

a gathering of old men

a gathering of old men is a powerful novel that delves into the complexities of race, justice, and community in the American South. This article provides a thorough exploration of Ernest J. Gaines's celebrated work, examining its plot, central themes, character development, historical context, literary significance, and its enduring impact on readers and society. Whether you're a student, literature enthusiast, or simply curious about the novel, this guide offers valuable insights into its narrative structure, symbolism, and social commentary. By understanding the nuances of "a gathering of old men," readers can appreciate its relevance to contemporary discussions about equality, identity, and courage. Continue reading for a detailed summary, in-depth analysis, and answers to common questions about this influential book.

- Plot Summary of a Gathering of Old Men
- Major Themes and Motifs
- Character Analysis
- Historical and Social Context
- Literary Significance and Style
- Impact and Legacy
- Frequently Asked Questions

Plot Summary of a Gathering of Old Men

A gathering of old men unfolds on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation, where a group of elderly Black men unite in response to a racially charged murder. The story begins with the death of a white Cajun farmer, Beau Boutan, and the subsequent arrival of Sheriff Mapes to investigate. Candy Marshall, a white woman who manages the plantation, claims responsibility for the murder, but soon, a dozen old Black men armed with shotguns step forward, each ready to confess. This act of solidarity challenges the long-standing social order and forces the community to confront its deep-seated prejudices.

Throughout the novel, Gaines crafts a suspenseful narrative that moves between multiple perspectives. As the investigation unfolds, tensions rise between the Cajun community and the Black men, exposing the generational trauma and courage among those who have endured decades of oppression. The novel's climax centers on the question of who killed Beau and why, but its true focus lies in the dignity and unity displayed by the men who refuse to be victims any longer.

- Setting: Rural Louisiana plantation
- Main event: Murder of Beau Boutan
- Key conflict: Old Black men versus Cajun community
- Resolution: Assertion of agency and collective resistance

Major Themes and Motifs

Racial Injustice and Systemic Oppression

The novel's most prominent theme is racial injustice. Gaines depicts the longstanding discrimination against Black people in the South, highlighting how institutional racism shapes everyday life. The murder investigation becomes a battleground for civil rights, as the old men's defiance represents a break from generations of silence and subjugation.

Courage and Solidarity

"A gathering of old men" emphasizes the importance of collective action. By standing together, the men reclaim their dignity and challenge the status quo. Their solidarity is both an act of self-preservation and a statement against the fear that has plagued their lives. Gaines uses this motif to underscore the transformative power of unity in the face of adversity.

Identity and Self-Respect

The struggle for identity and self-respect is a recurring motif. Many characters have internalized shame and fear due to years of oppression. The events of the novel force them to confront their past and redefine themselves as individuals with agency and worth. This journey is pivotal to their personal liberation.

Justice and Moral Responsibility

Questions of justice permeate the narrative. The legal system, represented by Sheriff Mapes, is often at odds with true justice for the marginalized. Gaines explores moral responsibility, not only in terms of guilt for the murder but also regarding the wider obligations to fight prejudice and defend human rights.

- Racial discrimination
- Collective resistance
- Personal growth
- Moral dilemmas

Character Analysis

Candy Marshall

Candy Marshall is the plantation's white manager with progressive views. Her decision to take responsibility for the murder stems from a desire to protect the old men, whom she views as family. Candy's actions reflect her complex relationship with race, privilege, and loyalty. She is a catalyst for the men's confrontation, but her perspective is shaped by her own limitations.

Mathu

Mathu is the oldest and proudest of the Black men. He is respected for his defiance, having always stood up to racial injustice. Mathu's leadership inspires others to stand with him, and his refusal to back down is central to the novel's message about personal and collective strength.

Sheriff Mapes

Sheriff Mapes serves as the face of law enforcement. Although he is initially bound by traditional views, he gradually recognizes the courage of the old men. His interactions reveal the complexities of authority, prejudice, and change within the community.

Beau Boutan and Fix Boutan

Beau, the murder victim, and his father Fix, are symbolic of entrenched racism and violence. Fix's reputation for retaliatory brutality looms over the narrative, representing the threat of generational hatred. Their roles are crucial to understanding the cycle of fear that the novel seeks to break.

- Candy Marshall: Ally and protector

- Mathu: Defiant leader
- Sheriff Mapes: Complex authority figure
- Beau and Fix Boutan: Symbols of racial conflict

Historical and Social Context

The Legacy of Jim Crow

Set in the 1970s, “a gathering of old men” reflects the lingering effects of Jim Crow laws and racial segregation in the American South. Although legal barriers to equality had begun to erode, social attitudes and practices remained deeply divided. The novel captures the tension between progress and persistent racism, illustrating how historical injustices continue to shape present realities.

Civil Rights Movement Influence

Gaines’s work is informed by the Civil Rights Movement, which challenged the legitimacy of discriminatory systems and inspired new forms of resistance. The old men’s act of solidarity echoes the movement’s emphasis on collective action, courage, and the assertion of basic human rights.

Representation of Rural Life

The plantation setting provides a window into rural Black communities, where traditions and relationships are shaped by both hardship and resilience. Gaines’s depiction is grounded in authenticity, drawing on his own experiences growing up in Louisiana.

- Post-Jim Crow era
- Civil Rights legacy
- Rural Southern culture

Literary Significance and Style

Multiple Points of View

Ernest J. Gaines employs a unique narrative structure, using multiple first-person perspectives to convey the story. Each chapter provides insight from a different character, allowing readers to experience the events through varied lenses. This technique enhances the novel's depth and fosters empathy for its characters.

Symbolism and Imagery

The shotguns carried by the old men serve as powerful symbols of resistance and self-assertion. Gaines uses vivid imagery to evoke the atmosphere of the plantation, the tension of the gathering, and the emotional stakes of the conflict.

Dialogues and Vernacular Language

The novel's dialogue is steeped in regional vernacular, capturing the rhythms and nuances of Southern speech. Gaines's attention to language adds authenticity and richness to the narrative, grounding it in its cultural context.

