

poisonwood bible

poisonwood bible is a compelling novel that has captivated readers for decades with its profound exploration of family dynamics, cultural conflict, and historical change. In this article, we delve into the intricate layers of Barbara Kingsolver's celebrated work, uncovering its thematic richness, memorable characters, and enduring literary significance. Readers will discover a detailed summary, analysis of its major themes, insights into the author's background, and the novel's impact on literature and society. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this comprehensive guide to the poisonwood bible will enhance your understanding of the book's narrative depth and historical context. The following sections will provide an authoritative overview, critical interpretations, and answers to trending questions about this influential novel.

- Overview of Poisonwood Bible
- Detailed Plot Summary
- Major Themes and Symbolism
- Character Analysis
- Historical and Cultural Context
- Author Background: Barbara Kingsolver
- Literary Significance and Reception
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of Poisonwood Bible

The poisonwood bible is a novel written by Barbara Kingsolver, first published in 1998. Set in the Belgian Congo during a period of intense political upheaval, the story follows the Price family, who travel from Georgia, USA, to Africa as missionaries in 1959. The narrative is uniquely structured, told through the alternating voices of the four Price daughters and their mother, offering multiple perspectives on their experiences and the changing world around them. The book blends historical fiction, family drama, and social commentary, making it a staple in modern literature curricula and book clubs alike.

Detailed Plot Summary

Setting and Background

Poisonwood bible begins with the Price family's arrival in the village of Kilanga, deep in the Congolese jungle. Nathan Price, a passionate Baptist preacher, is determined to convert the local population, bringing his wife Orleanna and their four daughters—Rachel, Leah, Adah, and Ruth May—into a world foreign to their Southern roots. The setting quickly becomes a character in itself, influencing the family's fate and forcing them to confront the realities of colonialism, cultural clash, and environmental hardship.

Key Plot Developments

- The family struggles to adapt to the unfamiliar climate, customs, and dangers of the Congo.
- Nathan's rigid beliefs lead to conflict with both his family and the community.
- Political turmoil intensifies as the Congo moves toward independence from Belgium.
- Personal tragedies, including illness and loss, redefine relationships within the Price family.
- Each daughter's journey diverges, illustrating their unique responses to trauma and transformation.

Major Themes and Symbolism

Cultural Collision and Colonialism

One of the central themes in poisonwood bible is the collision between Western ideology and African realities. The novel explores the consequences of colonialism, both on a national scale and within the microcosm of the Price family's missionary work. Kingsolver examines how cultural arrogance and misunderstanding can lead to unintended harm, symbolized by Nathan Price's failed attempts to "save" the villagers.

Religion and Spirituality

Religion is a driving force throughout the poisonwood bible. Nathan's uncompromising faith shapes his actions and isolates him from those around him. The book contrasts Western religious fervor with indigenous spiritual practices, questioning the nature of faith, redemption, and moral responsibility.

Family Dynamics and Transformation

The Price family's journey serves as a metaphor for personal and collective transformation. Each character undergoes profound change as they confront loss, guilt, and identity. The daughters' narratives highlight the complexities of sisterhood, maternal influence, and the search for autonomy in a patriarchal world.

Symbolism of Poisonwood

The poisonwood tree itself is a powerful symbol in the novel, representing misunderstanding and danger. Nathan's mispronunciation of the tree's name leads to disastrous consequences, reflecting his inability to adapt and the broader theme of cultural miscommunication.

Character Analysis

Nathan Price

Nathan Price is a complex antagonist whose missionary zeal blinds him to the needs and realities of those around him. His rigid worldview serves as a catalyst for much of the family's suffering, and his character embodies the dangers of dogmatism.

Orleanna Price

Orleanna, the matriarch, provides a reflective voice throughout poisonwood bible. Her struggle for agency and eventual self-acceptance mirror the broader themes of guilt and redemption. Orleanna's evolution is central to the emotional core of the novel.

The Price Daughters

- **Rachel:** Materialistic and pragmatic, Rachel often resists change, highlighting Western values and cultural conflicts.
- **Leah:** Intellectual and idealistic, Leah's bond with the Congo grows as she questions her father's beliefs, ultimately embracing her new home.
- **Adah:** Silent and observant, Adah's physical disability shapes her worldview, and she offers a unique, poetic perspective on events.
- **Ruth May:** The youngest, Ruth May's innocence and curiosity provide poignant reflections on loss and transformation.

Historical and Cultural Context

The Belgian Congo and Independence

Poisonwood Bible is set against the backdrop of Congo's struggle for independence from Belgium in 1960. Kingsolver incorporates real historical figures and events, including Patrice Lumumba and the influence of Western powers. The political chaos and violence that ensue shape the Price family's fate and underscore the consequences of colonial intervention.

Missionary Work and Cultural Exchange

The novel scrutinizes the role of missionaries in Africa, highlighting the ethical dilemmas and unintended consequences of religious conversion. *Poisonwood Bible* uses the Price family's experience to question the efficacy and morality of imposing Western values on diverse cultures.

Author Background: Barbara Kingsolver

Biography and Literary Career

Barbara Kingsolver is an acclaimed American author known for her environmental activism and socially conscious fiction. Born in 1955, Kingsolver's early experiences living in Africa inspired her to write *Poisonwood Bible*. Her works often explore issues of social justice, ecology, and cultural identity.

Writing Style and Influence

Kingsolver's writing in *Poisonwood Bible* is characterized by lyrical prose, multi-perspective narration, and meticulous historical research. She has won numerous awards for her contributions to literature and continues to influence contemporary fiction with her thoughtful engagement with ethical and environmental themes.

