

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie

****Ayana Mathis The Twelve Tribes of Hattie: Exploring a Powerful Literary Journey****

Ayana Mathis the twelve tribes of hattie is a phrase that resonates deeply within the world of contemporary American literature. This debut novel by Ayana Mathis has captivated readers and critics alike, weaving a poignant narrative about family, resilience, and the African American experience during the Great Migration. If you're curious about what makes this book a compelling read, or if you want to understand the themes and significance behind Ayana Mathis's storytelling, you're in the right place. Let's dive into the world of **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie**, exploring its characters, themes, and the cultural context that makes it so impactful.

About Ayana Mathis and Her Debut Novel

Ayana Mathis burst onto the literary scene with **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie**, a novel that showcases her powerful voice and keen insight into history and human emotion. Before becoming an acclaimed author, Mathis honed her craft with a background in creative writing and a passion for telling stories that highlight the struggles and triumphs of Black families in America.

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie, published in 2012, is her first novel and was widely praised for its lyrical prose and emotional depth. It tells the story of Hattie Shepherd, a woman who migrates from the rural South to Philadelphia during the Great Migration, seeking a better life for her children. Through Hattie's story and the lives of her twelve children, Mathis explores themes of sacrifice, hope, and the complex dynamics within a family shaped by historical hardships.

The Story Behind The Twelve Tribes of Hattie

At its core, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** is a multigenerational family saga. The story begins with Hattie's decision to leave Georgia in the 1920s, motivated both by the promise of economic opportunity and the desire to escape the violence and racism of the Jim Crow South. However, the migration isn't a straightforward path to freedom or success.

Hattie Shepherd: The Matriarch

Hattie is a complex character — a mother, survivor, and a woman burdened by the weight of her family's future. Her sacrifices and struggles form the emotional backbone of the novel. Mathis paints Hattie as a figure of both strength and vulnerability, whose decisions ripple through the lives of her children. Readers come to understand her not just as a caretaker but as a symbol of resilience amid adversity.

The Twelve Children: Diverse Lives and Challenges

Each of Hattie's twelve children represents a unique "tribe," with their own stories, hopes, and setbacks. Through their diverse experiences, Mathis captures a broad spectrum of the African American experience in the 20th century — from racial discrimination and economic hardship to personal loss and the search for identity.

This narrative structure allows the novel to explore various facets of American history, including the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. The children's lives are woven into these historical moments, offering readers a layered understanding of how such events impact families on a personal level.

Themes Explored in Ayana Mathis The Twelve Tribes of Hattie

One of the reasons *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* has resonated so strongly with readers is its exploration of universal themes through the lens of a specific cultural and historical context.

Migration and Displacement

The Great Migration, a mass movement of African Americans from the South to northern cities, is central to the novel's setting. Mathis uses this historical backdrop to show how migration can both promise hope and bring unforeseen challenges. The trauma of leaving home and adapting to new environments is a recurring thread that affects every character.

Family and Sacrifice

Family ties are at the heart of the story. Hattie's sacrifices for her children, and the complicated relationships within the family, highlight the sacrifices many families made during difficult times. Mathis doesn't shy away from portraying the tensions and conflicts that arise in families, making the narrative feel authentic and relatable.

Racism and Social Injustice

The novel does not gloss over the harsh realities of racism and segregation. From systemic discrimination in housing and employment to personal encounters with prejudice, these experiences shape the characters' lives and choices. Mathis's portrayal invites readers to reflect on the enduring impact of racial injustice in America.

Why Ayana Mathis *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* Matters Today

In a world where stories about marginalized voices are increasingly valued, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* holds a special place. It brings to light a history often overlooked, told through the intimate lens of one family's journey. For readers interested in African American literature, historical fiction, or family sagas, this novel offers a rich, emotional reading experience.

Literary Style and Narrative Technique

Mathis's writing style is often described as poetic and evocative. She employs a fragmented narrative, shifting perspectives among Hattie's children, which adds complexity and depth. This technique invites readers to piece together the family's story, reflecting the way memory and history are often nonlinear.

