

the dew breaker

the dew breaker is a compelling term that resonates deeply within the realm of literature, particularly as the title of Edwidge Danticat's acclaimed novel. This article explores the profound meaning behind "the dew breaker," its significance in Haitian culture, its literary interpretations, and its impact on contemporary readers. You'll discover the origins and symbolism of the phrase, an in-depth analysis of Danticat's novel, the characters and themes involved, and the broader cultural implications. Whether you're a literature enthusiast, a student, or someone interested in multicultural narratives, this comprehensive guide will provide valuable insights into the multifaceted concept of "the dew breaker." Read on to uncover its layered meanings and why it continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

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Understanding the Term: The Dew Breaker

The phrase "the dew breaker" carries a weighty significance, especially in the context of Haitian history and literature. Traditionally, it refers to a torturer or enforcer during the period of political unrest in Haiti, particularly under the regime of François Duvalier. The term evokes images of individuals whose actions shattered the peacefulness of dawn, hence "dew breaker." In literary circles, "the dew breaker" has become synonymous with the exploration of trauma, redemption, and the struggle for identity. Its layered meaning opens up discussions about morality, memory, and the long-lasting effects of violence on individuals and communities. This section will delve into the various interpretations and why the term remains relevant today.

Origins and Cultural Significance

Historical Context in Haiti

The origins of "the dew breaker" are deeply rooted in Haitian history. During the Duvalier dictatorship, dew breakers were feared agents of repression who visited homes at dawn, leaving behind a wake of terror. The term entered popular vernacular to describe those who broke the peace and innocence of the morning. Their legacy is one of trauma and secrecy, shaping the way many Haitians view authority and justice even today.

Symbolism and Meaning

Symbolically, "the dew breaker" represents both destruction and the possibility of renewal. In Haitian folklore, breaking the dew can imply disrupting the natural order, but it also opens up dialogue about healing and transformation. The phrase encapsulates the duality of human nature and the ongoing struggle between violence and forgiveness in societies affected by political turmoil.

- Historical association with political violence
- Symbol of disrupted innocence

- Metaphor for personal and collective trauma
- Representation in art, literature, and oral tradition

Edwidge Danticat's Novel: A Detailed Overview

Synopsis of *The Dew Breaker*

Edwidge Danticat's novel "The Dew Breaker" is a powerful collection of interconnected stories centered around a Haitian immigrant living in the United States. The protagonist harbors a dark secret—he was once a dew breaker, a torturer in Haiti. The narrative unfolds through multiple perspectives, shedding light on the lives irrevocably changed by his actions. Danticat masterfully weaves together themes of guilt, forgiveness, and the search for identity among Haitian-Americans. The novel challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about the past and its lingering effects.

Structure and Style

The novel's structure is unique, composed of nine linked chapters that can stand alone yet collectively form a cohesive narrative. Danticat's writing style is characterized by lyrical prose, vivid imagery, and a deep empathy for her characters. The shifting points of view allow for a multifaceted exploration of trauma, memory, and redemption. By employing nonlinear storytelling, Danticat emphasizes the complexity of reconciling with one's past, making "The Dew Breaker" a standout work in contemporary literature.

Major Characters and Their Roles

The Dew Breaker (Ka's Father)

The central character, known as the dew breaker, is a former torturer who now lives a seemingly ordinary life in Brooklyn, New York. His story is a portrait of a man grappling with remorse and the consequences of his actions. Through his journey, readers witness the struggle to seek forgiveness, both from others and himself. The dew breaker's hidden past serves as the linchpin for the novel's exploration of identity and redemption.

Ka (The Daughter)

Ka, the dew breaker's daughter, is a sculptor who discovers the truth about her father's history. Her perspective highlights the generational impact of trauma and the challenge of reconciling love with the reality of her father's actions. Ka's journey is one of self-discovery, as she navigates the complexities of family, heritage, and forgiveness.

Supporting Characters

- Anne: The dew breaker's wife, who carries her own burdens and secrets.
- Victims and Survivors: Various characters whose lives intersect with the dew breaker, each offering distinct viewpoints on pain, healing, and justice.
- Community Members: Haitian immigrants and their families who provide cultural context and deepen the narrative's exploration of memory.

Key Themes Explored in The Dew Breaker

Trauma and Memory

Trauma is a central theme, depicted through the personal and collective experiences of the characters. Danticat examines how memory shapes identity, influences relationships, and challenges notions of justice. The narrative illustrates that trauma is not confined to one generation, but reverberates across time and space, affecting entire communities.

Redemption and Forgiveness

The quest for redemption is a recurring motif. The dew breaker's attempts to atone for his past are met with resistance and uncertainty, highlighting the difficulties of genuine forgiveness. Danticat raises poignant questions about the possibility of moving forward after committing irreversible acts and whether forgiveness can ever be complete.

Cultural Identity and Diaspora

The novel also explores the complexities of cultural identity among Haitian immigrants. The tension between past and present, homeland and new country, is woven throughout the stories. Danticat portrays the struggles of maintaining cultural heritage while adapting to a new environment, emphasizing the importance of community and shared history.