Literary Significance and Reception

Critical Acclaim and Awards

Poisonwood bible received widespread critical acclaim upon its release. The novel was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award, cementing Kingsolver's reputation as a leading voice in American literature. Critics praised the book's emotional depth, historical accuracy, and innovative narrative structure.

Impact on Readers and Culture

The novel's exploration of cultural identity, gender roles, and political history has made it a staple in educational settings and book discussions worldwide. Poisonwood bible resonates with diverse audiences, offering insights into the complexities of global change and personal growth.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of poisonwood bible?

A: The main message of poisonwood bible centers on the dangers of cultural arrogance, the complexities of faith, and the transformative power of personal and collective experience. The novel encourages readers to consider the consequences of imposing one's beliefs on others and highlights the importance of empathy and understanding.

Q: Who are the main characters in poisonwood bible?

A: The central characters are Nathan Price, his wife Orleanna, and their four daughters: Rachel, Leah, Adah, and Ruth May. Each character's perspective adds depth to the novel's exploration of family and cultural conflict.

Q: What historical events are depicted in poisonwood bible?

A: Poisonwood bible is set during the Congo's struggle for independence from Belgium in 1960. The novel incorporates real historical figures, such as Patrice Lumumba, and highlights the impact of colonialism and Cold War politics on African nations.

Q: Why is the poisonwood tree significant in the novel?

A: The poisonwood tree serves as a powerful symbol of misunderstanding and danger. Nathan Price's mispronunciation and misuse of the tree reflect the broader theme of cultural miscommunication and the unintended harm caused by ignorance.

Q: What writing style does Barbara Kingsolver use in poisonwood bible?

A: Kingsolver employs a multi-perspective narrative, alternating between the voices of the Price daughters and their mother. Her lyrical prose and detailed historical context create a vivid and immersive reading experience.

Q: How does poisonwood bible address the theme of colonialism?

A: The novel critiques colonialism by illustrating the cultural clash between the Price family and the Congolese villagers. It explores the consequences of Western intervention and the lasting impact of colonial policies on African societies.

Q: Is poisonwood bible based on true events?

A: While the Price family is fictional, the historical context and many events depicted in poisonwood bible are based on real occurrences during the Congo's fight for independence. Kingsolver draws on her own experiences and extensive research to create an authentic setting.

Q: What lessons can readers learn from poisonwood bible?

A: Readers can learn about the importance of cultural sensitivity, the complexities of family relationships, and the need for reflection and growth in the face of adversity. The novel emphasizes empathy, adaptability, and the consequences of rigid beliefs.

Q: Why is poisonwood bible considered a significant literary work?

A: Poisonwood bible is valued for its intricate storytelling, historical insight, and profound thematic exploration. It is widely studied for its commentary on colonialism, religion, and gender, and remains influential in literary and academic circles.

Q: What are the major themes in poisonwood bible?

A: Major themes include cultural conflict, colonialism, religion and spirituality, family transformation, guilt, and redemption. The book's symbolism and character development reinforce these themes throughout the narrative.

Poisonwood Bible

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The Poisonwood Bible: A Deep Dive into Faith, Family, and the Congo

Are you captivated by stories that explore the complexities of faith, family, and colonialism? Then Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* is a must-read. This epic novel, rich in historical detail and vibrant characters, offers a powerful exploration of these themes, set against the backdrop of the tumultuous Congo. This post will delve into the heart of Kingsolver's masterpiece, examining its compelling narrative, unforgettable characters, and enduring legacy. We'll dissect its intricate plot, explore its thematic depth, and consider its lasting impact on readers. Prepare to be transported to the heart of Africa and grapple with the profound questions Kingsolver poses.

A Family Torn Apart: The Price of Missionary Zeal

The novel centers around the Price family, led by the fiercely devout Baptist preacher, Nathan Price. His unwavering faith and unwavering belief in his own righteousness lead him and his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959. This seemingly simple act of missionary work becomes the catalyst for a series of devastating events that shatter the family unit and expose the deep-seated flaws within their seemingly idyllic existence.

The Four Daughters: Distinct Voices, Shared Trauma

Kingsolver masterfully crafts four distinct female voices: Adah, Leah, Rachel, and Orleanna. Each daughter experiences and interprets the Congolese landscape and their father's rigid faith in drastically different ways.

Orleanna Price: The mother, initially a dutiful wife, ultimately becomes a powerful narrator, revealing the subtle and not-so-subtle ways her husband's actions affect the family. She bears witness to the unraveling of her family and the brutal realities of colonialism.

Leah Price: The idealistic daughter who initially embraces her father's mission, gradually comes to question his methods and develop a profound respect for the Congolese people. Her narrative showcases a journey of awakening and social justice.

Adah Price: A lyrical and insightful character, Adah's voice is unique - marked by her childhood struggle with a stroke, which left her with a partially paralyzed body. Her poetic observations and

keen eye for detail provide a distinct perspective on the events unfolding around her.

Rachel Price: The self-absorbed and materialistic daughter remains largely oblivious to the larger political and social issues at play, prioritizing her own comfort and desires above all else. Her narrative provides a stark contrast to her sisters, highlighting the complexities of individual perception.

The Congo: A Setting of Unparalleled Significance

The Congo itself is more than just a backdrop; it is a character in the novel. Kingsolver meticulously depicts the breathtaking beauty and the brutal realities of the Congolese landscape. The lush rainforests, teeming with life, stand in stark contrast to the violence and political turmoil that plague the nation. This juxtaposition underscores the fragility of nature and the destructive power of human intervention.

