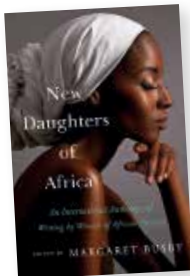


BOOKS



FOCUS ON WOMEN'S WRITING

New Daughters of Africa

We dig into a wonderful, wide-reaching new anthology

The highly acclaimed publication *New Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Writing by Women of African Descent* is a sequel to *Daughters of Africa*, edited by Margaret Busby back in 1993. It includes an array of genres, from short stories to essays, journalism, blogs and poetry, extracts from plays and film scripts, and other experimental forms. At least 30 of the 200 authors included in the anthology are Caribbean-born; even more are of Caribbean parentage.

Author Summer Edward, from Trinidad & Tobago, describes the book as “a true marvel of editorship,” adding: “I’m especially thrilled that young black girls growing up today have this monument of literary affirmation at their disposal.”

Caribbean writers find their place in each genre, from the poetry of Dominica-born Jane Ullysses Grell to the speculative fiction of Bajan writer Karen Lord. Caribbean scholars tackle subjects of colonialism, preservation of history,

violence against women and migration. There is plenty of Caribbean fiction, too. Antigua & Barbuda author Joanne C Hillhouse’s contribution, ‘Evening Ritual’, is evocative of our region: “Their yard didn’t grow much, the soil too tough and unforgiving for that. But there was a patch right at the corner, near the soakaway, where... they’d come, all variety of things huddled up to each other like they were seeking shelter from the very rain that would help them grow, the very sunshine that would breathe life into them.”

The book’s diversity reflects the point that, as Busby said, there are “different ways of connecting to an African heritage.” Caribbean pieces allude directly or indirectly to the effects that migration has had on those who left and those who were left behind. Issues such as racism, negative self-image, colourism and gender-based violence permeate the diaspora’s consciousness and are interwoven into the entries in this wonderful, important read.

* *NEW DAUGHTERS OF AFRICA: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY OF WRITING BY WOMEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT* (MYRIAD) IS EDITED BY MARGARET BUSBY

PAGE BY **CAROL MITCHELL**, FOUNDER OF CARIBBEANREADS PUBLISHING AND AUTHOR OF THE CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE SERIES, AMONG OTHER CHILDREN’S BOOKS. VISIT WWW.CARIBBEANREADS.COM



3 GREAT READS

Get stuck into this interesting trio



IN THE KEY
OF NIRA GHANI
(RUNNING PRESS KIDS)
BY **NATASHA DEEN**

Nira Ghani dreams of becoming a musician. Her Guyanese parents, though, have big plans for her to become a scientist or doctor. Nira navigates her desire to establish her own identity while facing a new friendship dynamic when her crush, Noah, and notorious mean-girl, McKenzie, take a sudden interest in her. As painful truths about her family are revealed, Nira learns to accept people for who they are and to open up in ways she never thought possible.



GREYBORN RISING
(CARIBBEANREADS)
BY **DERRY SANDY**

The Greyborn are rising to threaten human existence. Rohan, the last surviving member of the Stone Chapter of The Order, must act. Assisted by Katharine, a soucouyant who has lived on the outskirts of a Trinidad swamp for more than a century, Rohan takes up the Order’s mantle, using Kat’s wits and his fighting prowess to face grave threats and gruesome creatures, risking torture, dismemberment, zombification and death.



WORDPLANTING
(PEEPAL TREE PRESS)
BY **KENDEL HIPPOLYTE**

St Lucian Hippolyte’s poetry moves easily between the public and the domestic. The pieces in his seventh collection are united by the distinctive sounds and rhythms of his voice. He wants the poem to draw us in rather than hold us outside in admiration at its skill – and his poems display skill and craft in spades. His is a vision that extends outwards in space and time, but where the scale is always the human body, the human mind.