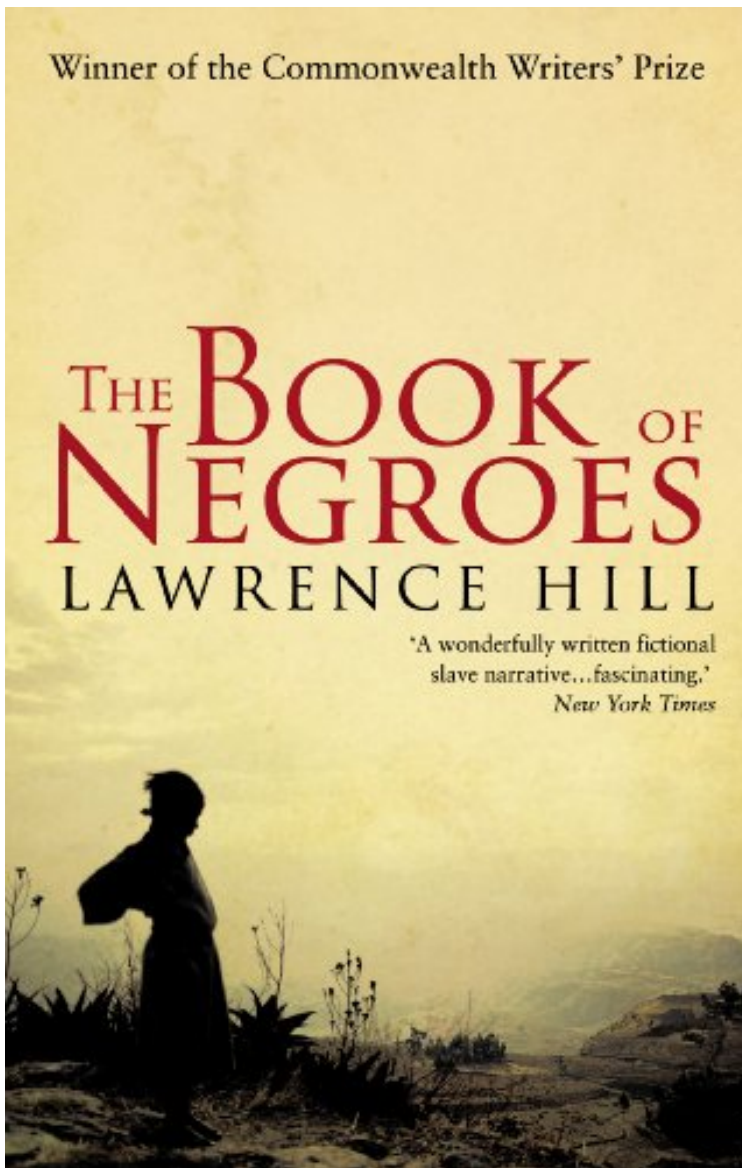


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The Book of Negroes



Par Lawrence Hill

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurAbducted from her West African village at the age of eleven and sold as a slave in the American South, Aminata Diallo thinks only of freedom - and of finding her way home again. After escaping the plantation, torn from her husband and child, she passes through Manhattan in the chaos of the Revolutionary War, is shipped to Nova Scotia, and then joins a group of freed slaves on a harrowing return odyssey to Africa.Based on a true story, Lawrence Hill's epic novel spans three continents and six decades to bring to life a dark and shameful chapter in our history through the story of one brave and resourceful woman.From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Stunning, wrenching and inspiring, the fourth novel by Canadian novelist Hill (Any Known Blood) spans the life of Aminata Diallo, born in Bayo, West Africa, in 1745. The

novel opens in 1802, as Aminata is wooed in London to the cause of British abolitionists, and begins reflecting on her life. Kidnapped at the age of 11 by British slavers, Aminata survives the Middle Passage and is reunited in South Carolina with Chekura, a boy from a village near hers. Her story gets entwined with his, and with those of her owners: nasty indigo producer Robinson Appleby and, later, Jewish duty inspector Solomon Lindo. During her long life of struggle, she does what she can to free herself and others from slavery, including learning to read and teaching others to, and befriending anyone who can help her, black or white. Hill handles the pacing and tension masterfully, particularly during the beginnings of the American revolution, when the British promise to free Blacks who fight for the British: Aminata's related, eventful travels to Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone follow. In depicting a woman who survives history's most trying conditions through force of intelligence and personality, Hill's book is a harrowing, breathtaking tour de force. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Revue de presse "Hill's novel is a beautiful, compelling artifice, spun from unspeakably savage facts....a fiction that faces the terrible truth about slavery." (The Times) "Richly meticulous recreation of late 18th century slave life...in its grand historical sweep, *The Book of Negroes* succeeds admirably in giving voice to a captive people who were for so long kept mute." (Stephen Amidon Sunday Times) "[Hill] has an easy style and a fine sense of pace that make this a gripping, if horrifying story." (Financial Times) "A colossal achievement...heartrending yet inspiring." (Independent on Sunday) "Wears its thorough research lightly...fitting that this ambitious revision of slave narratives should have won the overall Commonwealth Writers' Prize in the year that the American electorate demolished one of its most persistent categories of exclusion." (Independent)