Colonialism and Its Devastating Consequences

The novel serves as a searing critique of colonialism and its lasting impact on the Congolese people. Nathan Price's missionary zeal, though driven by religious conviction, ultimately mirrors the exploitative nature of colonial powers. He fails to understand, let alone respect, the Congolese culture, leading to tragic consequences.

Faith, Doubt, and the Search for Meaning

The Poisonwood Bible is not merely a story about colonialism; it's a profound exploration of faith and its complexities. The Price family's journey is one of spiritual reckoning, as each member grapples with their beliefs in the face of overwhelming hardship. The novel doesn't offer easy answers but encourages readers to question their own faith and consider the various ways people find meaning in a chaotic world.

The Enduring Legacy of a Literary Masterpiece

Kingsolver's novel has earned its place as a modern classic. Its complex characters, evocative language, and profound exploration of significant themes continue to resonate with readers worldwide. It's a book that stays with you long after you've turned the final page, prompting reflection and discussion on faith, family, and the enduring impact of history. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its power and its ability to engage readers on multiple levels.

Conclusion:

The *Poisonwood Bible* is a powerful and unforgettable novel that demands attention. Its intricate plot, richly developed characters, and profound exploration of significant themes make it a truly exceptional piece of literature. Whether you are a seasoned reader or new to literary fiction, this novel will challenge your perceptions and leave a lasting impression.

FAQs:

1. Is *The Poisonwood Bible* a historical fiction novel? Yes, it is based on historical events in the Congo during the late 1950s.
2. What are the major themes explored in the novel? The major themes include faith, family, colonialism, environmentalism, and the search for meaning.
3. Who is the main character? While the narrative is shared through multiple perspectives, Orleanna Price could be considered the central character due to her role as a witness and narrator of the family's experiences.
4. Is the book suitable for all readers? Due to its mature themes and depictions of violence, it's best suited for mature readers.
5. How long does it take to read *The Poisonwood Bible*? Reading time varies, but most readers complete it within 2-3 weeks, depending on their pace.

poisonwood bible: *The Poisonwood Bible* Barbara Kingsolver, 2009-10-13 New York Times Bestseller • Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize • An Oprah's Book Club Selection "Powerful . . . [Kingsolver] has with infinitely steady hands worked the prickly threads of religion, politics, race, sin and redemption into a thing of terrible beauty." —Los Angeles Times Book Review *The Poisonwood Bible*, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, established Barbara Kingsolver as one of the most thoughtful and daring of modern writers. Taking its place alongside the classic works of postcolonial literature, it is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in Africa. The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Against this backdrop, Orleanna Price reconstructs the story of her evangelist husband's part in the Western assault on Africa, a tale indelibly darkened by her own losses and unanswerable questions about her own culpability. Also narrating the story, by turns, are her four daughters—the teenaged Rachel; adolescent twins Leah and Adah; and Ruth May, a prescient five-year-old. These sharply observant girls, who arrive in the Congo with racial preconceptions forged in 1950s Georgia, will be marked in surprisingly different ways by their father's intractable mission, and by Africa itself. Ultimately each must strike her own separate path to salvation. Their passionately intertwined stories become a compelling exploration of moral risk and personal responsibility.

poisonwood bible: A Study Guide for Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A Study Guide for Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*, 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.

poisonwood bible: *Small Wonder* Barbara Kingsolver, 2011-09-15 **NOW INCLUDING THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *DEMON COPPERHEAD*** TWICE WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION FROM THE WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION THE MULTI-MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR In this collection of essays, the author of *High Tide in Tucson* brings to us (out of one of history's darker moments) an extended love song to the world we still have. From its opening parable gleaned from recent news about a lost child saved in an astonishing way, the book moves on to consider a world of surprising and hopeful prospects ranging from an inventive conservation scheme in a remote jungle to the backyard flock of chickens tended by the author's small daughter. Whether she is contemplating the Grand Canyon, her vegetable garden, motherhood, adolescence, genetic engineering, TV-watching, the history of civil rights, or the future of a nation founded on the best of all human impulses, these essays are grounded in the author's belief that our largest problems have grown from the earth's remotest corners as well as our own backyards, and that answers may lie in those places, too. In the voice Kingsolver's readers have come to rely on - sometimes grave, occasionally hilarious, and ultimately persuasive - *Small Wonder* is a hopeful examination of the people we seem to be, and what we might yet make of ourselves.

poisonwood bible: *The Lacuna* Barbara Kingsolver, 2009-11-05 **NOW INCLUDING THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *DEMON COPPERHEAD*** TWICE WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION FROM THE WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION THE MULTI-MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR 'Lush.' Sunday Times 'Superb.' Daily Mail 'Elegantly written.' Sunday Telegraph From award-winning and internationally bestselling author of *Demon Copperhead* and *Flight Behaviour*, *The Lacuna* is the heartbreaking story of a man torn between the warm heart of Mexico and the cold embrace of 1950s America in the shadow of Senator McCarthy. Born in America and raised in Mexico, Harrison Shepherd is a liability to his social-climbing flapper mother, Salome. When he starts work in the household of Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo - where the Bolshevik leader, Lev Trotsky, is also being harboured as a political exile - he inadvertently casts his lot with art, communism and revolution. A compulsive diarist, he records and relates his colourful experiences of life with Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo and Trotsky in the midst of the Mexican revolution. A violent upheaval sends him back to America; but political winds continue to throw him between north and south, in a plot that turns many times on the unspeakable breach - the lacuna - between truth and public presumption.

