



A Brief History of Seven Killings: A Novel

Marlon James

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A Brief History of Seven Killings: A Novel Marlon James
Winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize

A recipient of the 2015 American Book Award

One of the Top 10 Books of 2014 – Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

A *New York Times* Book Review Notable Book

Named a best book of the year by:

The New York Times

Chicago Tribune

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From the acclaimed author of *The Book of Night Women* comes a “musical, electric, fantastically profane” (*The New York Times*) epic that explores the tumultuous world of Jamaica over the past three decades.

In *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, Marlon James combines brilliant storytelling with his unrivaled skills of characterization and meticulous eye for detail to forge an enthralling novel of dazzling ambition and scope.

On December 3, 1976, just before the Jamaican general election and two days before Bob Marley was to play the Smile Jamaica Concert to ease political tensions in Kingston, seven gunmen stormed the singer’s house, machine guns blazing. The attack wounded Marley, his wife, and his manager, and injured several others. Little was officially released about the gunmen, but much has been whispered, gossiped and sung about in the streets of West Kingston. Rumors abound regarding the assassins’ fates, and there are suspicions that the attack was politically motivated.

A Brief History of Seven Killings delves deep into that dangerous and unstable time in Jamaica’s history and beyond. James deftly chronicles the lives of a host of unforgettable characters – gunmen, drug dealers, one-

night stands, CIA agents, even ghosts – over the course of thirty years as they roam the streets of 1970s Kingston, dominate the crack houses of 1980s New York, and ultimately reemerge into the radically altered Jamaica of the 1990s. Along the way, they learn that evil does indeed cast long shadows, that justice and retribution are inextricably linked, and that no one can truly escape his fate.

Gripping and inventive, shocking and irresistible, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is a mesmerizing modern classic of power, mystery, and insight.

From the Hardcover edition.

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