1. The impact of trauma on families
2. The challenge of reconciling love with painful truths
3. The role of storytelling in healing and remembrance
4. Exploration of guilt, shame, and accountability

Literary Impact and Critical Reception

Critical Acclaim

"The Dew Breaker" has received widespread praise for its lyrical prose, emotional depth, and nuanced portrayal of complex issues. Critics have lauded Danticat's ability to humanize even the most morally ambiguous characters, and her exploration of trauma and forgiveness is considered both powerful and necessary in today's literary landscape.

Influence on Contemporary Literature

Danticat's work has influenced a new generation of writers interested in exploring themes of diaspora, memory, and reconciliation. "The Dew Breaker" is often cited in academic discussions about postcolonial literature, trauma studies, and immigrant narratives. Its impact extends beyond the literary world, encouraging broader conversations about justice, healing, and the role of art in addressing historical wounds.

The Dew Breaker in Modern Discourse

Relevance to Today's Society

The story of "the dew breaker" continues to resonate in contemporary discussions about trauma, justice, and identity. It serves as a lens through which to examine current issues such as immigration, reconciliation, and the complexities of historical memory. Danticat's novel reminds readers that the process of healing is ongoing and often fraught with contradictions.

Educational and Cultural Importance

Educators and cultural critics frequently use "The Dew Breaker" to foster dialogue about the legacy of violence and the possibilities for transformation. Its inclusion in curricula highlights the importance of understanding diverse perspectives and the value of literature in promoting empathy and social

awareness.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does "the dew breaker" mean in Haitian culture?

A: In Haitian culture, "the dew breaker" refers to an individual who disrupts the peace of dawn, often associated with torturers or enforcers during periods of political repression. The term symbolizes trauma, loss of innocence, and the impact of violence.

Q: Who is the main character in Edwidge Danticat's novel "The Dew Breaker"?

A: The main character is a former torturer from Haiti, living in the United States with his family. His hidden past and struggle for redemption are central to the novel's narrative.

Q: What are the key themes in "The Dew Breaker"?

A: Key themes include trauma, memory, redemption, forgiveness, cultural identity, diaspora, and the struggle to reconcile with one's past.

Q: How is the novel "The Dew Breaker" structured?

A: The novel is structured as nine interconnected stories, each offering a unique perspective on the central character and the effects of his actions on those around him.

Q: Why is "The Dew Breaker" significant in contemporary literature?

A: "The Dew Breaker" is significant for its exploration of complex issues such as trauma and forgiveness, its lyrical storytelling, and its impact on discussions about postcolonial literature and immigrant experiences.

Q: What role does Ka play in the novel?

A: Ka, the dew breaker's daughter, serves as a lens through which the generational impact of trauma is explored. Her journey highlights the challenges of forgiveness and self-discovery.

Q: How does Edwidge Danticat use symbolism in "The Dew Breaker"?

A: Danticat uses symbolism such as broken dew, disrupted dawn, and sculpted art to convey themes of shattered innocence, memory, and the possibility of renewal.

Q: Is "The Dew Breaker" based on true events?

A: While the novel is fictional, it draws heavily on real historical events and experiences from Haiti, particularly during the Duvalier era.

Q: How has "The Dew Breaker" influenced cultural discussions?

A: The novel has sparked dialogue about the legacy of violence, the immigrant experience, and the importance of storytelling in healing personal and collective wounds.

Q: What makes "The Dew Breaker" a recommended read?

A: Its rich character development, exploration of universal themes, and poignant writing make "The Dew Breaker" an essential read for anyone interested in literature, history, or multicultural narratives.

The Dew Breaker

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The Dew Breaker: Unpacking a Powerful Narrative of Trauma and Resilience

Are you captivated by stories that explore the depths of human resilience in the face of unimaginable trauma? Then you've come to the right place. This in-depth exploration of "The Dew Breaker," a collection of short stories by award-winning author Edwidge Danticat, delves into the power of its narrative, exploring its themes, characters, and lasting impact. We'll examine its critical acclaim, analyze its impact on readers, and discuss why it remains a vital piece of contemporary literature. Prepare to be moved by a story that transcends borders and resonates deeply with the human experience.

Exploring the Central Themes of "The Dew Breaker"

Danticat's "The Dew Breaker" is not simply a collection of stories; it's a tapestry woven with threads of memory, trauma, exile, and the enduring power of the human spirit. Several key themes intertwine throughout the narrative, creating a complex and unforgettable reading experience.

The Weight of the Past: Trauma and its Legacy

Perhaps the most prominent theme is the enduring impact of trauma, particularly the lasting effects of the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti. The stories depict individuals grappling with the psychological wounds inflicted by oppression, violence, and loss. Danticat masterfully illustrates how these experiences shape identities, relationships, and the transmission of trauma across generations. The characters aren't merely victims; they are survivors actively navigating the complexities of their pasts.

The Power of Silence and Revelation

Silence plays a significant role in many of the narratives. Characters often bear the weight of

unspoken experiences, secrets hidden for years, or truths only revealed gradually. This deliberate withholding of information heightens the tension and builds suspense. The gradual unveiling of these secrets—often traumatic—creates a powerful emotional impact on both the characters and the reader.