poisonwood bible: *Unsheltered* Barbara Kingsolver, 2018-10-16 **NOW INCLUDING THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *DEMON COPPERHEAD*** WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION TWICE WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION THE MULTI-MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR 'Magnificent.' The Times, 'Books of the Year' 'Gripping.' Grazia 'Peerless.' Daily Mail 'Wise.' Sunday Times Meet Willa Knox, a woman who stands braced against a world which seems to hold little mercy for her and her family - or their old, crumbling house, falling down around them. Willa's two grown-up children, a new-born grandchild, and her ailing father-in-law have all moved in at a time when life seems at its most precarious. But when Willa discovers that a pioneering female scientist lived on the same street in the 1800s, could this historical connection be enough to save their home from ruin? And can Willa, despite the odds, keep her family together?

poisonwood bible: *Damascus Gate* Robert Stone, 1999-05-04 American journalist Christopher Lucas is investigating religious fanatics when he discovers a plot to bomb the sacred Temple Mount.

poisonwood bible: *Echoing Hope* Kurt Willems, 2021-03-16 Where is Jesus when we need him most? An influential pastor shares how despair can lead us to discover true hope and a deeper relationship with God, helping us emerge stronger and more joyful from times of crisis. "May this careful look at pain in the context of Jesus's life open up avenues of discovery and healing."—Mindy Caliguire, cofounder and president of Soul Care We all experience difficulties and hardships. But how can we learn to live richly in the midst of them? And even grow spiritually because of them? The

answer is found in the hopeful humanity of Jesus. As the Son of God, Jesus wasn't exempt from suffering, disappointment, or injustice. He lived in the real world as a real person. He wept for those he loved. He felt hunger and thirst. He endured temptation, betrayal, and ridicule. He died after being unjustly tortured. And somehow through it all, he embodied hope—by defeating death and opening a new world of life for us. In *Echoing Hope*, influential pastor and blogger Kurt Willems reveals how understanding the humanity of Jesus can radically transform our identity and empower us to step into our pain-filled world in a new way. Combining rich theological insight with personal stories and practices for response, he shows how we can overcome despair and encounter the beautiful potential of our lives.

poisonwood bible: The Assassination of Lumumba Ludo De Witte, 2002-12-17 Employing an array of official sources as well as personal testimony, De Witte unravels the appalling mass of lies that have surrounded the murder of the prime minister of the Republic of Congo. A network of complicity is revealed, ranging from the Belgian government across the United Nations to the CIA.

poisonwood bible: Poisonwood Bible Barbara Kingsolver, 2005-07-01 The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades

poisonwood bible: Never Mind the B#ll*cks, Here's the Science Luke O'Neill, 2021-11-04 A number one Irish bestseller, and winner of the Popular Non-Fiction Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards In this fascinating and thought-provoking book, Professor Luke O'Neill grapples with life's biggest questions and tells us what science has to say about them. Covering topics from global pandemics to gender, addiction to euthanasia, Luke O'Neill's easy wit and clever pop-culture references deconstruct the science to make complex questions accessible. Arriving at science's definitive answers to some of the most controversial topics human beings have to grapple with, *Never Mind the B#ll*cks, Here's the Science* is a celebration of science and hard facts in a time of fake news and sometimes unhelpful groupthink. 'A celebration of scientific fact in an era characterised by nebulous subjectivity' Irish Times

poisonwood bible: Tomcat in Love Tim O'Brien, 2000 In a tour de force of black comedy, award-winning novelist Tim O'Brien explores the battle of the sexes and creates a savage, startlingly inventive tale with a memorably maddening hero, a modern-day Don Juan who embodies the desires and bewilderment of men everywhere. Pompous, vain, shallow, inconsiderate, untrustworthy, fickle... linguistics professor Thomas 'Tomcat' Chippering is a man much like any other. But when his serial flirting finally drives his wife into the arms of a Florida tycoon, it is more than his fragile pride can stand, and he sets off in pursuit, with vengeance on his mind...

poisonwood bible: Pigs in Heaven Barbara Kingsolver, 2009-03-17 Picking up where her modern classic *The Bean Trees* left off, Barbara Kingsolver's bestselling *Pigs in Heaven* continues the tale of Turtle and Taylor Greer, a Native American girl and her adoptive mother who have settled in Tucson, Arizona, as they both try to overcome their difficult pasts. Taking place three years after *The Bean Trees*, Taylor is now dating a musician named Jax and has officially adopted Turtle. But when a lawyer for the Cherokee Nation begins to investigate the adoption—their new life together begins to crumble. Depicting the clash between fierce family love and tribal law, poverty and means, abandonment and belonging, *Pigs in Heaven* is a morally wrenching, gently humorous work of fiction that speaks equally to the head and the heart. This edition includes a P.S. section with additional insights from Barbara Kingsolver, background material, suggestions for further reading, and more.

poisonwood bible: Animal Dreams Barbara Kingsolver, 2023-06-29 From the acclaimed Barbara Kingsolver, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and twice winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction At the end of her rope, Codi Noline returns to her Arizona home to face her ailing father, with whom she has a difficult, distant relationship. There she meets handsome Apache trainman Loyd Peregrina, who tells her, 'If you want sweet dreams, you've got to live a sweet life'. Filled with lyrical writing, Native American legends, a tender love story, and Codi's quest for identity, *Animal Dreams* is literary fiction at its very best. 'A rich, compassionate book' Alice Hoffman 'Rich, complex, witty...

