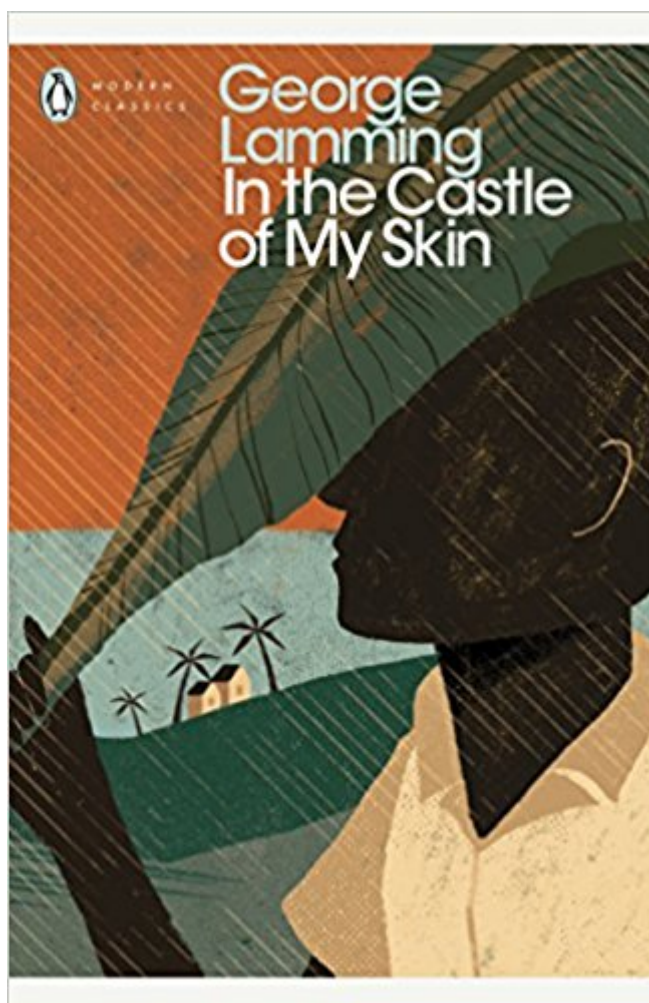


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In The Castle Of My Skin (Penguin Modern Classics)



Synopsis

'They won't know you, the you that's hidden somewhere in the castle of your skin' Nine-year-old G. leads a life of quiet mischief crab catching, teasing preachers and playing among the pumpkin vines. His sleepy fishing village in 1930s Barbados is overseen by the English landlord who lives on the hill, just as their 'Little England' is watched over by the Mother Country. Yet gradually, G. finds himself awakening to the violence and injustice that lurk beneath the apparent order of things. As the world he knows begins to crumble, revealing the bruising secret at its heart, he is spurred ever closer to a life-changing decision. Lyrical and unsettling, George Lamming's autobiographical coming-of-age novel is a story of tragic innocence amid the collapse of colonial rule. 'Rich and riotous' The Times 'Its poetic imaginative writing has never been surpassed' Tribune

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Its poetic imaginative writing has never been surpassed * Tribune * Rich and riotous * The Times *
Fluent, poetical, sophisticated * Sunday Times *

George Lamming is a Barbados-born novelist, essayist, and poet. Currently Honorary Professor at the Errol Barrow Centre for the Creative Imagination at the University of the West Indies, Lamming has taught at universities around the world, including posts of Distinguished Visiting Professor at Duke University and Visiting Professor at Brown University. His books include *The Emigrants* (1954), *Of Age and Innocence* (1958), and *The Pleasures of Exile* (1960).

Anyone who wishes to gain a solid understanding of Caribbean culture should read this book, especially those who would not be familiar with the old-time way of life depicted in the story. I did find that at first I wasn't clear on how the book was coming across and wasn't until almost half-way that I started catching on. The way the book is written does paint a very vivid picture of the lives of two sets of people: an old couple and some young boys.

On Chapter 3 and thus far, I find the story entertaining. The writer does a good job of placing the reader in the story. One can visualize the events taking place as he weaves his way to the next.

Loved it.

I enjoyed it

Perfect.

Bought as a gift. Had to get this as a replacement. No complaints. Very informative and captivating and an eye opener. A Must Read!

I didn't find this easy to get into: but once I did, I thought it was beautifully written. An autobiographical novel, covering Lamming's years between nine and eighteen on Barbados, before going out into the wider world. The whole 'feel' of 1930s/ 40s Barbados is conveyed in various ways - conversations between the locals, interaction with the white landlord (to whom most of the villagers seem to feel a sort of ingrained respect), everyday incidents. Also the amateur philosophizing of the teenage boys, hanging out at the beach. As life changes, quite drastically, for the village, Lamming portrays the great feeling of nostalgia for things he would never see again. And a first realization that 'his people' are treated very differently in other countries...

"In the Castle of my Skin" is a highly poetic account of growing up in the black community of Barbadoes. Lamming gives us a vivid picture of G's family, his friends, his school and village life. Interwoven with G's everyday experience is his awareness of what it means being black and being poor in a somehow secluded island community. Lamming's treatment of racism is sober and sensitive. It's the more effective because it shows how inseparable its perception is from the

growing awareness a young black boy has of himself. There is much more violence in this as in many a bloody battle. In it's poetic language, the vividness of its characters and scenery, the deep psychological insight and the sober and just treatment of the growing awareness of differences in the context of Caribbean history this novel is a masterpiece of universal literature. It certainly can be read as "the portrait of a young artist"

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