Immigration and Identity: Finding a Place in a New World

Many stories within "The Dew Breaker" grapple with the immigrant experience, particularly the challenges faced by Haitian immigrants in the United States. The characters struggle to reconcile their Haitian identities with their new realities, negotiating cultural differences, language barriers, and the pervasive experience of otherness. They grapple with questions of belonging, assimilation, and the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Resilience and the Search for Meaning

Despite the overwhelming presence of trauma and hardship, "The Dew Breaker" ultimately celebrates resilience. The characters, though burdened by their pasts, demonstrate remarkable strength, forging ahead and seeking meaning in their lives. This search for meaning takes diverse forms—from building new families to embracing artistic expression—demonstrating the enduring capacity for hope even in the face of despair.

Analyzing Danticat's Masterful Storytelling Techniques

Danticat's writing style is a significant factor in the book's success. Her prose is both lyrical and accessible, capable of conveying immense emotional depth with seemingly effortless grace.

The Use of Interconnected Narratives

The stories in "The Dew Breaker" are not isolated tales; they are connected through recurring themes, characters, and a shared historical context. This interconnectedness builds a richer, more resonant narrative experience, allowing the reader to see the larger picture emerging from the individual stories.

The Power of Imagery and Symbolism

Danticat employs powerful imagery and symbolism to convey complex emotions and ideas. The recurring motif of the dew breaker, for example, serves as a potent symbol of both destruction and renewal, reflecting the dual nature of the characters' experiences. The imagery also vividly evokes the landscapes of Haiti and the United States, further enriching the narrative tapestry.

The Importance of Oral Storytelling Tradition

Danticat's writing frequently incorporates elements of oral storytelling tradition, reflecting the cultural heritage of Haiti. This technique enhances the authenticity and emotional impact of the narratives, creating a sense of intimacy and immediacy.

The Enduring Legacy and Critical Acclaim of "The Dew Breaker"

"The Dew Breaker" has received widespread critical acclaim, lauded for its insightful exploration of trauma, its evocative prose, and its compassionate portrayal of human resilience. It has garnered numerous awards and continues to be studied in literature courses worldwide. Its enduring legacy lies in its ability to spark dialogue about important social and political issues while offering a deeply moving human story.

Conclusion

"The Dew Breaker" is more than just a collection of short stories; it's a profound exploration of the human spirit's capacity for resilience in the face of unimaginable hardship. Through its powerful narratives, Danticat illuminates the complexities of trauma, immigration, and the enduring search for meaning. This book demands to be read, discussed, and remembered for its lasting contribution to contemporary literature.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is "The Dew Breaker" suitable for all readers? While beautifully written, the book deals with sensitive themes of trauma and violence. Reader discretion is advised.
2. What makes "The Dew Breaker" unique compared to other works on similar themes? Danticat's masterful use of interweaving narratives, lyrical prose, and focus on the immigrant experience sets it apart.
3. What is the significance of the title "The Dew Breaker"? The title is a powerful symbol, representing both destruction and the potential for renewal and growth. It alludes to the dual nature of the characters' experiences.
4. Are the stories based on true events? While inspired by real-life experiences and the historical context of Haiti, the stories are fictional narratives.

5. Where can I find "The Dew Breaker"? The book is widely available at bookstores, online retailers, and libraries. You can also find it as an ebook.

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

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

the dew breaker: The Dew Breaker Edwidge Danticat, 2004 Publisher Description

the dew breaker: Claire of the Sea Light Edwidge Danticat, 2013-11-07 Claire goes missing the night her father agrees to give her up for adoption. Her mother died when she was born. In the tiny fishing town of Ville Rose, Haiti, she and her father are not the only ones to have experienced loss. As the poor townspeople search by moonlight for the seven-year-old girl, each remembers what death has stolen from their own lives: a forbidden love cut down by slum gangsters; a mother whose rare affluence could not save her child. In prose that shimmers with folkloric imagery, Danticat intertwines their stories to reveal a deep connection between locals of distinct classes and creeds. Her vision of modern Haiti makes the unknowable familiar; like the townspeople, the reader shares a common humanity - always caught between the darkness and the light.

the dew breaker: Brother, I'm Dying Edwidge Danticat, 2009 From the best-selling author of *The Dew Breaker*, a major work of nonfiction: a powerful moving family story that centers around the men closest to her heart - her father, Mira, and his older brother, Joseph. From the age of four, Edwidge Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph, a charismatic pastor, as her 'second father', when she was placed in his care after her parents left Haiti for a better life in America. Listening to his sermons, sharing coconut-flavored ices on their walks through town, roaming through the house that held together many members of a colorful extended family, Edwidge grew profoundly attached to Joseph. He was the man who 'knew all the verses for love'. And so she experiences a jumble of

emotions when, at twelve, she joins her parents in New York City. She is at last reunited with her two youngest brothers, and with her mother and father, whom she has struggled to remember. But she must also leave behind Joseph and the only home she's ever known. Edwidge tells of making a new life in a new country while fearing for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorates. But *Brother I'm Dying* soon becomes a terrifying tale of good people caught up in events beyond their control. Late in 2004, his life threatened by an angry mob, forced to flee his church, the frail, eighty-one-year-old Joseph makes his way to Miami, where he thinks he will be safe. Instead, he is detained by U.S. Customs, held by the Department of Homeland Security, brutally imprisoned, and dead within days. It was a story that made headlines around the world. His brother, Mira, will soon join him in death, but not before he holds hope in his arms: Edwidge's firstborn, who will bear his name - and the family's stories, both joyous and tragic - into the next generation. Told with tremendous feeling, this is a true-life epic on an intimate scale: a deeply affecting story of home and family - of two men's lives and deaths, and of a daughter's great love for them both.