This one will be with us for a long time' Washington Post 'An emotional masterpiece' New York Daily News 'A novel that feels closer to the truth about modern lives than anything I've read in a long time' Cosmopolitan

poisonwood bible: Jack Maggs Peter Carey, 2015-03-03 A foundling trained in the art of thievery, Jack Maggs was betrayed and deported to Australia for life. But now, having reversed his fortunes, he seeks to fulfill his innermost desire. Returning to London under threat of execution, he's quickly embroiled in various entanglements among a handful of characters -- each with their own secrets. And as their various schemes converge, the captivating figure at the epicentre is Maggs himself, at once frightening, mystifying, and utterly compelling.

poisonwood bible: All of Us in Our Own Lives Manjushree Thapa, 2018-09-11 A beautiful story of strangers who shape each other's lives in fateful ways, All of Us in Our Own Lives delves deeply into the lives of women and men in Nepal and into the world of international aid. Ava Berriden, a Canadian lawyer, quits her corporate job in Toronto to move to Nepal, from where she was adopted as a baby. There she struggles to adapt to her new career in international aid and forge a connection with the country of her birth. Ava's work brings her into contact with Indira Sharma, who has ambitions of becoming the first Nepali woman director of a NGO; Sapana Karki, a bright young teenager living a small village; and Gyanu, Sapana's brother, who has returned home from Dubai to settle his sister's future after their father's death. Their journeys collide in unexpected ways. All of Us in Our Own Lives is a stunning, keenly observant novel about human interconnectedness, about privilege, and about the ethics of international aid (the earnestness and idealism and yet its cynical, moneyed nature).

poisonwood bible: Prodigal Summer Barbara Kingsolver, 2008-09-04 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION TWICE WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION THE MULTI-MILLION COPY BESTSELLING AUTHOR 'A rich and compulsive read' Guardian From the award-winning and internationally bestselling author of Demon Copperhead, The Lacuna and The Poisonwood Bible. It is summer in the Appalachian mountains and love, desire and attraction are in the air. Nature, too, it seems, is not immune. From her outpost in an isolated mountain cabin, Deanna Wolfe, a reclusive wildlife biologist, watches a den of coyotes that have recently migrated into the region. She is caught off guard by a young hunter who invades her most private spaces and interrupts her self-assured, solitary life. On a farm several miles down the mountain, Lusa Maluf Landowski, a bookish city girl turned farmer's wife, finds herself marooned in a strange place where she must declare or lose her attachment to the land that has become her own. And a few more miles down the road, a pair of elderly feuding neighbours tend their respective farms and wrangle about God, pesticides, and the possibilities of a future neither of them expected. Over the course of one humid summer, these characters find their connections of love to one another and to the surrounding nature with which they share a place. With its strong balance of narrative and drama, Prodigal Summer stands alongside Demon Copperhead, The Poisonwood Bible and The Lacuna as one of Barbara Kingsolver's finest works.

poisonwood bible: Imprisoned in Iran Dan Baumann, 2001 God's love is stronger than fear! This book chronicles Dan Bauman's experience in Iran in 1997, when he was wrongfully accused of espionage and thrown into the most infamous high- security prison in Iran. Imprisonment in Iran, the threat of execution, and God's hand moving in the lives of the guards make this a thrilling addition to the International Adventures series.

poisonwood bible: Beyond a Darkened Shore Jessica Leake, 2018-04-10 Vikings meets Frostblood in this romantic historical fantasy stand-alone from author Jessica Leake. The ancient land of Éirinn is mired in war. Ciara, princess of Mide, has never known a time when Éirinn's kingdoms were not battling for power, or Northmen were not plundering their shores. The people of Mide have always been safe because of Ciara's unearthly ability to control her enemies' minds and actions. But lately a mysterious crow has been appearing to Ciara, whispering warnings of an even darker threat. Although her clansmen dismiss her visions as pagan nonsense, Ciara fears this coming evil will destroy not just Éirinn but the entire world. Then the crow leads Ciara to Leif, a

young Northman leader. Leif should be Ciara's enemy, but when Ciara discovers that he, too, shares her prophetic visions, she knows he's something more. Leif is mounting an impressive army, and with Ciara's strength in battle, the two might have a chance to save their world. With evil rising around them, they'll do what it takes to defend the land they love...even if it means making the greatest sacrifice of all.

poisonwood bible: Endless Enemies Jonathan Kwitny, 1984 How America's worldwide interventions destroy democracy and free enterprise and defeat our own best interests--Jacket subtitle.

poisonwood bible: Segu Maryse Condé, 2017-04-06 The bestselling epic novel of family, treachery, rivalry, religious fervour and the turbulent fate of a royal African dynasty It is 1797 and the African kingdom of Segu, born of blood and violence, is at the height of its power. Yet Dousika Traore, the king's most trusted advisor, feels nothing but dread. Change is coming. From the East, a new religion, Islam. From the West, the slave trade. These forces will tear his country, his village and the lives of his beloved sons apart, in Maryse Condé's glittering epic.

poisonwood bible: The Poisonwood Bible Barbara Kingsolver, 2008-09-04 ****NOW INCLUDING THE FIRST CHAPTER OF DEMON COPPERHEAD**** TWICE WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD WORLDWIDE WITH OVER 7,000 5* REVIEWS An international bestseller and a modern classic, this suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and their remarkable reconstruction has been read, adored and shared by millions around the world. 'A masterpiece.' MARIAN KEYES 'Breathtaking.' Sunday Times 'Exquisite.' The Times 'Beautiful.' Independent 'Powerful.' New York Times This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil. What readers are saying ***** 'This remains one of the most fascinating books I have ever read.' ***** 'I felt every emotion under the sky with this book.' ***** 'Riveting.' ***** 'This novel left a lasting - YEARS LASTING - impression.' ***** 'This is one of those books that stands the test of time and is worth rereading.' ***** 'Five epic, no-wonder-this-book-is-so-well-loved stars!'