Educational and Cultural Importance

Because it addresses significant historical events and social issues, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* is frequently included in academic discussions on race, migration, and American history. It provides a human face to these broader topics, making it a valuable resource for educators and students alike.

Tips for Readers Approaching *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

If you're planning to read *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, here are a few tips to enhance your experience:

- **Take your time:** The novel's structure and emotional weight benefit from a thoughtful, unhurried reading pace.
- **Pay attention to the historical context:** Understanding the Great Migration and the era's social climate adds depth to the narrative.
- **Reflect on each character's story:** Each child's perspective offers unique insights, so consider how their experiences connect and diverge.
- **Discuss the book:** Sharing thoughts with others can uncover new interpretations and emotional responses.

Exploring More Works by Ayana Mathis

Following the success of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, Ayana Mathis continued to establish herself as a significant voice in contemporary literature. Her subsequent works maintain a focus on nuanced characters and social themes. Readers who appreciate *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* will likely find her later novels equally compelling.

Continuing the Conversation on Family and History

Mathis's storytelling invites readers to engage with the ongoing dialogue about race, identity, and history in America. Her novels are not just stories but conversations that challenge readers to think critically about the past and its influence on the present.

Ayana Mathis the twelve tribes of hattie remains a profound novel that offers a window into the lives of those who endured and persevered through some of America's most tumultuous decades. Its rich storytelling, emotional depth, and historical significance continue to inspire readers, making it a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of family and identity within the tapestry of American history.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Ayana Mathis, the author of 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie'?

Ayana Mathis is an American novelist known for her debut novel *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, which explores the life and legacy of a woman and her family during the Great Migration.

What is the central theme of 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' by Ayana Mathis?

The novel centers on themes of family, resilience, and the African American experience during the Great Migration, focusing on the struggles and triumphs of Hattie and her twelve children.

When was 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' by Ayana Mathis published?

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie was published in 2012 as Ayana Mathis's debut novel.

How does Ayana Mathis portray the Great Migration in 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie'?

Mathis portrays the Great Migration as a backdrop that shapes the lives of Hattie and her children, highlighting both the opportunities and hardships faced by African Americans moving from the rural South to urban North.

What narrative style does Ayana Mathis use in 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie'?

The novel uses a multi-perspective narrative style, telling the story through the eyes of Hattie's children and revealing different facets of family dynamics and history.

Why is 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' considered an important work in contemporary African American literature?

The novel offers a poignant exploration of family, identity, and historical experience, contributing to contemporary discussions about race, migration, and resilience in African American literature.

Has 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' received any notable awards or recognition?

Yes, the novel received critical acclaim and was nominated for several awards, including being selected for Oprah's Book Club 2.0 in 2012.

What impact did 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' have on Ayana Mathis's literary career?

The success of 'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie' established Ayana Mathis as an important new voice in American literature and opened opportunities for further writing and public speaking engagements.

Additional Resources

****Exploring Ayana Mathis' The Twelve Tribes of Hattie: A Literary Examination****

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie is a phrase that immediately calls to mind a deeply resonant novel that delves into the complexities of African American family life across the 20th century. Ayana Mathis' debut novel, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie**, has garnered critical acclaim for its poignant portrayal of generational struggles, resilience, and the pursuit of identity. This article explores the thematic depth, narrative structure, and cultural significance of Mathis' work, shedding light on why it remains a vital contribution to contemporary American literature.

Unpacking the Narrative of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

At its core, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** chronicles the life of Hattie Shepherd, a young woman who migrates from the rural South to Philadelphia in search of a better life during the Great Migration. The novel unfolds through the perspectives of Hattie's twelve children, each named after a tribe of Israel, offering a multifaceted view of the family's collective and individual experiences. This narrative approach allows Mathis to explore a range of emotional and social issues, from poverty and racial discrimination to personal loss and hope.

The novel's structure is non-linear, weaving between decades and characters to reveal the lasting impact of Hattie's choices and the historical forces shaping her family. This mosaic storytelling style distinguishes the book, providing readers with a layered understanding of the characters' inner worlds and the societal constraints they navigate.

