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## ALISSON JOHNS

*At the Bottom of the River* Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
 "John Irving, it is abundantly clear, is a true artist."—Los Angeles Times  
 Fred "Bogus" Trumper has troubles. A divorced, broke graduate student of Old Norse in 1970s New York, Trumper is a wayward knight-errant in the battle of the sexes and the pursuit of happiness: His ex-wife has moved in with his childhood best friend, his life is the subject of a tell-all movie, and his chronic urinary tract infection requires surgery. Trumper is determined to change. There's only one problem: it seems the harder he tries to alter his adolescent ways, the more he is drawn to repeating the mistakes of the past. . . . Written when Irving was twenty-nine, Trumper's tale of woe is told with all the wit and humor that would become Irving's trademark. "Three or four times as funny as most novels."—The New Yorker  
 Praise for *The Water-Method Man*  
 "Friendship, marriage, and family are his primary themes, but at that blundering level of life where mishap and folly—something close to joyful malice—perpetually intrude and disrupt, often fatally. Life, in [John] Irving's fiction, is always under siege. Harm and disarray are daily fare, as if the course of love could not run true. . . . Irving's multiple manner . . . his will to come at the world from different directions, is one of the outstanding traits of *The World According to Garp*, but this remarkable flair for . . . stories inside stories . . . is already handled with mastery . . . and with a freedom almost wanton in *The Water-Method Man* [which is *Garp*'s predecessor by six years]."—Terrence Des Pres  
 "Brutal reality and hallucination, comedy and pathos. A rich, unified tapestry."—Time

### A Study Guide for Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John

HarperCollins publishers

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.

*Party* University of Virginia Press

In 1831, three years before England abolished slavery in the British Caribbean, the narrative of Mary Prince was published in London. It was the first account written by a Caribbean slave to be published. Although narratives and stories of Caribbean women have appeared sporadically in subsequent years, it is only since 1970 that a wave of women's writing has inundated the field, thereby changing the horizons of Caribbean literature.

*School Days* Editions de l'Olivier

A collection of stories which plunges the reader into an intensely physical world, partly remembered, partly divined: a childhood in the Caribbean, defined by fierce emotion and poverty co-existing uneasily with teatime, churchgoing and British schoolbooks about frostbitten chimney-sweeps.

*Annie John* University of Virginia Press

A lyrical exploration of love and loss, this book centers on several generations of women in a bucolic southern Black township as they live with and sometimes surrender to madness. The Goode-Brown family, led by matriarch and pillar of the community Minnie Mae, is plagued by old secrets and embarrassment over mental illness and illegitimacy. Meanwhile, single mother Francine Clark is haunted by her dead, lightning-struck husband and forced to fight against both the moral judgment of the community and her own rebellious daughter, Mona. The residents of Opulence struggle with vexing relationships to the land, to one another, and to their own sexuality. As the members of the youngest generation watch their mothers and grandmothers pass away, they live with the fear of going mad themselves and must fight to survive. The author offers up Opulence and its people in lush, poetic detail. It is a world of magic, conjuring, signs, and spells, but also of harsh realities that only love - and love that's handed down - can conquer.

*The Water-Method Man* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The author of such books as *At the Bottom of the River* and *My Brother* returns to Antigua, the ten-by-twelve mile Caribbean island where she grew up, to explore the effects of colonialism. Reprint.

*The Kitchen House* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

In this travel memoir, the acclaimed novelist Jamaica Kincaid chronicles a three-week trek through Nepal, the spectacular and exotic Himalayan land, where she and her companions are gathering seeds for planting at home. The natural world and, in particular, plants and gardening are central to Kincaid's work; in addition to such novels as *Annie John* and *Lucy*, Kincaid is the author of *My Garden (Book)*: a collection of essays about her love of cultivating plants and gardens throughout her life. Among *Flowers* intertwines meditations on nature and stunning descriptions of the Himalayan landscape with observations on the ironies, difficulties, and dangers of this magnificent journey. For Kincaid and three botanist friends, Nepal is a paradise, a place where a single day's hike can traverse climate zones, from subtropical to alpine, encompassing flora suitable for growing at their homes, from Wales to Vermont. Yet as she makes clear, there is far more to this foreign world than rhododendrons that grow thirty feet high. Danger, too, is a constant companion—and the leeches are the least of the worries. Unpredictable Maoist guerrillas live in these perilous mountains, and when they do

appear—as they do more than once—their enigmatic presence lingers long after they have melted back into the landscape. And Kincaid, who writes of the looming, lasting effects of colonialism in her works, necessarily explores the irony of her status as memsahib with Sherpas and bearers. A wonderful blend of introspective insight and beautifully rendered description, *Among Flowers* is a vivid, engrossing, and characteristically frank memoir from one of our most striking voices.