- Multi-perspective storytelling
- Symbolic motifs
- Authentic dialogue

Impact and Legacy

Critical Reception

Since its publication in 1983, "a gathering of old men" has been praised for its compelling characters and social relevance. The novel is frequently studied in academic settings, recognized for its contribution to African American literature and Southern fiction.

Adaptations and Cultural Influence

The novel was adapted into a television film in 1987, expanding its reach and impact. Its themes continue to resonate in contemporary discussions about race, justice, and community, making it a touchstone for educators, activists, and readers worldwide.

Enduring Relevance

The story's exploration of dignity, solidarity, and resistance remains pertinent to modern audiences. "A gathering of old men" stands as a testament to the power of storytelling in challenging social norms and inspiring change.

- Academic recognition
- Film adaptation
- Ongoing social relevance

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the central conflict in "a gathering of old men"?

A: The central conflict revolves around the murder of Beau Boutan and the old Black men's decision to stand together, confronting racial injustice and challenging the established social order on a Louisiana plantation.

Q: Who wrote "a gathering of old men" and when was it published?

A: "A Gathering of Old Men" was written by Ernest J. Gaines and published in 1983.

Q: What themes are explored in the novel?

A: The novel explores themes of racial injustice, courage, solidarity, identity, self-respect, and the quest for justice.

Q: How does the novel use multiple points of view?

A: Each chapter is narrated by a different character, providing diverse perspectives on the events and enriching the reader's understanding of their motivations and experiences.

Q: Why is the gathering of old men significant?

A: The gathering symbolizes collective resistance and the reclaiming of dignity among those who have long been oppressed, marking a pivotal moment of empowerment.

Q: What historical context influences the story?

A: The novel is influenced by the legacy of Jim Crow laws, the Civil Rights Movement, and the realities of rural life in the American South.

Q: Has "a gathering of old men" been adapted for film or television?

A: Yes, it was adapted into a television movie in 1987, further cementing its cultural impact.

Q: What role does Candy Marshall play in the story?

A: Candy Marshall is the plantation manager who attempts to protect the old men by claiming responsibility for the murder, highlighting her complex relationship with race and privilege.

Q: What is the significance of the shotguns in the novel?

A: The shotguns represent resistance and empowerment, symbolizing the men's readiness to defend themselves and challenge racial oppression.

Q: Why is "a gathering of old men" considered an important work of literature?

A: The novel is acclaimed for its nuanced exploration of race, justice, and community, its literary style, and its enduring relevance to contemporary social issues.

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A Gathering of Old Men: Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Male Aging and Camaraderie

Introduction:

The image conjured by "a gathering of old men" can vary wildly. Is it a somber affair, heavy with the weight of years and regrets? Or is it a vibrant celebration of shared history, laughter, and enduring bonds? This post delves into the multifaceted reality of gatherings of older men, exploring the social, emotional, and even spiritual aspects of these often-overlooked gatherings. We'll examine the diverse reasons for such gatherings, the unique dynamics at play, and the often-unseen benefits they offer participants. Prepare to move beyond stereotypical portrayals and discover the rich tapestry woven from shared experiences and enduring friendships.

Why Do Old Men Gather? The Deeper Reasons Behind the Meetings

The motivations behind gatherings of older men are far more complex than simply "getting together." While shared hobbies, such as golf or fishing, might initiate the gatherings, the underlying reasons often run much deeper:

The Need for Connection and Belonging:

As men age, established social circles can shrink. Retirement, the loss of loved ones, and changes in physical capabilities can lead to isolation. Gatherings provide a vital sense of belonging, a space to connect with others who understand the shared experiences of aging. This connection combats loneliness and contributes significantly to mental well-being.

Shared History and Storytelling:

Older men often have a wealth of shared experiences - from childhood memories to professional achievements and personal challenges. These gatherings become fertile ground for storytelling, a powerful way to reminisce, re-evaluate past events, and strengthen bonds through shared

narratives. These stories aren't just reminiscing; they're a way of passing down wisdom and knowledge to younger generations.

Mutual Support and Mentorship:

Navigating the challenges of aging – health issues, financial concerns, and the emotional toll of loss – can be daunting. Gatherings provide a supportive environment where men can offer advice, empathy, and practical assistance to one another. This mutual support system is invaluable, fostering resilience and a sense of shared strength.

The Pursuit of Shared Interests:

Beyond the deeper emotional needs, shared interests play a significant role. Whether it's a weekly poker game, a book club focused on historical fiction, or a regular hiking group, these shared activities provide structure, purpose, and a reason to maintain social engagement. These common interests serve as a foundation for connection and friendship.

The Dynamics of a Gathering of Old Men: More Than Just a Casual Meet-Up

The dynamic within a gathering of older men is complex and nuanced. It's a space where hierarchies established in younger years can either persist or dissolve, replaced by a newfound camaraderie built on shared vulnerability and mutual respect.

Power Dynamics and Shifting Roles:

The established hierarchies of the workplace or social circles might still subtly influence interactions. However, age often brings a softening of these power dynamics. Respect for experience is usually present, but there's a greater acceptance of individual differences and a less formal, more relaxed atmosphere.

Competition and Camaraderie:

While competition might be present in some activities, it often coexists with a strong sense of camaraderie. Friendly rivalries can enhance the enjoyment of shared activities, strengthening the

bond between participants rather than creating division.

Vulnerability and Openness:

As men age, they may be more willing to share vulnerabilities and express emotions openly. The trust built within a long-standing group allows for deeper conversations and a more authentic connection than might be possible in other social contexts.

The Benefits of Gatherings: More Than Just Good Company

The benefits of these gatherings extend far beyond simple enjoyment. They are crucial for:

Improved Mental and Physical Health:

Social interaction is vital for mental well-being, combatting loneliness and depression. The regular physical activity associated with some gatherings also contributes to improved physical health.

Increased Life Satisfaction:

A sense of belonging, purpose, and shared experiences contributes significantly to increased life satisfaction and overall happiness in older men.