Thematic Exploration in *Ayana Mathis the Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

One of the central themes in **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** is the enduring strength of family bonds amid adversity. Mathis examines how trauma and hardship ripple through generations, affecting not only Hattie but also her children's identities and destinies. The novel also addresses the nuances of motherhood, portraying Hattie as a complex figure whose love is sometimes stern and distant yet deeply rooted in survival.

Race and migration form another critical thematic pillar. By setting the story during the Great Migration, Mathis situates her characters within a transformative period in African American history. The challenges of urban life, systemic racism, and economic hardship are depicted with authenticity, contributing to a broader dialogue about the African American experience.

Character Development and Symbolism

Each child in **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** is crafted with distinct voices and personalities, reflecting varied responses to their mother's legacy and the social environment. This individualization enriches the novel's exploration of identity and belonging. The names themselves—tribal names—symbolize a connection to heritage and tradition, underscoring themes of ancestry and cultural memory.

Hattie as a character embodies resilience and sacrifice, often bearing the burden of her family's survival at great personal cost. Her silence and emotional distance evoke the complex realities of many women who navigated the hardships of their time. Through Hattie and her children, Mathis invites readers to contemplate the interplay between personal agency and historical circumstance.

Comparative Perspectives: Ayana Mathis and Contemporary African American Literature

In the landscape of African American literature, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** aligns with works that emphasize family history and intergenerational trauma, such as Toni Morrison's **Beloved** and Jesmyn Ward's **Salvage the Bones**. However, Mathis' novel distinguishes itself through its intimate focus on the everyday lives of a specific family, avoiding overt political commentary while still addressing profound social issues.

Unlike some contemporaries who employ more experimental narrative techniques, Mathis opts for a clear yet evocative prose style that is accessible yet lyrically rich. This choice broadens the novel's appeal, making it suitable for both literary critics and general readers interested in historical fiction and African American culture.

Strengths and Limitations of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

The novel's strengths lie in its emotional depth and nuanced character portrayals. Mathis excels at depicting the subtleties of familial relationships and historical context without resorting to clichés or melodrama. The vivid imagery and strong sense of place enhance the immersive quality of the story.

On the other hand, some critics have pointed out that the non-linear structure can be challenging for readers seeking a straightforward narrative. Additionally, the emotional restraint of certain characters, while realistic, may create a sense of distance that limits reader empathy in some instances.

The Cultural Impact and Reception of Ayana Mathis' *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

Since its publication, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** has been celebrated for its contribution to the conversation about African American heritage and resilience. The novel has received numerous accolades, including being named a New York Times bestseller and selected for various literary awards. Its inclusion in academic curricula highlights its relevance in studies of race, migration, and family dynamics.

Moreover, the book's exploration of the Great Migration has helped bring renewed attention to this pivotal period in American history, inspiring discussions beyond literary circles. Readers and scholars alike appreciate Mathis' ability to humanize historical experiences through intimate storytelling.

Ayana Mathis' Literary Style and Influences

Mathis' writing style is characterized by lyrical prose that balances realism with poetic imagery. Her background as a poet is evident in the novel's rhythm and language, which elevate the narrative beyond mere storytelling into a form of artful reflection.

Influences from authors such as Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker can be discerned in Mathis' focus on African American women's lives and the interplay between personal and collective histories. This lineage situates **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** within a rich tradition of Black literature that honors oral storytelling and cultural memory.

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of The Twelve Tribes of Hattie

Ayana Mathis the twelve tribes of hattie represents more than just a debut novel; it is a significant cultural artifact that illuminates the complexities of African American life through the lens of one family's story. Its evocative portrayal of history, identity, and resilience continues to resonate with readers, offering insights into the enduring legacies of migration and motherhood.

As contemporary readers seek narratives that bridge the past and present, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** stands out for its emotional honesty and literary craftsmanship. It invites ongoing reflection on how personal histories shape, and are shaped by, broader social forces—making it a compelling subject for literary analysis and cultural discourse alike.

