

## Annie John Jamaica Kincaid

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*Annie John Jamaica Kincaid*

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### KAMREN JACOB

**Mr. Potter** Titan Books (US, CA)  
 Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2, University of Education Ludwigsburg, language: English, abstract: One of the most basic and insightful bonds women form with each other is that of a mother and daughter. The different stages that a mother and her daughter are going through during their lives and the insuperable unity they have is a fact that people have been reflecting about at all times. The impact that a mother has on her daughter is huge no matter how distinct their relationship is. Passing on values, protecting the child and showing unconditional love are some of the main tasks of being a mother. But what if the mother fails to complete these tasks? Jamaica Kincaid grew up in Antigua and was raised by a father who was never there and a mother who gave all her attention to her brothers. She fled the island at the age of seventeen, left her family as well as her name behind and entered North America as Jamaica Kincaid. Even though she came to terms with the

past, she copes with her experiences through writing books. Kincaid's tight, lyrical prose guides the reader through memories of her mother and her childhood. Due to her lifestory, Jamaica Kincaid manages to portray her fiction in an extremely pure and touching way. In the following, I will take a closer look at her biography and origin. I will also analyze two of her novels, *Autobiography of my mother* and *Annie John* and interpret them in regard to the mother theme.

**The Subverted Subversion of Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John** Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
 Changing her name early in her career because her parents disapproved of her writing, Jamaica Kincaid crossed audiences to embrace feminist, American, postcolonial and world literature. This book offers an introduction and guided overview of her characters, plots, humor, symbols, and classic themes. Designed for students, fans, librarians, and teachers, the 84 A-to-Z entries combine commentary from interviewers, feminist historians, and book critics with numerous citations from primary and secondary sources and comparative literature. The companion features a chronology of Kincaid's life, West Indies heritage and works, and includes a character name chart.

*My Garden (Book)* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The story of an ordinary man, his century, and his home: "Kincaid's most poetic and affecting novel

to date" (Robert Antoni, *The Washington Post Book World*) Jamaica Kincaid's first obsession, the island of Antigua, comes vibrantly to life under the gaze of Mr. Potter, an illiterate taxi chauffeur who makes his living along the roads that pass through the only towns he has ever seen and the graveyard where he will be buried. The sun shines squarely overhead, the ocean lies on every side, and suppressed passion fills the air. Ignoring the legacy of his father, a poor fisherman, and his mother, who committed suicide, Mr. Potter struggles to live at ease amid his surroundings: to purchase a car, to have girlfriends, and to shake off the encumbrance of his daughters—one of whom will return to Antigua after he dies and tell his story with equal measures of distance and sympathy. In *Mr. Potter*, Kincaid breathes life into a figure unlike any other in contemporary fiction, an individual consciousness emerging gloriously out of an unexamined life.

*Annie John* Picador

Lucy, a teenage girl from the West Indies, comes to America to work as an au pair for a wealthy couple. She begins to notice cracks in their beautiful façade at the same time that the mysteries of own sexuality begin to unravel. Jamaica Kincaid has created a startling new heroine who is destined to win a place of honor in contemporary fiction.

*Annie John* Greenwood Publishing Group

The theme of lost childhood remains constant in this short fictional narrative of rebellious Annie John's coming of age on the small island of Antigua

**Annie John** Greenwood

A Study Guide for Jamaica Kincaid's "Annie John," 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.

*Lucy* Macmillan

Chuck Kelso is an idealist. When he steals a top-secret NATO memorandum, he only intends to leak it to the press; but it is soon in the hands of a Russian agent, a man who has spent nine years quietly working himself into the fabric of Washington society. Within hours it has reached the KGB, and the CIA's top man in Moscow has had his cover blown. For British agent Tony Lawton, hunting down the Russian operative – the 'agent in place' – is a welcome challenge. But for Chuck's brother, the journalist Tom Kelso, and his beautiful wife, Thea, the affair has unleashed a very special terror. Now the race is on to find the Russian spy before a top-level NATO conference. But why is the escaped agent behaving so strangely? Is he who he seems?

**Among Flowers** Adelphi Edizioni spa

There is perhaps no other person who has been so often and obsessively featured in any writer's canon as Jamaica Kincaid's mother, Annie Drew. In this provocative new book, Daryl Dance argues that everything Kincaid has written, regardless of its apparent theme, actually relates to Kincaid's efforts to free herself from her mother, whether her subject is ostensibly other family members, her home nation, a precolonial world, or even Kincaid herself. A devoted reader of Kincaid's work, Dance had long been aware of the author's love-hate relationship with her mother, but it was not until reading the 2008 essay "The Estrangement" that Dance began to ponder who this woman named Annie Victoria Richardson Drew really was. Dance decided to seek the answers herself, embarking on a years-long journey to unearth the real Annie Drew. Through interviews and extensive research, Dance has pieced together a fuller, more contextualized picture in an attempt to tell Annie Drew's story. Previous analyses of Kincaid's relationship with her mother have not gone beyond the writer's own carefully orchestrated and sometimes contrived portraits of her. In Search of Annie Drew offers an alternate reading of Kincaid's work that expands our understanding of the object of such passionate love and such ferocious hatred, an ordinary woman who became an unforgettable literary figure through her talented daughter's renderings.