the dew breaker: *Untwine* Edwidge Danticat, 2015-09-29 "A genuinely moving exploration of the pain of separation" from the New York Times-bestselling author and National Book Award finalist (The New York Times Book Review). NAACP Image Awards Outstanding Literary Work 2015 VOYA Magazine Perfect Ten CCBC Choices List Selection Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year, 2016 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens Selection Giselle Boyer and her identical twin, Isabelle, are as close as sisters can be, even as their family seems to be unraveling. Then the Boyers have a tragic encounter that will shatter everyone's world forever. Giselle wakes up in the hospital, injured and unable to speak or move. Trapped in the prison of her own body, Giselle must revisit her past in order to understand how the people closest to her—her friends, her parents, and above all, Isabelle, her twin—have shaped and defined her. Will she allow her love for her family and friends to lead her to recovery? Or will she remain lost in a spiral of longing and regret? *Untwine* is a spellbinding tale, lyrical and filled with love, mystery, humor, and heartbreak. Award-winning author Edwidge Danticat brings her extraordinary talent to this graceful and unflinching examination of the bonds of friendship, romance, family, the horrors of loss, and the strength we must discover in ourselves when all seems hopeless. "While Danticat fully grounds Giselle in her identity as a Haitian-American teen in Miami, this gentle young artist could speak to any teen anywhere coping with a major loss." —The Philadelphia Inquirer

the dew breaker: Everything Inside Edwidge Danticat, 2020-11-12 From the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of *Brother, I'm Dying*, a collection of vividly imagined stories about community, family, and love. AUGUST 2020 REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER OF THE STORY PRIZE WINNER OF THE 2020 VILCEK PRIZE IN LITERATURE Rich with hard-won wisdom and humanity, set in locales from Miami and Port-au-Prince to a small unnamed country in the Caribbean and beyond, *Everything Inside* is at once wide in scope and intimate, as it explores the forces that pull us together, or drive us apart, sometimes in the same searing instant. In these eight powerful, emotionally absorbing stories, a romance unexpectedly sparks between two wounded friends; a marriage ends for what seem like noble reasons, but with irreparable consequences; a young woman holds on to an impossible dream even as she fights for her survival; two lovers reunite after unimaginable tragedy, both for their country and in their lives; a baby's christening brings three generations of a family to a precarious dance between old and new; a man falls to his death in slow motion, reliving the defining moments of the life he is about to lose. This is the indelible work of a keen observer of the human heart—a master.

the dew breaker: Approaches to Teaching the Works of Edwidge Danticat Celucien Joseph, Suchismita Banerjee, Marvin Hobson, Danny Hoey, Jr., 2019-09-20 Providing an intellectual interpretation to the work of Edwidge Danticat, this new edited collection provides a pedagogical approach to teach and interpret her body of work in undergraduate and graduate classrooms. *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Edwidge Danticat* starts out by exploring diasporic categories

and postcolonial themes such as gender constructs, cultural nationalism, cultural and communal identity, and moves to investigate Danticat's human rights activism, the immigrant experience, the relationship between the particular and the universal, and the violence of hegemony and imperialism in relationship with society, family, and community. The Editors of the collection have carefully compiled works that show how Danticat's writings may help in building more compassionate and relational human communities that are grounded on the imperative of human dignity, respect, inclusion, and peace.

the dew breaker: *Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas* Jay Watson, James G. Thomas Jr., 2016-05-05 Contributions by Ted Atkinson, Thadious M. Davis, Matthew Dischinger, Dotty Dye, Chiyuma Elliott, Doreen Fowler, Joseph Fruscione, T. Austin Graham, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Derrick Harriell, Lisa Hinrichsen, Randall Horton, George Hutchinson, Andrew B. Leiter, John Wharton Lowe, Jamaal May, Ben Robbins, Tim A. Ryan, Sharon Eve Sarthou, Jenna Sciuto, James Smethurst, and Jay Watson At the turn of the millennium, the Martinican novelist Édouard Glissant offered the bold prediction that "Faulkner's oeuvre will be made complete when it is revisited and made vital by African Americans," a goal that "will be achieved by a radically 'other' reading." In the spirit of Glissant's prediction, this collection places William Faulkner's literary oeuvre in dialogue with a hemispheric canon of black writing from the United States and the Caribbean. The volume's seventeen essays and poetry selections chart lines of engagement, dialogue, and reciprocal resonance between Faulkner and his black precursors, contemporaries, and successors in the Americas. Contributors place Faulkner's work in illuminating conversation with writings by Paul Laurence Dunbar, W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Jean Toomer, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Ernest J. Gaines, Marie Vieux-Chauvet, Toni Morrison, Edwidge Danticat, Randall Kenan, Edward P. Jones, and Natasha Trethewey, along with the musical artistry of Mississippi bluesman Charley Patton. In addition, five contemporary African American poets offer their own creative responses to Faulkner's writings, characters, verbal art, and historical example. In these ways, the volume develops a comparative approach to the Faulkner oeuvre that goes beyond the compelling but limiting question of influence—who read whom, whose works draw from whose—to explore the confluences between Faulkner and black writing in the hemisphere.