Strengthened Family Ties (Indirectly):

While the gatherings themselves may not directly involve family, the improved mental and emotional well-being of the participants often has a positive ripple effect on their families.

Conclusion:

A gathering of old men is far more than a cliché. It represents a vital aspect of the aging process, a

testament to the enduring power of friendship, shared experiences, and the ongoing need for human connection. These gatherings are essential for mental and physical well-being, contributing to a richer, more fulfilling life in later years. They provide a framework for support, mentorship, and the continuation of meaningful relationships. By understanding the nuances and benefits of these gatherings, we can appreciate the vital role they play in the lives of older men and the broader community.

FAQs:

1. Are these gatherings exclusive? No, while some might develop organically around specific interests or shared history, many are open to new members who share similar interests or a desire for social connection.
2. How can I find a group for myself or an aging relative? Community centers, senior centers, churches, and online forums dedicated to specific hobbies can be excellent starting points.
3. What if someone in the group struggles with health issues? Support and understanding are usually part of the group dynamic. Adaptability and consideration for differing needs are key.
4. Do these gatherings ever address serious issues like grief or loss? Absolutely. Shared experiences with loss and the emotional support provided within the group are invaluable in navigating these difficult times.
5. Is there a risk of these groups becoming insular or exclusive? While some groups might develop close-knit bonds, open communication and a welcoming attitude towards new members can prevent insularity. Encouraging diversity of perspectives helps to foster a healthier, more inclusive environment.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Old Men Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-31 A powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man--set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s. The Village Voice called A Gathering of Old Men "the best-written novel on Southern race relations in over a decade."

a gathering of old men: A Lesson Before Dying Ernest J. Gaines, 2004-01-20 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • A deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to visit a Black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. An instant classic. —Chicago Tribune A "majestic, moving novel...an instant classic, a book that will be read, discussed and taught beyond the rest of our lives (Chicago Tribune), from the critically acclaimed author of A Gathering of Old Men and The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman. A Lesson Before Dying reconfirms Ernest J. Gaines's position as an important American writer. —Boston Globe Enormously moving.... Gaines unerringly evokes the place and time about which he writes. —Los Angeles Times "A quietly moving novel [that] takes us back to a place we've been before to impart a lesson for living." —San Francisco Chronicle

a gathering of old men: The Tragedy of Brady Sims Ernest J. Gaines, 2017-08-29 A courthouse shooting leads a young reporter to uncover the long story of race and power in his small town and the relationship between the white sheriff and the black man who whipped children to keep order—in the final novella by the beloved Ernest J. Gaines. After Brady Sims pulls out a gun in a courtroom and shoots his own son, who has just been convicted of robbery and murder, he asks only to be allowed two hours before he'll give himself up to the sheriff. When the editor of the local

newspaper asks his cub reporter to dig up a human interest story about Brady, he heads for the town's barbershop. It is the barbers and the regulars who hang out there who narrate with empathy, sadness, humor, and a profound understanding the life story of Brady Sims—an honorable, just, and unsparing man who with his tough love had been handed the task of keeping the black children of Bayonne, Louisiana in line to protect them from the unjust world in which they lived. And when his own son makes a fateful mistake, it is up to Brady to carry out the necessary reckoning. In the telling, we learn the story of a small southern town, divided by race, and the black community struggling to survive even as many of its inhabitants head off northwards during the Great Migration.

a gathering of old men: The Sky is Gray Ernest J. Gaines, Lafayette Reads Ernest Gaines, 2002 A poor African American boy and his mother experience both discrimination and kindness during a trip to town to see the dentist.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Secrets Linda Castillo, 2018-07-10 A deadly fire exposes the dark side of Amish life in *A Gathering of Secrets*, a harrowing new thriller in the New York Times bestselling series (July 2017) by Linda Castillo. When a historic barn burns to the ground in the middle of the night, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder is called in to investigate. At first, it looks like an accident, but when the body of eighteen-year-old Daniel Gingerich is found inside—burned alive—Kate suspects murder. Who would want a well-liked, hardworking young Amish man dead? Kate delves into the investigation only to find herself stonewalled by the community to which she once belonged. Is their silence a result of the Amish tenet of separation? Or is this peaceful and deeply religious community conspiring to hide a truth no one wants to talk about? Kate doubles down only to discover a plethora of secrets and a chilling series of crimes that shatters everything she thought she knew about her Amish roots—and herself. As Kate wades through a sea of suspects, she's confronted by her own violent past and an unthinkable possibility.

a gathering of old men: Of Love and Dust Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-24 This is the story of Marcus: bonded out of jail where he has been awaiting trial for murder, he is sent to the Hebert plantation to work in the fields. There he encounters conflict with the overseer, Sidney Bonbon, and a tale of revenge, lust and power plays out between Marcus, Bonbon, BonBon's mistress Pauline, and BonBon's wife Louise.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Shadows V. E. Schwab, 2016-02-23 From #1 New York Times bestselling author V.E. Schwab Addictive and immersive, *A Gathering of Shadows* cements this series as a must-read. —Entertainment Weekly, grade A Four months have passed since the shadow stone fell into Kell's possession. Four months since his path crossed with Delilah Bard. Four months since Rhy was wounded and the Dane twins fell, and the stone was cast with Holland's dying body through the rift, and into Black London. In many ways, things have almost returned to normal, though Rhy is more sober, and Kell is now plagued by his guilt. Restless, and having given up smuggling, Kell is visited by dreams of ominous magical events, waking only to think of Lila, who disappeared from the docks like she always meant to do. As Red London finalizes preparations for the Element Games—an extravagant international competition of magic, meant to entertain and keep healthy the ties between neighboring countries—a certain pirate ship draws closer, carrying old friends back into port. But while Red London is caught up in the pageantry and thrills of the Games, another London is coming back to life, and those who were thought to be forever gone have returned. After all, a shadow that was gone in the night reappears in the morning, and so it seems Black London has risen again—and so to keep magic's balance, another London must fall...in V.E. Schwab's *A Gathering of Shadows*. Shades of Magic series 1. *A Darker Shade of Magic* 2. *A Gathering of Shadows* 3. *A Conjuring of Light* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

a gathering of old men: Ballad Maggie Stiefvater, 2010-09-08 James Morgan's gift for music has attracted Nuala, a soul-snatching faerie who feeds on the creative energies of exceptional humans until they die. While collaborating on a musical composition, James and Nuala unexpectedly fall in love. When James realizes that Nuala is being hunted, he plunges into a soul-scorching battle

with the Faerie Queen.