Maternal Shadows and Colonial Ghosts in Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John Other Press, LLC

A seventy-year-old West Indian woman looks back over the course of her life and examines the relationships that have given meaning to her existence

A Small Place Editions de l'Olivier

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- [What To Expect When You're Expecting](#)
- [A Court Of Wings And Ruin \(a Court Of Thorns And Roses, 3\) By Sarah J. Maas](#)

The theme of lost childhood remains constant in this short fictional narrative of rebellious Annie John's coming of age on the small island of Antigua

Jamaica Kincaid Farrar, Straus and Giroux

ABSTRACT: Critics of Jamaica Kincaid have often overlooked her radical contribution to identity politics in Caribbean literature. They argue that her writing does not have the same desire or potential to resist colonialism that scholars see in the larger community of Caribbean writers. They say that novels such as *Annie John* are apolitical or ahistorical because of Kincaid's close focus on domestic issues.

At the Bottom of the River Gale, Cengage Learning

The theme of lost childhood remains constant in this short fictional narrative of rebellious Annie John's coming of age on the small island of Antigua

**"A" is for Annie** U of Nebraska Press

The author presents a candid portrait of her late brother, an athlete, Rastafarian, and drug addict who died of AIDS at the age of thirty-three

Annie John Macmillan

In *See Now Then*, the brilliant and evocative new novel from Jamaica Kincaid—her first in ten years—a marriage is revealed in all its joys and agonies. This piercing examination of the manifold ways in which the passing of time operates on the human consciousness unfolds gracefully, and Kincaid inhabits each of her characters—a mother, a father, and their two children, living in a small village in New England—as they move, in their own minds, between the present, the past, and the future: for, as she writes, "the present will be now then and the past is now then and the future will be a now then." Her characters, constrained by the world, despair in their domestic situations. But their minds wander, trying to make linear sense of what is, in fact, nonlinear. *See Now Then* is Kincaid's attempt to make clear what is unclear, and to make unclear what we assumed was clear: that is, the beginning, the middle, and the end. Since the publication of her first short-story collection, *At the Bottom of the River*, which was nominated for a PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, Kincaid has demonstrated a unique talent for seeing beyond and through the surface of things. In *See Now Then*, she envelops the reader in a world that is both familiar and startling—creating her most emotionally and thematically daring work yet.

Univ of South Carolina Press

A unique and valuable source of primary materials that will help students understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts of the novel.

**A Novel** National Geographic Books

A comprehensive survey of the life and works of a writer deeply invested in themes of exile and exploitation

*Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John* McFarland

*School Days* (Chemin-d'École) is a captivating narrative based on Patrick Chamoiseau's childhood

in Fort-de-France, Martinique. It is a revelatory account of the colonial world that shaped one of the liveliest and most creative voices in French and Caribbean literature today. Through the eyes of the boy Chamoiseau, we meet his severe, Francophile teacher, a man intent upon banishing all remnants of Creole from his students' speech. This domineering man is succeeded by an equally autocratic teacher, an Africanist and proponent of "Negritude." Along the way we are also introduced to Big Bellybutton, the class scapegoat, whose tales of Creole heroes and heroines, magic, zombies, and fantastic animals provide a fertile contrast to the imported French fairy tales told in school. In prose punctuated by Creolisms and ribald humor, Chamoiseau infuses the universal terrors, joys, and disappointments of a child's early school days with the unique experiences of a Creole boy forced to confront the dominant culture in a colonial school. *School Days* mixes understanding with laughter, knowledge with entertainment—in ways that will fascinate and delight readers of all ages.

Agent in Place Farrar, Straus and Giroux

«Il genio ha molte sorprese, e una di queste è la geografia» ha scritto Derek Walcott a proposito di Jamaica Kincaid. Ed è proprio la geografia di Antigua, così accecante e celeste, a permeare la prosa incantatoria del suo primo romanzo: gli alisei, i riti della pesca e dell'obeah si confondono in un'unica musica palpitante, mentre l'albero del pane e le sgargianti poinciane stonano con la chiesa anglicana, con la divisa scolastica, con i quaderni che hanno in copertina la regina Vittoria. E intanto Annie John cresce in una felice solitudine, al centro dell'universo della sua bellissima, giovane madre. Ma poi, la catastrofe: Annie «diventa signorina», e la madre, che come una divinità può dare e togliere tutto, incomprensibilmente si trasforma in un'algida nemica. «Io vivevo in un paradiso così» dice Annie dei suoi anni di bambina; ma ogni paradiso ha il suo «orribile serpente», e sarà un tormentoso duello quotidiano a scandire il suo furente ingresso nell'adolescenza.

*Literary Contexts in Novels* University Press of Kentucky

Examines the themes and techniques used in the major works of Jamaica Kincaid.

The Bookshop HarperCollins publishers

One of our finest writers on one of her greatest loves. Jamaica Kincaid's first garden in Vermont was a plot in the middle of her front lawn. There, to the consternation of more experienced friends, she planted only seeds of the flowers she liked best. In *My Garden* (Book) she gathers all she loves about gardening and plants, and examines it generously, passionately, and with sharp, idiosyncratic discrimination. Kincaid's affections are matched in intensity only by her dislikes. She loves spring and summer but cannot bring herself to love winter, for it hides the garden. She adores the rhododendron Jane Grant, and appreciates ordinary Blue Lake string beans, but abhors the Asiatic lily. The sources of her inspiration -- seed catalogues, the gardener Gertrude Jekyll, gardens like Monet's at Giverny -- are subjected to intense scrutiny. She also examines the idea of the garden on Antigua, where she grew up. *My Garden* (Book) is an intimate, playful, and penetrating book on gardens, the plants that fill them, and the persons who tend them.