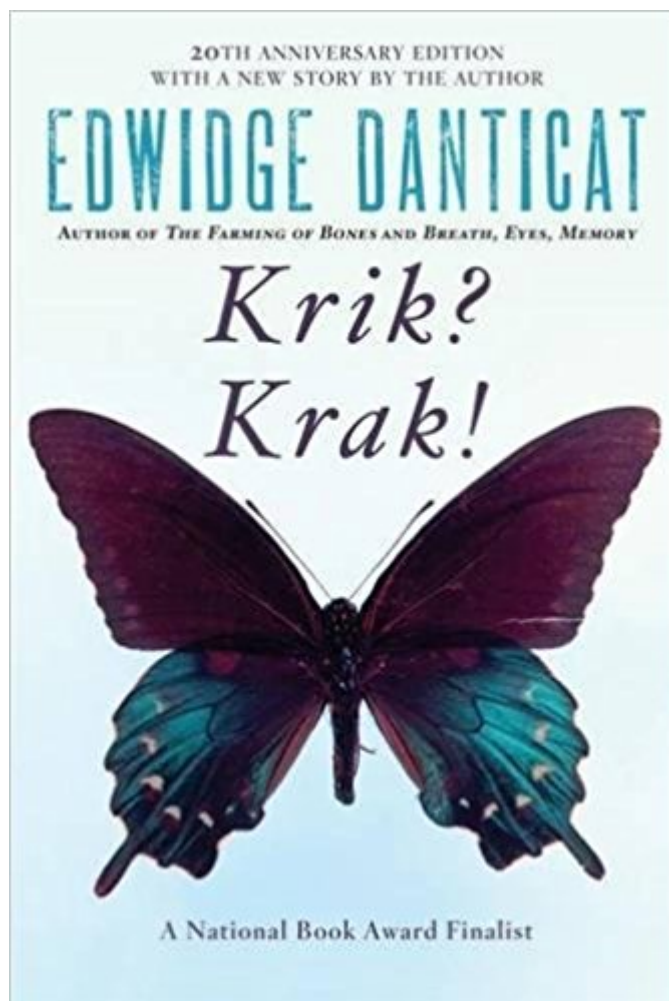


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Krik? Krak!



Synopsis

Edwidge Danticat's only short story collection. Gorgeous 20th anniversary edition – complete with a new story! 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." These 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.

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Customer Reviews

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. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

YA?Danticat, born under Haitian dictatorship, moved to the U.S. 12 years ago. Many of the stories in this moving collection reflect the misery she has observed from afar and leave readers with a deep sadness for her native country. Survivors at sea in a too-small, leaky boat endure any indignity for the chance at escape. Selections about those remaining in Haiti have a dreamlike quality. A woman must watch her mother rot in prison for political crimes. A young father longs so much to fly that he gives his life for a few moments in the air. A prostitute plies her trade while her son sleeps. "New York Day Women" shows what life might be like in the U.S. for immigrants without resources.

Through unencumbered prose, the author explores the effects of politics on people and especially the consequences of oppression on women, the themes of which figure into each of these vignettes. Ginny Ryder, Lee High School, Springfield, VA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I got introduced to Edwidge Danticat in my English Literature class. The book is divided into nine stories (and an epilogue) and each, somehow connect to one another. As I was reading this book, a well-written book, I got introduced to different feelings and emotions. The author takes her time in Krik? Krak! introducing each character and describing each situation. If you love reading, you love being introduced to new plot stories, and want to feel what pain, suffering, and loss felt like - I highly suggest you read this book! It's an awesome read, you won't regret it!

It was a great book. I really enjoyed it. With her short stories, Edwidge helped her readers to travel back in time. The author depicted different aspects of the Haitian society during the Duvalier's regime, the risk took by many in their journey of finding better life which led to so many lost of lives within the sea, and the difficult choice some families made to come to the U.S.

One of the most amazing collection of stories I've ever read. Edwidge Danticat is a powerful contemporary voice in Caribbean literature. Her work is a beautiful tapestry of the Haitian struggle during the dictatorship, infused with magical realism and a mythical feel. The stories unravel and play with gender, spirituality, identity, coming of age, and other universal topics through the lens of an intense historical context. This book has influenced my own literary practice. Its definitely a must read.

The short stories in this book are nearly perfect and when they are read, together form a wonderful novel. I use this book in a first year literature course at the Universidad de Concepción, Chile. The stories are about Haiti en the late 20th century. I like the way it brings the reader so close to the characters and is able to give an understanding of complex historical events.

Great book !

This read is like a work of art painted with words.

Hard to read but worth the effort! I would read it again with a different perspective. Makes one think about other people's lives

Loved it! I read it for a class but I fall in love with it. It gives a wide idea of what living in Haiti is and how the culture works. Looking forward to read more stuff by Danticat.

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