a gathering of old men: Catherine Carmier Ernest J. Gaines, 1993-03-31 A compelling debut love story set in a deceptively bucolic Louisiana countryside, where blacks, Cajuns, and whites maintain an uneasy coexistence--by the award-winning author of *A Lesson Before Dying* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. After living in San Francisco for ten years, Jackson returns home to his benefactor, Aunt Charlotte. Surrounded by family and old friends, he discovers that his bonds to them have been irreparably rent by his absence. In the midst of his alienation from those around him, he falls in love with Catherine Carmier, setting the stage for conflicts and confrontations which are complex, tortuous, and universal in their implications.

a gathering of old men: Gathering of Waters Bernice L. McFadden, 2012-01-31 One of Essence's Best Books of the Decade! A New York Times Notable Book of 2012! *Gathering of Waters* is a finalist for a Phillis Wheatley Fiction Book Award! *Gathering of Waters* was named a finalist for a 2013 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award! *Gathering of Waters* has been selected as a Go On Girl! April 2013 Book Pick. McFadden works a kind of miracle--not only do [her characters] retain their appealing humanity; their story eclipses the bonds of history to offer continuous surprises...Beautiful and evocative, *Gathering of Waters* brings three generations to life...The real power of the narrative lies in the richness and complexity of the characters. While they inhabit these pages they live, and they do so gloriously and messily and magically, so that we are at last sorry to see them go, and we sit with those small moments we had with them and worry over them, enchanted, until they become something like our own memories, dimmed by time, but alive with the ghosts of the past, and burning with spirits. --Jesmyn Ward, New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice Read it aloud. Hire a chorus to chant it to you and anyone else interested in hearing about civil rights and uncivil desires, about the dark heat of hate, about the force of forgiveness. --Alan Cheuse, All Things Considered, NPR McFadden combines events of Biblical proportions--from flooding to resurrection--with history to create a cautionary, redemptive tale that spans the early twentieth century to the start of Hurricane Katrina. She compellingly invites readers to consider the distinctions between 'truth or fantasy'...In McFadden's boldly spun yarn, consequences extend across time and place. This is an arresting historical portrait of Southern life with reimagined outcomes, suggesting that hope in the enduring power of memory can offer healing where justice does not suffice. --Publishers Weekly The rich text is shaped by the African American storytelling tradition and layered with significant American histories. Recalling the woven spirituality of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, this work will appeal to readers of mystic literature. --Library Journal McFadden makes powerful use of imagery in this fantastical novel of ever-flowing waters and troubled spirits. --Booklist In this fierce reimagining, the actual town of Money, MS narrates the story about the ghost of Emmett Till and his from-the-other-side reunification with the girl he loved as a child in *Gathering of Waters* by Bernice L. McFadden. --Ebony Magazine *Gathering of Waters* is a deeply engrossing tale narrated by the town of Money, Mississippi--a site both significant and infamous in our collective story as a nation. Money is personified in this haunting story, which chronicles its troubled history following the arrival of the Hilson and Bryant families. Tass Hilson and Emmett Till were young and in love when Emmett was brutally murdered in 1955. Anxious to escape the town, Tass marries Maximillian May and relocates to Detroit. Forty years later, after the death of her husband, Tass returns to Money and fantasy takes flesh when Emmett Till's spirit is finally released from the dank, dark waters of the Tallahatchie River. The two lovers are reunited, bringing the story to an enchanting and profound conclusion. *Gathering of Waters* mines the truth about Money, Mississippi, as well as the town's families, and threads their history over decades. The bare-bones realism--both disturbing and riveting--combined with a magical realm in which ghosts have the final say, is reminiscent of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

a gathering of old men: A Darker Shade of Magic V. E. Schwab, 2015-02-24 *A Darker Shade of Magic*, from #1 New York Times bestselling author V.E. Schwab Kell is one of the last Antari—magicians with a rare, coveted ability to travel between parallel Londons; Red, Grey, White, and, once upon a time, Black. Kell was raised in Arnes—Red London—and officially serves the

Maresh Empire as an ambassador, traveling between the frequent bloody regime changes in White London and the court of George III in the dullest of Londons, the one without any magic left to see. Unofficially, Kell is a smuggler, servicing people willing to pay for even the smallest glimpses of a world they'll never see. It's a defiant hobby with dangerous consequences, which Kell is now seeing firsthand. After an exchange goes awry, Kell escapes to Grey London and runs into Delilah Bard, a cut-purse with lofty aspirations. She first robs him, then saves him from a deadly enemy, and finally forces Kell to spirit her to another world for a proper adventure. Now perilous magic is afoot, and treachery lurks at every turn. To save all of the worlds, they'll first need to stay alive. A Darker Shade of Magic has all the hallmarks of a classic work of fantasy. Schwab has given us a gem of a tale...This is a book to treasure.—Deborah Harkness, New York Times bestselling author of the All Souls trilogy Shades of Magic series 1. A Darker Shade of Magic 2. A Gathering of Shadows 3. A Conjuring of Light At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

a gathering of old men: Valor Jimmie Dean Coy, 2003-04 VALOR-A Gathering of Eagles presents the heroic exploits of 117 recipients of the Medal of Honor. It also reveals their thoughts on leadership, courage, and success. It includes each man's official citation and photograph along with their hard-won wisdom. Book jacket.

a gathering of old men: No Country for Old Men Cormac McCarthy, 2007-11-29 From the bestselling author of *The Passenger* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Road* comes a profoundly disturbing and gorgeously rendered novel (*The Washington Post*) that returns to the Texas-Mexico border, setting of the famed *Border Trilogy*. The time is our own, when rustlers have given way to drug-runners and small towns have become free-fire zones. One day, a good old boy named Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a bodyguard of dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law—in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell—can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers—in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives—McCarthy simultaneously strips down the American crime novel and broadens its concerns to encompass themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as this morning's headlines. *No Country for Old Men* is a triumph. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest bestselling novels, *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*.