the dew breaker: *The Art of Death* Edwidge Danticat, 2017-07-11 A moving reflection on a subject that touches us all, by the bestselling author of *Claire of the Sea* Light Edwidge Danticat's *The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story* is at once a personal account of her mother dying from cancer and a deeply considered reckoning with the ways that other writers have approached death in their own work. "Writing has been the primary way I have tried to make sense of my losses," Danticat notes in her introduction. "I have been writing about death for as long as I have been writing." The book moves outward from the shock of her mother's diagnosis and sifts through Danticat's writing life and personal history, all the while shifting fluidly from examples that range from Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* to Toni Morrison's *Sula*. The narrative, which continually circles the many incarnations of death from individual to large-scale catastrophes, culminates in a beautiful, heartrending prayer in the voice of Danticat's mother. A moving tribute and a work of astute criticism, *The Art of Death* is a book that will profoundly alter all who encounter it.

the dew breaker: *The Book of Other People* Zadie Smith, 2008-08-28 *The Book of Other People* is just that: a book of other people. Open its covers and you'll make a whole host of new acquaintances. Nick Hornby and Posy Simmonds present the ever-diverging writing life of Jamie Johnson; Hari Kunzru twitches open his net curtains to reveal the irrepressible Magda Mandela (at 4:30a.m., in her lime-green thong); Jonathan Safran Foer's *Grandmother* offers cookies to sweeten the tale of her heart scan; and Dave Eggers, George Saunders, David Mitchell, Colm Tóibín, A.M. Homes, Chris Ware and many more each have someone to introduce to you, too. With an introduction by Zadie Smith and brand-new stories from over twenty of the best writers of their generation from both sides of the Atlantic, *The Book of Other People* is as dazzling and inventive as

its authors, and as vivid and wide-ranging as its characters.

the dew breaker: Love, Anger, Madness Marie Vieux-Chauvet, 2009-08-04 The only English translation of “a masterpiece” (The Nation)—a stunning trilogy of novellas about the soul-crushing cost of life under a violent Haitian dictatorship, featuring an introduction by Edwidge Danticat Originally published in 1968, Love, Anger, Madness virtually disappeared from circulation until its republication in France in 2005. Set in the barely fictionalized Haiti of “Papa Doc” Duvalier’s repressive rule, Marie Vieux-Chauvet’s writing was so powerful and so incendiary that she was forced to flee to the United States. Yet Love, Anger, Madness endures. Claire, the narrator of Love, is the eldest of three daughters who surrenders her dreams of marriage to run the household after her parents die. Insecure about her dark skin, she fantasizes about her middle sister’s French husband, while he has an affair with the youngest sister, setting in motion a complicated family dynamic that echoes the growing chaos outside their home. In Anger, the police terrorize a middle-class family by threatening to seize their land. The father insinuates that their only hope of salvation lies with an unspeakable act—his daughter Rose must prostitute herself—which leads to all-consuming guilt, shame, and rage. And finally, Madness paints a terrifying portrait of a Haitian village that has been ravaged by militants. René, a young poet, is trapped in his family’s house for days with no food and becomes obsessed with the souls of the dead that surround him.

the dew breaker: Recovery—The Sacred Art Rabbi Rami Shapiro, 2013-10-19 Deepen Your Capacity to Live Free from Addiction—and from Self and Selfishness Twelve Step recovery is much more than a way to escape the clutches of addictive behaviors. Twelve Step recovery is about freeing yourself from playing God, and since almost everyone is addicted to this game, Twelve Step recovery is something from which everyone can benefit. —from the Introduction In this hope-filled approach to spiritual and personal growth, the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are uniquely interpreted to speak to everyone seeking a freer and more God-centered life. This special rendering makes them relevant to those suffering from specific addictions—alcohol, drugs, gambling, food, sex, shopping—as well as the general addictions we wrestle with daily, such as anger, greed, and selfishness. Rami Shapiro describes his personal experience working the Twelve Steps as adapted by Overeaters Anonymous and shares anecdotes from many people working the Steps in a variety of settings. Drawing on the insights and practices of Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, and Islam, he offers supplementary practices from different religious traditions to help you move more deeply into the universal spirituality of the Twelve Step system.