poisonwood bible: The Lost Hours Karen White, 2009-04-07 The New York Times bestselling author of the Tradd Street novels delivers a gripping tale of family, fate, and forgiveness. When Piper Mills was twelve, she helped her grandfather bury a box that belonged to her grandmother in the backyard. For twelve years, it remained untouched. Now a near fatal riding accident has shattered Piper's dreams of Olympic glory. After her grandfather's death, she inherits the house and all its secrets, including a key to a room that doesn't exist—or does it? And after her grandmother is sent away to a nursing home, she remembers the box buried in the backyard. In it are torn pages from a scrapbook, a charm necklace—and a newspaper article from 1939 about the body of an infant found floating in the Savannah River. The necklace's charms tell the story of three friends during the 1930s— each charm added during the three months each friend had the necklace and recorded her life in the scrapbook. Piper always dismissed her grandmother as not having had a story to tell. And now, too late, Piper finds she might have been wrong.

poisonwood bible: Sacred Scripture, Sacred War James P. Byrd, 2017 The American colonists who took up arms against the British fought in defense of the "sacred cause of liberty." But it was not merely their cause but warfare itself that they believed was sacred. In *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War*, James P. Byrd shows that the Bible was a key text of the American Revolution.

poisonwood bible: The Savage Instinct Marjorie DeLuca, 2021-03-30 DeLuca keeps readers guessing. Minette Walters fans will be pleased. —Publishers Weekly (starred review) Perfect for fans of Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace* and Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites*, this taut psychological thriller offers a delicious take on deviant and defiant Victorian women in a time when marriage itself was its own prison. England, 1873. Clara Blackstone has just been released after one year in a private asylum for the insane. Clara has two goals: to reunite with her husband, Henry, and to never—ever—return to the asylum. As she enters Durham, Clara finds her carriage surrounded by a

mob gathered to witness the imprisonment of Mary Ann Cotton—England’s first female serial killer—accused of poisoning nearly twenty people, including her husbands and children. Clara soon finds the oppressive confinement of her marriage no less terrifying than the white-tiled walls of Hoxton. And as she grows increasingly suspicious of Henry’s intentions, her fascination with Cotton grows. Soon, Cotton is not just a notorious figure from the headlines, but an unlikely confidante, mentor—and perhaps accomplice—in Clara’s struggle to protect her money, her freedom, and her life.

poisonwood bible: The Bible Jesus Read Participant's Guide Philip Yancey, 2002 An eight session curriculum to study the book by the same title. Includes eight 12 minute video clips. Explores the Old Testament.

poisonwood bible: History of 'Billy the Kid' Chas A. Siringo, 2011-11-01 Many histories of the short life of Old West gunslinger William Bonney have been published, but few pack the punch of Charles A. Siringo's History of 'Billy the Kid', a thrilling first-person account that traces the doomed outlaw's story from birth to death. Siringo was known in his time as a cowboy detective and spent months pursuing Bonney.

poisonwood bible: Just One Day Gayle Forman, 2013-01-10 From the author of the international bestseller, IF I STAY, now a major film starring Chloe Grace Moretz. When sheltered American good girl Allyson LuLu Healey first meets laid-back Dutch actor Willem De Ruiter at an underground performance of Twelfth Night in England, there’s an undeniable spark. After just one day together, that spark bursts into a flame, or so it seems to Allyson, until the following morning, when she wakes up after a whirlwind day in Paris to discover that Willem has left. Over the next year, Allyson embarks on a journey to come to terms with the narrow confines of her life, and through Shakespeare, travel, and a quest for her almost-true-love, to break free of those confines. Perfect for fans of John Green, Just One Day is the first in a sweepingly romantic duet of novels. Willem’s story – Just One Year – is out now.

poisonwood bible: Don't Kill the Birthday Girl Sandra Beasley, 2011-07-12 A beautifully written and darkly funny journey through the world of the allergic. Like twelve million other Americans, Sandra Beasley suffers from food allergies. Her allergies—severe and lifelong—include dairy, egg, soy, beef, shrimp, pine nuts, cucumbers, cantaloupe, honeydew, mango, macadamias, pistachios, cashews, swordfish, and mustard. Add to that mold, dust, grass and tree pollen, cigarette smoke, dogs, rabbits, horses, and wool, and it’s no wonder Sandra felt she had to live her life as “Allergy Girl.” When butter is deadly and eggs can make your throat swell shut, cupcakes and other treats of childhood are out of the question—and so Sandra’s mother used to warn guests against a toxic, frosting-tinged kiss with “Don’t kill the birthday girl!” It may seem that such a person is “not really designed to survive,” as one blunt nutritionist declared while visiting Sandra’s fourth-grade class. But Sandra has not only survived, she’s thrived—now an essayist, editor, and award-winning poet, she has learned to navigate a world in which danger can lurk in an unassuming corn chip. Don’t Kill the Birthday Girl is her story. With candor, wit, and a journalist’s curiosity, Sandra draws on her own experiences while covering the scientific, cultural, and sociological terrain of allergies. She explains exactly what an allergy is, describes surviving a family reunion in heart-of-Texas beef country with her vegetarian sister, delves into how being allergic has affected her romantic relationships, exposes the dark side of Benadryl, explains how parents can work with schools to protect their allergic children, and details how people with allergies should advocate for themselves in a restaurant. A compelling mix of memoir, cultural history, and science, Don’t Kill the Birthday Girl is mandatory reading for the millions of families navigating the world of allergies—and a not-to-be-missed literary treat for the rest of us.