[Ayana Mathis The Twelve Tribes Of Hattie](#)

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie (Oprah's Book Club 2.0 Digital Edition)* Ayana Mathis, 2012-12-06 The newest Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection: this special eBook edition of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis features exclusive content, including Oprah's personal notes highlighted within the text, and a reading group guide. The arrival of a major new voice in contemporary fiction. A debut of extraordinary distinction: Ayana Mathis tells the story of the children of the Great Migration through the trials of one unforgettable family. In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd flees Georgia and settles in Philadelphia, hoping for a chance at a better life. Instead, she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins succumb to an illness a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children whom she raises with grit and mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them for the calamitous difficulty they are sure to face in their later lives, to meet a world that will not love them, a world that will not be kind. Captured here in twelve luminous narrative threads, their lives tell the story of a mother's monumental courage and the journey of a nation. Beautiful and devastating, Ayana Mathis's *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* is wondrous from first to last—glorious, harrowing, unexpectedly uplifting, and blazing with life. An emotionally transfixing page-turner, a searing portrait of striving in the face of insurmountable adversity, an indelible encounter with the resilience of the human spirit and the

driving force of the American dream.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* Ayana Mathis, 2012-12-06 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • AN OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB 2.0 SELECTION • A remarkable page-turner of a novel. —Chicago Tribune In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd, swept up by the tides of the Great Migration, flees Georgia and heads north. This brutal, illuminating version of the twentieth century African-American experience belongs alongside those of Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston (Newsday). Full of hope, Hattie settles in Philadelphia to build a better life. Instead she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment, and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins are lost to an illness that a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children, whom she raises with grit, mettle, and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them to meet a world that will not be kind. Their lives, captured here in twelve luminous threads, tell the story of a mother's monumental courage—and a nation's tumultuous journey. Don't miss Ayana Mathis's new novel, *The Unsettled* coming soon!

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* Ayana Mathis, 2013-10-08 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • An Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection • In this remarkable page-turner of a novel (Chicago Tribune), one remarkably resilient woman is placed against the hopes and struggles of millions of African Americans who held this nation to its promise (The Washington Post). In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd, swept up by the tides of the Great Migration, flees Georgia and heads north. Full of hope, she settles in Philadelphia to build a better life. Instead she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment, and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins are lost to an illness that a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children, whom she raises with grit, mettle, and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them to meet a world that will not be kind. Their lives, captured here in twelve luminous threads, tell the story of a mother's monumental courage—and a nation's tumultuous journey.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *The Unsettled* Ayana Mathis, 2024-06-04 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR • WINNER OF THE GABE HUDSON PRIZE • From the best-selling author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, a searing multi-generational novel—set in the 1980s in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and in the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama—about a mother fighting for her sanity and survival Emotionally propulsive ... Through a chorus of distinctive and virtuosic voices, we gather the story of a mother, a daughter, and the land that both unites and divides them.”- Oprah Daily • Showcases Ayana Mathis's grace on the page, as writer, as storyteller. A book to be read and re-read. - Jesmyn Ward, author of *Let Us Descend* Two bold, utopic communities are at the heart of Ayana Mathis's searing follow-up to her bestselling debut, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*. Bonaparte, Alabama - once 10,000 glorious Black-owned acres - is now a ghost town vanishing to depopulation, crooked developers, and an eerie mist closing in on its shoreline. Dutchess Carson, Bonaparte's fiery, tough-talking protector, fights to keep its remaining one thousand acres in the hands of the last five residents. Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, her estranged daughter Ava is drawn into Ark - a seductive, radical group with a commitment to Black self-determination in the spirit of the Black Panthers and MOVE, with a dash of the Weather Underground's violent zeal. Ava's eleven-year-old son Toussaint wants out - his future awaits him on his grandmother's land, where the sounds of cicada and frog song might save him if only he can make it there. In Mathis's electrifying novel, Bonaparte is both mythic landscape and spiritual inheritance, and 1980s Philadelphia is its raw, darkly glittering counterpoint. *The Unsettled* is a spellbinding portrait of two fierce women reckoning with the steep cost of resistance: What legacy will we leave our children? Where can we be free?