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

the dew breaker: Edwidge Danticat Clitandre T. Nadège, 2018-11-14 Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat is one of the most recognized writers today. Her debut novel, Breath, Eyes, Memory, was an Oprah Book Club selection, and works such as Krik? Krak! and Brother, I’m Dying have earned her a MacArthur genius grant and National Book Award nominations. Yet despite international acclaim and the relevance of her writings to postcolonial, feminist, Caribbean, African diaspora, Haitian, literary, and global studies, Danticat’s work has not been the subject of a full-length interpretive literary analysis until now. In Edwidge Danticat: The Haitian Diasporic Imaginary, Nadège T. Clitandre offers a comprehensive analysis of Danticat’s exploration of the dialogic relationship between nation and diaspora. Clitandre argues that Danticat—moving between novels, short stories, and essays—articulates a diasporic consciousness that acts as a form of social, political, and cultural transformation at the local and global level. Using the echo trope to approach Danticat’s narratives and subjects, Clitandre effectively navigates between the reality of diaspora and imaginative opportunities that diasporas produce. Ultimately, Clitandre calls for a reconstitution of nation through a diasporic imaginary that informs the way people who have experienced displacement view the world and imagine a more diverse, interconnected, and just future.

the dew breaker: The Woman Next Door Yewande Omotoso, 2017-02-07 The U.S. debut of award-winning writer Yewande Omotoso, in which an unexpected friendship blossoms in contemporary Cape Town—and in a community where loving thy neighbor is easier said than done.

Hortensia James and Marion Agostino are neighbors. One is black, the other white. Both are successful women with impressive careers. Both have recently been widowed, and are living with questions, disappointments, and secrets that have brought them shame. And each has something that the woman next door deeply desires. Sworn enemies, the two share a hedge and a deliberate hostility, which they maintain with a zeal that belies their age. But, one day, an unexpected event forces Hortensia and Marion together. As the physical barriers between them collapse, their bickering gradually softens into conversation and, gradually, the two discover common ground. But are these sparks of connection enough to ignite a friendship, or is it too late to expect these women to change? A finalist for: International DUBLIN Literary Award • Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Fiction • Barry Ronge Fiction Prize • Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize • University of Johannesburg Main Prize for South African Writing Longlisted for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction • One of the Best Black Heritage Reads (Essence Magazine) • One of NPR's Best Books of the Year • One of Publishers Weekly's Writers to Watch

the dew breaker: Hadriana in All My Dreams René Depestre, 2017-05-02 Legendary Haitian author Depestre combines magic, fantasy, eroticism, and delirious humor to explore universal questions of race and sexuality. "One-of-a-kind . . . [A] ribald, free-wheeling magical-realist novel, first published in 1988 and newly, engagingly translated by Glover . . . An icon of Haitian literature serves up a hotblooded, rib-ticking, warmhearted mélange of ghost story, cultural inquiry, folk art, and véritable l'amour." —Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review "An exceptional novel . . . Depestre's masterpiece and one of the greatest examples of Haitian literature." —New York Journal of Books *Hadriana in All My Dreams*, winner of the prestigious Prix Renaudot, takes place primarily during Carnival in 1938 in the Haitian village of Jacmel. A beautiful young French woman, Hadriana, is about to marry a Haitian boy from a prominent family. But on the morning of the wedding, Hadriana drinks a mysterious potion and collapses at the altar. Transformed into a zombie, her wedding becomes her funeral. She is buried by the town, revived by an evil sorcerer, then disappears into popular legend. Set against a backdrop of magic and eroticism, and recounted with delirious humor, the novel raises universal questions about race and sexuality. The reader comes away enchanted by the marvelous reality of Haiti's Vodou culture and convinced of Depestre's lusty claim that all beings—even the undead ones—have a right to happiness and true love.

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

the dew breaker: Haiti Noir (Akashic Noir). Edwidge Danticat, 2011 Haiti has had a tragic history and continues to be one of the most destitute places on the planet, especially in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake. Here, however, editor Edwidge Danticat reveals that even while the subject matter remains dark, the calibre of Haitian writing is of the highest order. Features

stories by Edwidge Danticat, Madison Smartt Bell, Gary Victor, Jessica Fiebre, Marilene Phipps, Marie Ketsia Theodore-Pharel, Katie Ulysse, Yanick Lahens, Evelyne Trouillot, Kettly Mars, Rodney Saint-Eloi and many more.

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

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

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

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

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

the dew breaker: Boricua Pop Frances Negrón-Muntaner, 2004-06 The first book solely devoted to Puerto Rican visibility and cultural impact. The author looks at such pop icons as JLo and Ricky Martin as well as *West Side Story*.

the dew breaker: Create Dangerously Edwidge Danticat, 2011-09-20 A New York Times

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

the dew breaker: The Inheritance Sahar Khalifeh, 2005-10-01 In this powerful novel, acclaimed Palestinian author Sahar Khalifeh examines the stark realities in the lives of Palestinian women. Through her protagonist, Zeynab, born to an American mother and a Palestinian father, Khalifeh illuminates the disorienting experience of living between two worlds, and the search for identity that mirrors the Palestinians' own quest for nationhood. Set against the emotionally charged background of the early 1990s when the Gulf War and the Oslo Accords fundamentally shifted the political landscape *The Inheritance* takes as its subject the fate of young Palestinian women who supported their families for decades working elsewhere in the Middle East. In vivid prose, Khalifeh traces the disruption caused by the Gulf War on the life of these women, as Zeynab returns to her homeland and tries to adapt to her new life on the West Bank after years spent in Kuwait. In her previous novels, Sahar Khalifeh has established herself as the premier female novelist of the Palestinian diaspora; with *The Inheritance*, she breaks new ground in giving voice to these Palestinian women and their return from economic exile. With its critical portrayal of the Palestinian Authority, its mistakes, and limitations, *The Inheritance* offers a surprising look at the realities of Palestinian life and society. As the story of an immigrant torn between two cultures and struggling to adapt to both, Zeynab's tale touches on universal themes that will resonate with readers everywhere.