a gathering of old men: Our Caribbean Thomas Glave, 2008 The first book of its kind, *Our Caribbean* is an anthology of lesbian and gay writing from across the Antilles. The author and activist Thomas Glave has gathered outstanding fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and poetry by little-known writers together with selections by internationally celebrated figures such as José Alcántara Almánzar, Reinaldo Arenas, Dionne Brand, Michelle Cliff, Audre Lorde, Achy Obejas, and Assotto Saint. The result is an unprecedented literary conversation on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experiences throughout the Caribbean and its far-flung diaspora. Many selections were originally published in Spanish, Dutch, or creole languages; some are translated into English here for the first time. The thirty-seven authors hail from the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Suriname, and Trinidad. Many have lived outside the Caribbean, and their writing depicts histories of voluntary migration as well as exile from repressive governments, communities, and families. Many pieces have a political urgency that reflects their authors' work as activists, teachers, community organizers, and performers. Desire commingles with ostracism and alienation throughout: in the evocative portrayals of same-sex love and longing, and in the selections addressing religion, family, race, and class. From the poem *Saturday Night in San Juan* with the Right Sailors to the poignant narrative *We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?* to an eloquent call for the embrace of difference that appeared in the *Nassau Daily Tribune* on the eve of an anti-gay protest, *Our Caribbean* is a brave and necessary book. Contributors: José Alcántara Almánzar, Aldo Alvarez, Reinaldo Arenas, Rane Arroyo, Jesús J. Barquet, Marilyn Bobes, Dionne Brand, Timothy S. Chin, Michelle Cliff, Wesley E. A. Crichlow, Mabel Rodríguez Cuesta, Ochy

Curiel, Faizal Deen, Pedro de Jesús, R. Erica Doyle, Thomas Glave, Rosamond S. King, Helen Klonaris, Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, Audre Lorde, Shani Mootoo, Anton Nimblett, Achy Obejas, Leonardo Padura Fuentes, Virgilio Piñera, Patricia Powell, Kevin Everod Quashie, Juanita Ramos, Colin Robinson, Assotto Saint, Andrew Salkey, Lawrence Scott, Makeda Silvera, H. Nigel Thomas, Rinaldo Walcott, Gloria Wekker, Lawson Williams

a gathering of old men: *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-24 “Grand, robust, a rich and big novel.”—Alice Walker, *The New York Times Book Review* “In [Jane Pittman], Ernest Gaines has created a legendary figure. . . . Gaines’s novel brings to mind other great works: *The Odyssey*, for the way his heroine’s travels manage to summarize the American history of her race, and *Huckleberry Finn*, for the clarity of [Pittman’s] voice, for her rare capacity to sort through the mess of years and things to find the one true story of it all.”—*Newsweek* *Miss Jane Pittman*. She is one of the most unforgettable heroines in American fiction, a woman whose life has come to symbolize the struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice. Ernest J. Gaines’s now-classic novel—written as an autobiography—spans one hundred years of Miss Jane’s remarkable life, from her childhood as a slave on a Louisiana plantation to the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. It is a story of courage and survival, history, bigotry, and hope—as seen through the eyes of a woman who lived through it all. A historical tour de force, a triumph of fiction, Miss Jane’s eloquent narrative brings to life an important story of race in America—and stands as a landmark work for our time.

a gathering of old men: *The First Wife* Paulina Chiziane, 2016-08-09 After twenty years of marriage, Rami discovers that her husband has been living a double--or rather, a quintuple--life. Tony, a senior police officer in Maputo, has apparently been supporting four other families for many years. Rami remains calm in the face of her husband's duplicity and plots to make an honest man out of him. After Tony is forced to marry the four other women--as well as an additional lover--according to polygamist custom, the rival lovers join together to declare their voices and demand their rights. In this brilliantly funny and feverishly scathing critique, a major work from Mozambique's first published female novelist, Paulina Chiziane explores her country's traditional culture, its values and hypocrisy, and the subjection of women the world over.

a gathering of old men: *Gathering Blue (The Giver Quartet)* Lois Lowry, 2014-07-31 The fascinating sequel to *THE GIVER* which inspired the dystopian genre and is soon to be a major motion picture starring Jeff Bridges, Katie Holmes and Taylor Swift.

a gathering of old men: *The Gathering* Anne Enright, 2007-12-01 A crowd of siblings gathers in Dublin for the wake of their wayward brother in this “stunning” novel by the award-winning author of *Actress* (*The Washington Post*). The surviving children of the Hegarty clan are gathering for the wake of their wayward, alcoholic brother, Liam, drowned in the sea after filling his pockets with stones. He is the third of the twelve Hegarty siblings to die. His sister, Veronica, collects the body and keeps the dead man company, guarding the secret she shares with him—something that happened in their grandmother’s house in the winter of 1968. As prize-winning author Anne Enright traces the line of betrayal and redemption through three generations, her distinctive intelligence twists the world a fraction and gives it back to us in a new and unforgettable light. *The Gathering* is an “wonderfully elegant and unsparing” epic of an Irish family (*Los Angeles Times*)—a novel about love and disappointment, how memories warp and secrets fester, and how fate is written in the body, not in the stars. “Entrancing...a haunting look at a broken family stifled by generations of hurt and disappointment, struggling to make peace with the irreparable.”—*Entertainment Weekly* “A melancholic love and rage bubbles just beneath the surface of this Dublin clan, and Enright explores it unflinchingly.”—*Publishers Weekly* “Her sympathy for her characters is as tender and subtle as Alice McDermott’s; her vision of Ireland is as brave and original as Edna O’Brien’s. *The Gathering* is her best book.”—Colm Toibin “Hypnotic.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

a gathering of old men: *The Giver* Lois Lowry, 2014 *The Giver*, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and

contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This movie tie-in edition features cover art from the movie and exclusive Q&A with members of the cast, including Taylor Swift, Brenton Thwaites and Cameron Monaghan.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Larks Abigail Carroll, 2017-03-06 Who was Saint Francis? Today he is most often a sweet ceramic statue in a garden, a sentimentalized romantic figure. But *A Gathering of Larks*, containing forty personal letters from Abigail Carroll to Francis, reveals him to be a complex man who lived a fascinating life of radical faith. These letters—part devotion, part historical biography, part contemporary engagement, and part inspiration—reveal Carroll's curiosity and wonder about Francis. She celebrates his whimsical idealism and impetuosity, explores his spirituality and commitment to poverty, and sometimes even questions him. She also uses Francis as a sounding board for larger questions about the world—and, through her own experience, explores how brokenness makes experiencing redemption possible. As beautiful as it is insightful, alight with a pilgrim's growing sense of discovery, *A Gathering of Larks* has both range and depth that will uplift readers and challenge them to better understand this singular saint and how he might speak to and shape their way of living in today's world.

a gathering of old men: Obasan Joy Kogawa, 2016-09-13 Winner of the American Book Award Based on the author's own experiences, this award-winning novel was the first to tell the story of the evacuation, relocation, and dispersal of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War.

a gathering of old men: *The Crazy Bunch* Willie Perdomo, 2019-04-02 From a prize-winning poet, a new collection that chronicles a weekend in the life of a group of friends coming of age in East Harlem at the dawn of the hip-hop era Willie Perdomo, a native of East Harlem, has won praise as a hip, playful, historically engaged poet whose restlessly lyrical language mixes city life with a sense of the transcendent (NPR.org). In his fourth collection, *The Crazy Bunch*, Perdomo returns to his beloved neighborhood to create a vivid, kaleidoscopic portrait of a crew coming of age in East Harlem at the beginning of the 1990s. In poems written in couplets, vignettes, sketches, riffs, and dialogue, Perdomo recreates a weekend where surviving members of the crew recall a series of tragic events: That was the summer we all tried to fly. All but one of us succeeded.

a gathering of old men: *In My Father's House* Ernest J. Gaines, 1992-06-30 A compelling novel of a man brought to reckon with his buried past... In St. Adrienne, a small black community in Louisiana, Reverend Phillip Martin—a respected minister and civil rights leader—comes face to face with the sins of his youth in the person of Robert X, a young, unkempt stranger who arrives in town for a mysterious meeting with the Reverend. In the confrontation between the two, the young man's secret burden explodes into the open, and Phillip Martin begins a long-neglected journey into his youth to discover how destructive his former life was, for himself and for those around him. "...on every page there's an authentic moment, or a dead-right knot of conversation, or a truer-than-true turn of phrase..."—Kirkus Reviews

a gathering of old men: Bloodline Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-31 In these five stories, Ernest Gaines returns to the cane fields, sharecroppers' shacks, and decaying plantation houses of Louisiana, the terrain of his great novels *A Gathering of Old Men* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. As rendered by Gaines, this country becomes as familiar, and as haunted by cruelty, suffering, and courage, as Ralph Ellison's Harlem or Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County. Gaines introduces us to this world through the eyes of guileless children and wizened jailbirds, black tenants and white planters. He shows his characters eking out a living and making love, breaking apart and coming together. And on every page he captures the soul of black community whose circumstances make even the slightest assertion of self-respect an act of majestic—and sometimes suicidal—heroism. *Bloodline* is a miracle of storytelling. STORIES INCLUDE: A Long Day in November The Sky Is Gray Three Men Bloodline Just Like a Tree

a gathering of old men: A Touch of Stone and Snow Milla Vane, 2020-07-21 Milla Vane returns to a world of kings, magic, and passion in her exhilarating *A Gathering of Dragons* series, as a great

alliance forms to stand against an evil warlord intent on their destruction. Danger lurks in the western realms. The Destroyer's imminent return has sent the realms into turmoil as desperate citizens seek refuge—but there's no safety to be found when demons and wraiths crawl out from the shadows. Even Koth, a northern island kingdom left untouched by the Destroyer a generation past, is besieged by terrors spawned from corrupt magics. When Lizzan leads the Kothan army against these terrors, only to see her soldiers massacred and to emerge as the only survivor, she is called a coward and a deserter. Shunned from her home, Lizzan now wanders in solitude as a mercenary for hire, until she encounters a group of warriors seeking new alliances with the northern kingdoms—a group that includes Aerax, the bastard prince of Koth, and the man who sent her into exile. Though they were childhood friends, Aerax cannot allow himself to be close to the only woman who might thwart his treacherous plan to save their island realm. But when a goddess's demand binds them together, Lizzan and Aerax must find a way to overcome their painful pasts. Or there will be no future for the western realms...

a gathering of old men: Beowulf, 2012-03-01 Finest heroic poem in Old English celebrates the exploits of Beowulf, a young nobleman of southern Sweden. Combines myth, Christian and pagan elements, and history into a powerful narrative. Genealogies.

a gathering of old men: *The Art of Gathering* Priya Parker, 2018-05-15 Hosts of all kinds, this is a must-read! --Chris Anderson, owner and curator of TED From the host of the New York Times podcast Together Apart, an exciting new approach to how we gather that will transform the ways we spend our time together—at home, at work, in our communities, and beyond. In *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are lackluster and unproductive--which they don't have to be. We rely too much on routine and the conventions of gatherings when we should focus on distinctiveness and the people involved. At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences, large and small, for work and for play. Drawing on her expertise as a facilitator of high-powered gatherings around the world, Parker takes us inside events of all kinds to show what works, what doesn't, and why. She investigates a wide array of gatherings--conferences, meetings, a courtroom, a flash-mob party, an Arab-Israeli summer camp--and explains how simple, specific changes can invigorate any group experience. The result is a book that's both journey and guide, full of exciting ideas with real-world applications. *The Art of Gathering* will forever alter the way you look at your next meeting, industry conference, dinner party, and backyard barbecue--and how you host and attend them.