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *The Unsettled* Ayana Mathis, 2023-09-26 From the bestselling author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, a searing multigenerational novel--set in the 1980s in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama--about a mother fighting for her sanity and survival From the moment Ava Carson and her ten-year-old son, Toussaint, arrive at the Glenn Avenue Family Shelter in Philadelphia in 1985, Ava is already plotting

a way out. She is repulsed by the shelter's squalid conditions: their cockroach-infested room, the barely edible food and the shifty night security guard. She is determined to rescue her son from the perils and indignities of the place, and to save herself from the complicated past that led them there. Ava has been estranged from her own mother, Dutchess, since she left her Alabama home as a young woman barely out of her teens. Despite their estrangement and the thousand miles between them, mother and daughter are deeply entwined, but Ava can't forgive her sharp-tongued, larger-than-life mother, whose intractability and bouts of debilitating despair brought young Ava to the outer reaches of neglect and hunger. Ava wants to love her son differently, better. But when Toussaint's father, Cass, reappears, she is swept off course by his charisma and the intoxicating power of his radical vision to destroy systems of racial injustice and bring about a bold new way of communal living. Meanwhile, in Alabama, Dutchess struggles to keep Bonaparte, once a beacon of Black freedom and self-determination, in the hands of its last five Black residents--families whose lives have been rooted in this stretch of land for generations--and away from rapidly encroaching white developers. She fights against the erasure of Bonaparte's venerable history and the loss of the land itself, which she has so arduously preserved as Ava's inheritance. As Ava becomes more enmeshed with Cass, Toussaint senses the danger simmering all around him--his well-intentioned but erratic mother and the intense, volatile figure of his father, who drives his fledgling Philadelphia community toward ever increasing violence and instability. He begins to dream of Dutchess and Bonaparte, his home and birthright, if only he can find his way there. Brilliant, explosive, vitally important new work from one of America's most fiercely talented storytellers.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: THE TWELVE TRIBES OF HATTIE. A. MATHIS, 2022

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Study Guide Supersummary, 2019-10-17
SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 60-page guide for *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 10 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Identity Transcends Categories and Religion and Personal Responsibility.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: The Twelve Tribes of Hattie BookCaps, 2013-01-11
If you need a quick refresher before your book club or if you just need a little more help, then this study guide is for you. This unofficial companion to Ayana Mathis' *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, a guide to major characters / themes, and more. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading the book. This study guide is an unofficial companion and is not endorsed by the author or publisher of the book. We all need refreshers every now and then. Whether you are a student trying to cram for that big final, or someone just trying to understand a book more, BookCaps can help. We are a small, but growing company, and are adding titles every month.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *A Delicate Aggression* David O. Dowling, 2019-03-26
A vibrant history of the renowned and often controversial Iowa Writers' Workshop and its celebrated alumni and faculty As the world's preeminent creative writing program, the Iowa Writers' Workshop has produced an astonishing number of distinguished writers and poets since its establishment in 1936. Its alumni and faculty include twenty-eight Pulitzer Prize winners, six U.S. poet laureates, and numerous National Book Award winners. This volume follows the program from its rise to prominence in the early 1940s under director Paul Engle, who promoted the "workshop" method of classroom peer criticism. Meant to simulate the rigors of editorial and critical scrutiny in the publishing industry, this educational style created an environment of both competition and community, cooperation and rivalry. Focusing on some of the exceptional authors who have participated in the program—such as Flannery O'Connor, Dylan Thomas, Kurt Vonnegut, Jane Smiley, Sandra Cisneros, T. C. Boyle, and Marilynne Robinson—David Dowling examines how the