the dew breaker: Mama's Nightingale Edwidge Danticat, 2015-09-01 A touching tale of parent-child separation and immigration, from a National Book Award finalist After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good. With stirring illustrations, this tender tale shows the human side of immigration and imprisonment—and shows how every child has the power to make a difference.

the dew breaker: Culture and Customs of Haiti J. Michael Dash, 2000-10-30 *Culture and Customs of Haiti* begins with an overview of the mountainous island that seemed forbidding to European colonizers. Historical periods, including French colonization, U.S. occupation in the early 20th century, Independence and the Duvaliers' reigns, until today, are reviewed and provide the framework for the volume. A chapter on the people and society details the pride of the black state that managed the only successful slave revolution in history. The extremes of society from the elite to the peasantry and slum dwellers are depicted, along with Haitians in diaspora. Religion in Haiti, with the strong amalgamation of Roman Catholicism and vaudou, a West African import, is then explained. A Social Customs chapter notes the joy that is found in such an economically depressed culture. The media and literature and language chapters necessarily unfold in the context of Haiti's political history. A section on writing in Creole is especially intriguing. Finally, chapters on the performing arts and visual arts evoke the energy and color of the people in such forms as vaudou jazz and dance, contemporary rara rock, and the folkloric influence on Haitian painting. A chronology and glossary supplement the text.

the dew breaker: Bridges to Memory Maria Rice Bellamy, 2015-12-04 Tracing the development of a new genre in contemporary American literature that was engendered in the civil rights, feminist, and ethnic empowerment struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, *Bridges to Memory* shows how these movements authorized African American and ethnic American women writers to reimagine the traumatic histories that form their ancestral inheritance and define their contemporary identities. Drawing on the concept of postmemory—a paradigm developed to describe the relationship that

children of Holocaust survivors have to their parents' traumatic experiences—Maria Bellamy examines narrative representations of this inherited form of trauma in the work of contemporary African American and ethnic American women writers. Focusing on Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*, Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, Phyllis Alesia Perry's *Stigmata*, Cristina García's *Dreaming in Cuban*, Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*, and Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*, Bellamy shows how cultural context determines the ways in which traumatic history is remembered and transmitted to future generations. Taken together, these narratives of postmemory manifest the haunting presence of the past in the present and constitute an archive of textual witness and global relevance that builds cross-cultural understanding and ethical engagement with the suffering of others.

the dew breaker: Farewell, Fred Voodoo Amy Wilentz, 2013-01-08 Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, this is a brilliant writer's account of a long, painful, ecstatic—and unreciprocated—affair with a country that has long fascinated the world. A foreign correspondent on a simple story becomes, over time and in the pages of this book, a lover of Haiti, pursuing the heart of this beautiful and confounding land into its darkest corners and brightest clearings. *Farewell, Fred Voodoo* is a journey into the depths of the human soul as well as a vivid portrayal of the nation's extraordinary people and their uncanny resilience. Haiti has found in Amy Wilentz an author of astonishing wit, sympathy, and eloquence.

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

the dew breaker: The Writer as Migrant Ha Jin, 2024-02-15 Novelist Ha Jin raises questions about language, migration, and the place of literature in a rapidly globalizing world. Consisting of three interconnected essays, *The Writer as Migrant* sets Ha Jin's own work and life alongside those of other literary exiles, creating a conversation across cultures and between eras. He employs the cases of Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Chinese novelist Lin Yutang to illustrate the obligation a writer feels to the land of their birth, while Joseph Conrad and Vladimir Nabokov—who, like Ha Jin, adopted English for their writing—are enlisted to explore a migrant author's conscious choice of a literary language. A final essay draws on V. S. Naipaul and Milan Kundera to consider the ways in which our era of perpetual change forces a migrant writer to reconceptualize the very idea of home. Throughout, Jin brings other celebrated writers into the conversation as well, including W. G. Sebald, C. P. Cavafy, and Salman Rushdie—refracting and refining the very idea of a literature of migration. Simultaneously a reflection on a crucial theme and a fascinating glimpse at the writers who compose Ha Jin's mental library, *The Writer as Migrant* is a work of passionately engaged criticism, one rooted in departures but feeling like a new arrival.

the dew breaker: My Mother's House Francesca Momplaisir, 2020-05-12 One of the Best Books of the Year: *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vulture* • This uncompromising look at the immigrant experience, and the depravity of one man, is an electrifying page-turner rooted in a magical reality • “Impossible to stop reading” —*Vulture* When Lucien flees Haiti with his wife, Marie-Ange, and their three children to New York City's South Ozone Park, he does so hoping for reinvention, wealth, and comfort. He buys a run-down house in a quickly changing community, and begins life anew. Lucien and Marie-Ange call their home La Kay—“my mother's house”—and it becomes a place where their fellow immigrants can find peace, a good meal, and necessary legal help. But as a severely emotionally damaged man emigrating from a country whose evils he knows to one whose evils he doesn't, Lucien soon falls into his worst habits and impulses, with La Kay as the backdrop for his lasciviousness. What he can't begin to fathom is that the house is watching, passing judgment, and deciding to put an end to all the sins it has been made to hold. But only after it has set itself aflame will frightened whispers reveal Lucien's ultimate evil.