*Among Flowers* Macmillan

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 life story, 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.

*Annie John* Univ of South Carolina Press

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

*My Brother* 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.

**My Garden (Book)** GRIN Verlag

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?

[In Search of Annie Drew](#) Fabula

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.

**The Mother Theme in Jamaica Kincaid's Fiction** Random House

*Caribbean Women Writers* is a collection of scholarly articles on the fiction of selected Caribbean women writers from Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad. It includes not only close critical analysis of texts by Erna Brodber, Dionne Brand, Zee Edgell, Jamaica Kincaid, Paule Marshall, Pauline Melville, Jean Rhys and Olive Senior, but also personal statements from the writers Merle Collins, Beryl Gilroy, Vernella Fuller and Velma Pollard.

[Caribbean Women Writers](#) GRIN Verlag

In this subtly haunting novel, a married woman confesses her encounter with a mysterious man, which threatens the stilted calm of life in a Paris suburb. Echoing the acclaimed and unsettling film *Sundays and Cybèle* from 1962, *A Sunday in Ville-d'Avray* is suffused with the same feeling of disquiet: Two sisters meet as the light is fading in a detached house in Ville-d'Avray, each filled with the memory of their childhood hopes and fears, their insatiable desire for the romantic, for wild landscapes worthy of *Jane Eyre*, and for a mad love, all concealed beneath the appearance of a sensible life. Claire Marie, considered by most to be a dreamy, passive sort of person, suddenly breaks from the everyday by confiding in her sister about an unlikely meeting in this seemingly peaceful provincial town. To her listener's amazement, she tells of her wanderings around the Fausses-Reposes forest, the Corot Ponds, and the suburban train stations, and the lurking dangers she encountered there. In this arresting novel reminiscent of Simenon, Dominique Barbéris explores the great depths of the human soul, troubled like the waters of the ponds.

[Annie John](#) Simon and Schuster

Spending his days on the roads of the only towns he has ever known, illiterate taxi chauffeur Mr. Potter remembers the lives of his poor fisherman father and suicide victim mother, as well as his experiences with people from the outside world. Reprint.

*Jamaica Kincaid* Macmillan

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

**The Summer After the Funeral** University Press of Kentucky  
Lucy, a nineteen-year-old girl from the West Indies, comes to North America to work as an au pair and observes the unhealthy realities of the seemingly happy family that employs her, in a new edition of the acclaimed coming-of-age novel. Reprint.

*Lucy Farrar*, Straus and Giroux

A revision guide to *Annie John*, by Jamaica Kincaid.

["Annie John"](#) Other Press, LLC

Powerful, disturbing, stirring, Jamaica Kincaid's novel is the deeply charged story of a woman's life on the island of Dominica. Xuela Claudette Richardson, daughter of a Carib mother and a half-Scottish, half-African father, loses her mother to death the moment she is born and must find her way on her own. Kincaid takes us from Xuela's childhood in a home where she could hear the song of the sea to the tin-roofed room where she lives as a schoolgirl in the house of Jack Labatte, who becomes her first lover. Xuela develops a passion for the stevedore Roland, who steals bolts of Irish linen for her from the ships he unloads, but she eventually marries an English doctor, Philip Bailey. Xuela's is an intensely physical world, redolent of overripe fruit, gentian violet, sulfur, and rain on the road, and it seethes with her sorrow, her deep sympathy for those who share her history, her fear of her father, her desperate loneliness. But underlying all is "the black room of the world" that is Xuela's barrenness and motherlessness. The *Autobiography of My Mother* is a story of love, fear, loss, and the forging of a character, an account of one woman's inexorable evolution evoked in startling and magical poetry.

**Understanding Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John** Farrar, Straus and Giroux

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