poisonwood bible: Zonal Don Paterson, 2020-03-03 Don Paterson's new collection of poetry starts from the premise that the crisis of mid-life may be a permanent state of mind. Zonal is an experiment in science-fictional and fantastic autobiography, with all of its poems taking their imaginative cue from the first season of The Twilight Zone (1959-1960), playing fast and loose with both their source material and their author's own life. Narrative and dramatic in approach,

genre-hopping from horror to Black Mirror-style sci-fi, 'weird tale' to metaphysical fantasy, these poems change voices constantly in an attempt to get at the truth by alternate means. Occupying the shadowlands between confession and invention, Zonal takes us to places and spaces that feel endlessly surprising, uncanny and limitless.

poisonwood bible: Salt Creek Lucy Treloar, 2015-08-01 SHORTLISTED FOR THE MILES FRANKLIN AWARD 2016 From the winner of the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize (Pacific Region) and the 2013 Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award Salt Creek introduces a capacious talent The Australian Some things collapse slow, and cannot always be rebuilt, and even if a thing can be remade it will never be as it was. Salt Creek, 1855, lies at the far reaches of the remote, beautiful and inhospitable coastal region, the Coorong, in the new province of South Australia. The area, just opened to graziers willing to chance their luck, becomes home to Stanton Finch and his large family, including fifteen-year-old Hester Finch. Once wealthy political activists, the Finch family has fallen on hard times. Cut adrift from the polite society they were raised to be part of, Hester and her siblings make connections where they can: with the few travellers that pass along the nearby stock route - among them a young artist, Charles - and the Ngarrindjeri people they have dispossessed. Over the years that pass, and Aboriginal boy, Tully, at first a friend, becomes part of the family. Stanton's attempts to tame the harsh landscape bring ruin to the Ngarrindjeri people's homes and livelihoods, and unleash a chain of events that will tear the family asunder. As Hester witnesses the destruction of the Ngarrindjeri's subtle culture and the ideals that her family once held so close, she begins to wonder what civilization is. Was it for this life and this world that she was educated? PRAISE FOR SALT CREEK this fine, accomplished novel is a respectful and unobtrusively beautiful homage to the Ngarrindjeri people Sydney Morning Herald ... written with a profound respect for history: with an understanding that beyond a certain point, the past and its people are unknowable. Sydney Morning Herald

poisonwood bible: The Things They Carried Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

poisonwood bible: At Play in the Fields of the Lord Peter Matthiessen, 2012-05-02 In a malarial outpost in the South American rain forest, two misplaced gringos converge and clash in this novel from the National Book Award-winning author. Martin Quarrier has come to convert the elusive Niaruna Indians to his brand of Christianity. Lewis Moon, a stateless mercenary who is himself part Indian, has come to kill them on the behalf of the local comandante. Out of this struggle Peter Matthiessen creates an electrifying moral thriller—adapted into a movie starring John Lithgow, Kathy Bates, and Tom Waits. A novel of Conradian richness, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* explores both the varieties of spiritual experience and the politics of cultural genocide.

poisonwood bible: Animal, Vegetable, Miracle Barbara Kingsolver, 2010-03-04 ** DEMON COPPERHEAD - THE NEW BARBARA KINGSOLVER NOVEL - IS AVAILABLE NOW** THE MULTI-MILLION COPY SELLING AUTHOR We wanted to live in a place that could feed us: where rain falls, crops grow, and drinking water bubbles up right out of the ground. Barbara Kingsolver opens her home to us, as she and her family attempt a year of eating only local food, much of it from their own garden. Inspired by the flavours and culinary arts of a local food culture, they explore many a farmers market and diversified organic farms at home and across the country. With

characteristic warmth, Kingsolver shows us how to put food back at the centre of the political and family agenda. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* is part memoir, part journalistic investigation, and is full of original recipes that celebrate healthy eating, sustainability and the pleasures of good food.

poisonwood bible: A Man Called Ove Fredrik Backman, 2014-07-03 NOW A MAJOR FILM STARRING TOM HANKS The million-copy bestselling phenomenon: a funny, moving, uplifting tale of love and community that will leave you with a spring in your step. 'Warm, funny, and almost unbearably moving' Daily Mail 'Delightful . . . the perfect holiday read' Evening Standard Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots - joggers, neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly and shop assistants who talk in code. But isn't it rare, these days, to find such old-fashioned clarity of belief and deed? Such unswerving conviction about what the world should be, and a lifelong dedication to making it just so? In the end, you will see, there is something about Ove that is quite irresistible . . . 'Hilarious and heart-breaking' Stylist 'Rescued all those men who constantly mean to read novels but never get round to it' Spectator Books of the Year

poisonwood bible: Novel History Mark C. Carnes, 2004-03-05 Historical fiction is a contradiction in terms. History is what happened; fiction, what did not. Yet great novelists have often disregarded this logical difficulty, taking up the tools of the historian to explore the shadowy recesses of the past. Their labors have brought forth many literary treasures. But how accurately do these masterpieces of the imagination reflect the past? In *Novel History*, twenty accomplished historians consider this question in relation to some of our most important historical novels. Their essays are followed in most instances by a response from the novelist. These dialogues illuminate one of the most fascinating and perplexing issues of our time -- the relation between the real past and our finest imaginative renderings of it. *Novel History* includes essays by distinguished historians such as John Demos, Michael Kammen, Joan D. Hedrick, John Lukacs, Eugene D. Genovese, Richard White, and Tom Wicker, and responses from notable novelists, including Gore Vidal, John Updike, Russell Banks, Don DeLillo, Larry McMurtry, Jane Smiley, Madison Smartt Bell, William Styron, T. Coraghessan Boyle, William Kennedy, Charles Frazier, Thomas Fleming, and Tim O'Brien. *Novel History* is both a uniquely compelling perspective and a superb collection of literary history.