the dew breaker: Destination Biafra Buchi Emecheta, 1982-06-01 Debbie Ogedemgbe joins the army to help her country, but is uncertain whether her English lover, Alan Grey, a military advisor, is concerned with Nigeria or British interests in Africa

the dew breaker: Trauma Fiction Anne Whitehead, 2004-05-27 The literary potential of trauma is examined in this book, bringing trauma theory and literary texts together for the first time. Trauma Fiction focuses on the ways in which contemporary novelists explore the theme of trauma and incorporate its structures into their writing. It provides innovative readings of texts by Pat Barker, Jackie Kay, Anne Michaels, Toni Morrison, Caryl Phillips, W. G. Sebald and Benjamin Wilkomirski. It also considers the ways in which trauma has affected fictional form, exploring how novelists have responded to the challenge of writing traumatic narratives, and identifying the key stylistic features associated with the genre. In addition, the book introduces the reader to key critics in the field of trauma theory such as Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman and Geoffrey Hartman. The linking of trauma theory and literary texts not only sheds light on works of contemporary fiction, it also points to the inherent connections between trauma theory and the literary which have often been overlooked. The distinction between literary theme and style in the book opens up major questions regarding the nature of trauma itself. Trauma, like the novels discussed, is shown to take an uncertain but productive place between content and form. Key Features*Identifies and explores a new and evolving genre in contemporary fiction*Thinks through the relation between trauma and literature*Produces innovative readings of key works of contemporary fiction *Provides an introduction to key ideas in trauma theory

the dew breaker: The Summer That Changed Us Cathy Bramley, 2022-03-03 The joyful and escapist Sunday Times bestseller about three women searching for friendship in a beautiful seaside town 'An emotional tale of friendship. This is Cathy at her very best' Sarah Morgan 'A wonderful story about how friendship gets you through hard times' Katie Fforde The sparkling seaside village of Merle Bay, with its beautiful beach scattered with sea glass, is a place where anyone can have a fresh start. For Katie, it is the perfect hideout after a childhood trauma left her feeling exposed. For Robyn, the fresh sea air is helping to heal her scars, but maybe not her marriage. For Grace, a new start could help her move on from a heartbreaking loss. When they meet on Sea Glass Beach one day, they form an instant bond and soon they're sharing prosecco, laughter - and even their biggest secrets... Together, the women feel stronger than ever before. So can their friendship help them face old fears and find happy endings - as well as new beginnings? 'A real treat. No-one does friendship better than Cathy' Karen Swan

the dew breaker: Bower Lodge Paul Pastor, 2021-12-10 Bower Lodge journeys inward to a wild landscape of joy, grief, and transformation. By turns mournful, meditative, incantatory, and rejoicing, this poetry collection's fresh, potent images and unforgettable, musical language carves a map into that hidden, holy world that lies deep at the core of our own.

the dew breaker: Visual Culture and the Holocaust Barbie Zelizer, 2000-12-01 A book that looks at both the traditional and the unconventional ways in which the holocaust has been visually represented. The purpose of this volume is to enhance our understanding of the visual representation of the Holocaust - in films, television, photographs, art and museum installations and cultural artifacts - and to examine the ways in which these have shaped our consciousness. The areas covered include the Eichman Trial as covered on American television, the impact of Schindler's List, the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Israeli Heritage Museums, Women and Holocaust Photography, Internet Holocaust sites and tattoos and shrunken heads, the bodies of the dead and of the survivors.

the dew breaker: The Reindeer Hunters Lars Mytting, 2022-03-03 Lars Mytting writes with an insight, empathy and integrity few others can match JO NESBO The Reindeer Hunters is the second in a thrilling historical trilogy that began with The Bell in the Lake. The year is 1903, and twenty-two years have passed since Astrid Hekne died in childbirth. Her son Jehans lives on a modest smallholding up in the hills near Butangen, having withdrawn from his community. He is drawn to freedom, to fishing and reindeer hunting, and one day meets a stranger over the body of a huge reindeer buck. Outside the new church in Butangen, Pastor Kai Schweigaard still cares for Astrid Hekne's grave. The village's overworked priest is tormented by his old betrayal, which led to death and to the separation of two powerful church bells cast in memory of two sisters in Astrid's family.

Kai is set on finding an ancient tapestry made by the sisters - the Hekne Weave - in the hope that it will reveal how he can remedy his iniquities. Conceived on an epic scale by Norway's bestselling author, The Reindeer Hunters is a novel about love and bitter rivalries, sorrow and courage, about history and myth, and a country as it enters a new era, about the first electric light and the Great War in Europe, where brother stands against brother. Translated from the Norwegian by Deborah Dawkin

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