a gathering of old men: *A Gathering of Men* Rona Simmons, 2022-02-08 Candor, North Carolina. The town barber brandishes a copy of the May 1927 Charlotte Observer on the front page, Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis on its cross-country flight. At the outskirts of town, best friends Lake, Roger, and Jim take turns hurling their wingless crate down a hill. Eyes closed, they imagine their future alongside Lindy. Pearl Harbor changes everything. The boys will have their chance to fly—not over North Carolina farm fields, but across Germany on bombing runs, facing a determined Luftwaffe. The odds of completing their tours of duty are slim. *A Gathering of Men* is the account of the boys who board their aircraft for the first time and the men they become in the blink of an eye. The terrors they witness and the pressure to go up again and again and again brings them to the breaking point. It is a moving tale, based on a true story, about shattered dreams and enduring friendship, duty, and honor.

a gathering of old men: *A Gathering of Ravens* Scott Oden, 2017-06-29 Beowulf meets The Lord of the Rings meets Bernard Cornwell in an epic novel of vengeance, faith and the power of myth. To the Danes, he is skraelingr; to the English, he is orcnéas; to the Irish, he is fomoraig. He is Corpse-maker and Life-quencher, the Bringer of Night, the Son of the Wolf and Brother of the Serpent. He is Grimnir, and he is the last of his kind—the last in a long line of monsters who have plagued humanity since the Elder Days. Drawn from his lair by a thirst for vengeance against the Dane who slew his brother, Grimnir emerges into a world that's changed. A new faith has arisen. The Old Ways are dying, and their followers retreating into the shadows; even still, Grimnir's

vengeance cannot be denied. Taking a young Christian hostage to be his guide, Grimnir embarks on a journey that takes him from the hinterlands of Denmark, where the wisdom of the ancient dwarves has given way to madness, to the war-torn heart of southern England, where the spirits of the land make violence on one another. And thence to the green shores of Ireland and the Viking stronghold of Dubhlinn, where his enemy awaits. But, unless Grimnir can set aside his hatreds, his dream of retribution will come to nothing. For Dubhlinn is set to be the site of a reckoning—the Old Ways versus the New—and Grimnir, the last of his kind left to plague mankind, must choose: stand with the Christian King of Ireland and see his vengeance done or stand against him and see it slip away?

a gathering of old men: A Heart of Blood and Ashes Milla Vane, 2020-02-04 A generation past, the western realms were embroiled in endless war. Then the Destroyer came. From the blood and ashes he left behind, a tenuous alliance rose between the barbarian riders of Parsathe and the walled kingdoms of the south. That alliance is all that stands against the return of an ancient evil—until the barbarian king and queen are slain in an act of bloody betrayal. Though forbidden by the alliance council to kill the corrupt king responsible for his parents' murders, Maddek vows to avenge them, even if it costs him the Parsathean crown. But when he learns it was the king's daughter who lured his parents to their deaths, the barbarian warrior is determined to make her pay. Yet the woman Maddek captures is not what he expected. Though the last in a line of legendary warrior-queens, Yvenne is small and weak, and the sharpest weapons she wields are her mind and her tongue. Even more surprising is the marriage she proposes to unite them in their goals and to claim their thrones—because her desire for vengeance against her father burns even hotter than his own...

a gathering of old men: A Study Guide for Ernest Gaines's A Gathering of Old Men Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A Study Guide for Ernest Gaines's *A Gathering of Old Men*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Eagles Jimmie Dean Coy, 2000-07 345 military, political, and religious leaders share their core beliefs about leadership and success.

a gathering of old men: Truly Madly Guilty Liane Moriarty, 2016-07-26 THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, FROM THE AUTHOR OF BIG LITTLE LIES, now an HBO series. Winner of Goodreads Choice Award for Best Fiction "Here's the best news you've heard all year: Not a single page disappoints....The only difficulty with Truly Madly Guilty? Putting it down." —Miami Herald "Captivating, suspenseful...tantalizing." —People Magazine Six responsible adults. Three cute kids. One small dog. It's just a normal weekend. What could possibly go wrong? In Truly Madly Guilty, Liane Moriarty turns her unique, razor-sharp eye towards three seemingly happy families. Sam and Clementine have a wonderful, albeit busy, life: they have two little girls, Sam has just started a new dream job, and Clementine, a cellist, is busy preparing for the audition of a lifetime. If there's anything they can count on, it's each other. Clementine and Erika are each other's oldest friends. A single look between them can convey an entire conversation. But theirs is a complicated relationship, so when Erika mentions a last-minute invitation to a barbecue with her neighbors, Tiffany and Vid, Clementine and Sam don't hesitate. Having Tiffany and Vid's larger-than-life personalities there will be a welcome respite. Two months later, it won't stop raining, and Clementine and Sam can't stop asking themselves the question: What if we hadn't gone? In Truly Madly Guilty, Liane Moriarty takes on the foundations of our lives: marriage, sex, parenthood, and friendship. She shows how guilt can expose the fault lines in the most seemingly strong relationships, how what we don't say can be more powerful than what we do, and how sometimes it is the most innocent of moments that can do the greatest harm. Entertainment Weekly's "Best Beach Bet" A USA Today Hot Books for Summer Selection A Miami Herald Summer Reads Pick

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Ghosts Karen Maitland, 2018-09-06 Pagans tackle the Knights of St John with terrible consequences in the new medieval thriller by Queen of the Dark

Ages, Karen Maitland. Set on the wilds of Dartmoor, this is a ghostly tale for fans of *The Essex Serpent*, C. J. Sansom's *Shardlake* series and *The Burning Chambers* by Kate Mosse. 'A dark read... fear and hysteria are portrayed with claustrophobic skill' *The Times* on *THE PLAGUE CHARMER* 1316. On the wilds of Dartmoor stands the isolated Priory of St Mary, home to the Sisters of the Knights of St John. People journey from afar in search of healing at the holy well that lies beneath its chapel. But the locals believe Dartmoor was theirs long before Christianity came to the land. And not all who visit seek miracles. When three strangers reach the moor, fear begins to stir as the well's waters run with blood. What witchcraft have the young woman, the Knight of St John and the blind child brought with them? The Sisters will need to fight for everything they hold dear as the ghosts of the Old World gather in their midst.