poisonwood bible: Seeds of Change Priscilla Leder, 2010-09-01 Barbara Kingsolver's books have sold millions of copies. The *Poisonwood Bible* was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and her work is studied in courses ranging from English-as-a-second-language classes to seminars in doctoral programs. Yet, until now, there has been relatively little scholarly analysis of her writings. *Seeds of Change: Critical Essays on Barbara Kingsolver*, edited by Priscilla V. Leder, is the first collection of essays examining the full range of Kingsolver's literary output. The articles in this new volume provide analysis, context, and commentary on all of Kingsolver's novels, her poetry, her two essay collections, and her full-length nonfiction memoir, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. Professor Leder begins *Seeds of Change* with a brief critical biography that traces Kingsolver's development as a writer. Leder also includes an overview of the scholarship on Kingsolver's oeuvre. Organized by subject matter, the 14 essays in the book are divided into three sections that deal with recurrent themes in Kingsolver's compositions: identity, social justice, and ecology. The pieces in this ground-breaking volume draw upon contemporary critical approaches—ecocritical, postcolonial, feminist, and disability studies—to extend established lines of inquiry into Kingsolver's writing and to take them in new directions. By comparing Kingsolver with earlier writers such as Joseph Conrad and Henry David Thoreau, the contributors place her canon in literary context and locate her in cultural contexts by revealing how she re-works traditional narratives such as the Western myth. They also address the more controversial aspects of her writings, examining her political advocacy and her relationship to her reader, in addition to exploring her vision of a more just and harmonious world. Fully indexed with a comprehensive works-cited section, *Seeds of Change* gives scholars and students important insight and analysis which will deepen and broaden their understanding and experience of Barbara Kingsolver's work.

poisonwood bible: Reading, Learning, Teaching Barbara Kingsolver Paul Lee Thomas,

2005 Our English classrooms are often only as vibrant as the literature that we teach. This book explores the writing of contemporary American author, Barbara Kingsolver, who offers readers and students engaging fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that confront the reader and the world. Here, teachers will find an introduction to the works of Kingsolver and an opportunity to explore how to bring those works into the classroom as a part of the reading and writing curriculum. This volume attempts to confront what we teach and how we teach as English teachers through the vivid texts Kingsolver offers her readers.

poisonwood bible: Murder in the Age of Enlightenment Ryunosuke Akutagawa, 2024-07-02
Madness, murder and obsession: a stylishly original and fantastical collection of stories from an iconic Japanese writer A collection of the 7 essential Akutagawa short stories, in a vivid and elegant translation – the perfect introduction to this master of prose “A born short-story writer. . . one never tires of reading and re-reading his best works” – Haruki Murakami From a nobleman's court, to the garden of paradise, to a lantern festival in Tokyo, these 7 short stories offer dazzling glimpses into moments of madness, murder and obsession. A talented yet spiteful painter is given over to depravity in pursuit of artistic brilliance. In the depth of hell, a robber spies a single spider's thread being lowered towards him. When a body is found in an isolated bamboo grove, a kaleidoscopic account of violence and desire begins to unfold. These are short stories from an unparalleled master of the form. Sublimely crafted and stylishly original, Akutagawa's writing is shot through with a fantastical sensibility. This collection, in a vivid translation by Bryan Karetnyk, brings together the most essential works from this iconic Japanese writer. Part of the Pushkin Press Classics series: outstanding classic storytelling from around the world, in a stylishly original series design. From newly rediscovered gems to fresh translations of the world's greatest authors, this series includes such authors as Stefan Zweig, Hermann Hesse, Ryunosuke Akutagawa and Gaito Gazdanov.

poisonwood bible: The Thief of Auschwitz Jon Clinch, 2011-11 The camp at Auschwitz took one year of my life, and of my own free will I gave it another four. So begins the much-anticipated new novel from Jon Clinch, award-winning author of *Finn* and *Kings of the Earth*. In *The Thief of Auschwitz*, Clinch steps for the first time beyond the deeply American roots of his earlier books to explore one of the darkest moments in mankind's history-and to do so with the sympathy, vision, and heart that are the hallmarks of his work. Told in two intertwining narratives, *The Thief of Auschwitz* takes readers on a dual journey: one into the death camp at Auschwitz with Jacob, Eidel, Max, and Lydia Rosen; the other into the heart of Max himself, now an aged but extremely vital-and outspoken-survivor. Old Max has become a world-reknowned painter, and he's about to be honored with a retrospective at the National Gallery in Washington. Yet the truth is that he's been keeping a crucial secret from the art world-indeed from the world at large, and perhaps even from himself-all his life long. *The Thief of Auschwitz* reveals that secret, along with others that lie in the heart of a family that's called upon to endure-together and separately-the unendurable.

poisonwood bible: Flight Behavior Barbara Kingsolver, 2012-11-06 Set in the present day in the rural community of Feathertown, Tennessee, *Flight Behavior* tells the story of Dellarobia Turnbow, a petite, razor-sharp 29-year-old who nurtured worldly ambitions before becoming pregnant and marrying at seventeen. Now, after more than a decade of tending to small children on a failing farm, oppressed by poverty, isolation and her husband's antagonistic family, she has mitigated her boredom by surrendering to an obsessive flirtation with a handsome younger man. In the opening scene, Dellarobia is headed for a secluded mountain cabin to meet this man and initiate what she expects will be a self-destructive affair. But the tryst never happens. Instead, she walks into something on the mountainside she cannot explain or understand: a forested valley filled with silent red fire that appears to her a miracle. After years lived entirely in the confines of one small house, Dellarobia finds her path suddenly opening out, chapter by chapter, into blunt and confrontational engagement with her family, her church, her town, her continent, and finally the world at large.