fronts, from shifting trade policies, to encroaching pipelines, to climate change. Following the Hammonds from harvest to harvest, Ted Genoways explores the rapidly changing world of small, traditional farming operations. He creates a vivid, nuanced portrait of a radical new landscape and one family's fight to preserve their legacy and the life they love.

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