a gathering of old men: This Chair Rocks Ashton Applewhite, 2019-03-05 Author, activist, and TED speaker Ashton Applewhite has written a rousing manifesto calling for an end to discrimination and prejudice on the basis of age. In our youth obsessed culture, we're bombarded by media images and messages about the despairs and declines of our later years. Beauty and pharmaceutical companies work overtime to convince people to purchase products that will retain their youthful appearance and vitality. Wrinkles are embarrassing. Gray hair should be colored and bald heads covered with implants. Older minds and bodies are too frail to keep up with the pace of the modern working world and elders should just step aside for the new generation. Ashton Applewhite once held these beliefs too until she realized where this prejudice comes from and the damage it does. Lively, funny, and deeply researched, *This Chair Rocks* traces her journey from apprehensive boomer to pro-aging radical, and in the process debunks myth after myth about late life. Explaining the roots of ageism in history and how it divides and debases, Applewhite examines how ageist stereotypes cripple the way our brains and bodies function, looks at ageism in the workplace and the bedroom, exposes the cost of the all-American myth of independence, critiques the portrayal of elders as burdens to society, describes what an all-age-friendly world would look like, and offers a rousing call to action. It's time to create a world of age equality by making discrimination on the basis of age as unacceptable as any other kind of bias. Whether you're older or hoping to get there, this book will shake you by the shoulders, cheer you up, make you mad, and change the way you see the rest of your life. Age pride! "Wow. This book totally rocks. It arrived on a day when I was in deep confusion and sadness about my age. Everything about it, from my invisibility to my neck. Within four or five wise, passionate pages, I had found insight, illumination, and inspiration. I never use the word empower, but this book has empowered me." —Anne Lamott, New York Times bestselling author

a gathering of old men: A Visitation of Spirits Randall Kenan, Randall, Kenan, 2022-05-17 "With *A Visitation of Spirits*, Randall Kenan continues James Baldwin's legendary tradition of 'telling it on the mountain.'"—*San Francisco Chronicle* When *A Visitation of Spirits* was published, Randall Kenan (1963-2020) was instantly recognized as a writer of significance, and one who brought into literary fiction the southern Black, gay experience, one of the first such writers to achieve mainstream success. His groundbreaking first novel, *A Visitation of Spirits*, is the powerful story of Horace Cross, a popular and high-achieving sixteen-year-old boy, who wrestles with the guilt of discovering who he is, a young man attracted to other men and yearning to escape the narrow confines of the small town of Tims Creek, North Carolina, where he grew up. Raised on stories of prophets, revelations, and dreams, his internal struggles take shape in his mind as demons and angels battling for his soul, culminating in one night of horrible and tragic transformation. *A Visitation of Spirits* established Randall Kenan as a literary master, and his influence continues to be felt. Now in Grove paperback and with an introduction by Tarell Alvin McCraney, Oscar-winning writer of *Moonlight*, *A Visitation of Spirits* is a classic novel of growing up from a literary giant.

a gathering of old men: The Hunting Party Lucy Foley, 2019-02-12 *THE NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER "My favorite kind of whodunit, kept me guessing all the way through, and reminiscent of Agatha Christie at her best -- with an extra dose of acid." -- Alex Michaelides, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Silent Patient* Everyone's invited...everyone's a suspect... During the

languid days of the Christmas break, a group of thirtysomething friends from Oxford meet to welcome in the New Year together, a tradition they began as students ten years ago. For this vacation, they've chosen an idyllic and isolated estate in the Scottish Highlands—the perfect place to get away and unwind by themselves. The trip begins innocently enough: admiring the stunning if foreboding scenery, champagne in front of a crackling fire, and reminiscences about the past. But after a decade, the weight of secret resentments has grown too heavy for the group's tenuous nostalgia to bear. Amid the boisterous revelry of New Year's Eve, the cord holding them together snaps, just as a historic blizzard seals the lodge off from the outside world. Two days later, on New Year's Day, one of them is dead. . . and another of them did it. Keep your friends close, the old adage says. But how close is too close? DON'T BE LEFT OUT. JOIN THE PARTY NOW.

a gathering of old men: Navigating the Fiction of Ernest J. Gaines Keith Clark, 2020-03-18 One of the South's most revered writers, Ernest J. Gaines attracts both popular and academic audiences. Gaines's unique literary style, depiction of the African American experience, and celebration of the rural South's oral tradition have brought him critical praise and numerous accolades, including a MacArthur Fellowship, a National Humanities Medal, and a National Book Critics Circle Award for his novel *A Lesson before Dying*. In this welcome guide to Gaines's fiction, Keith Clark offers insightful analyses of his novels and short stories. Clark's close readings elucidate Gaines's more acclaimed works—including *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Gathering of Old Men*—while also introducing lesser-known but masterfully crafted pieces, such as the story "Three Men" and the civil rights novel *In My Father's House*. Gaines's most recent work, *The Tragedy of Brady Sims*, receives here one of its first critical examinations. Clark shows how the themes of Gaines's literary oeuvre, produced over the past fifty years, dovetail with issues reverberating in twenty-first-century America: race and the criminal justice system; black masculinity; the environment; the enduring impact of slavery; black southern women's voices; and blacks' and whites' interpretation of history. In addition to textual discussions, the book includes an interview Clark conducted with Gaines at the writer's home in New Roads, Louisiana, in 2014, further illuminating the inner workings and personality of this eminent literary artist.

a gathering of old men: A Gathering of Crows Brian Keene, 2011-03 Five mysterious figures are coming to Brinkley Springs, a quiet little town that some say is dying. They have existed for centuries, only coming out to destroy, kill, and feed. They bring terror and carnage and leave blood and death. Levi Stotzfus, an ex-amish magus, is the only one who can stop them.

a gathering of old men: Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 "A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

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