Iowa Writers' Workshop has shaped professional authorship, publishing industries, and the course of American literature.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Bird of Paradise Raquel Cepeda, 2013-03-05 In 2009, Raquel Cepeda embarked on an exploration of her genealogy using ancestral DNA testing to uncover the truth about her family and the tapestry of races and ethnicities that came together in an ambiguous mix in her features, resulting in "a beautiful story of reconciliation and redemption" (Huffington Post) with her identity and what it means to be Latina. Digging through memories long buried, Cepeda journeyed not only into her ancestry but also into her own history. Born in Harlem to Dominican parents, she was sent to live with her maternal grandparents in the Paraíso (Paradise) district in Santo Domingo while still a baby. It proved to be an idyllic reprieve in her otherwise fraught childhood. Paraíso came to mean family, home, belonging. When Cepeda returned to the US, she discovered her family constellation had changed. Her mother had a new, abusive boyfriend, who relocated the family to San Francisco. When that relationship fell apart, Cepeda found herself back in New York City with her father and European stepmother: attending tennis lessons and Catholic schools; fighting vicious battles with her father, who discouraged her from expressing the Dominican part of her hyphenated identity; and immersed in the '80s hip-hop culture of uptown Manhattan. It was in these streets, through the prism of hip-hop and the sometimes loving embrace of her community, that Cepeda constructed her own identity. Years later, when Cepeda had become a successful journalist and documentary filmmaker, the strands of her DNA would take her further, across the globe and into history. Who were her ancestors? How did they—and she—become Latina? Her journey, as the most unforgettable ones often do, would lead her to places she hadn't expected to go. With a vibrant lyrical prose and fierce honesty, Cepeda parses concepts of race, identity, and ancestral DNA among Latinos by using her own Dominican-American story as one example, and in the process arrives at some sort of peace with her father.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: The Yellow House Sarah M. Broom, 2019-08-13 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER WINNER OF THE 2019 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTION A brilliant, haunting and unforgettable memoir from a stunning new talent about the inexorable pull of home and family, set in a shotgun house in New Orleans East. In 1961, Sarah M. Broom's mother Ivory Mae bought a shotgun house in the then-promising neighborhood of New Orleans East and built her world inside of it. It was the height of the Space Race and the neighborhood was home to a major NASA plant—the postwar optimism seemed assured. Widowed, Ivory Mae remarried Sarah's father Simon Broom; their combined family would eventually number twelve children. But after Simon died, six months after Sarah's birth, the Yellow House would become Ivory Mae's thirteenth and most unruly child. A book of great ambition, Sarah M. Broom's *The Yellow House* tells a hundred years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of one of America's most mythologized cities. This is the story of a mother's struggle against a house's entropy, and that of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. *The Yellow House* expands the map of New Orleans to include the stories of its lesser known natives, guided deftly by one of its native daughters, to demonstrate how enduring drives of clan, pride, and familial love resist and defy erasure. Located in the gap between the "Big Easy" of tourist guides and the New Orleans in which Broom was raised, *The Yellow House* is a brilliant memoir of place, class, race, the seeping rot of inequality, and the internalized shame that often follows. It is a transformative, deeply moving story from an unparalleled new voice of startling clarity, authority, and power.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: The Unsettled Ayana Mathis, 2023-09-26 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR • WINNER OF THE GABE HUDSON PRIZE • From the best-selling author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, a searing multi-generational novel—set in the 1980s in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and in the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama—about a mother fighting for her sanity and survival Emotionally propulsive ... Through a chorus of distinctive and virtuosic voices, we gather the story of a mother, a daughter,

and the land that both unites and divides them.” – Oprah Daily • Showcases Ayana Mathis's grace on the page, as writer, as storyteller. A book to be read and re-read. – Jesmyn Ward, author of *Let Us Descend* Two bold, utopic communities are at the heart of Ayana Mathis's searing follow-up to her bestselling debut, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*. Bonaparte, Alabama – once 10,000 glorious Black-owned acres – is now a ghost town vanishing to depopulation, crooked developers, and an eerie mist closing in on its shoreline. Dutchess Carson, Bonaparte's fiery, tough-talking protector, fights to keep its remaining one thousand acres in the hands of the last five residents. Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, her estranged daughter Ava is drawn into Ark – a seductive, radical group with a commitment to Black self-determination in the spirit of the Black Panthers and MOVE, with a dash of the Weather Underground's violent zeal. Ava's eleven-year-old son Toussaint wants out – his future awaits him on his grandmother's land, where the sounds of cicada and frog song might save him if only he can make it there. In Mathis's electrifying novel, Bonaparte is both mythic landscape and spiritual inheritance, and 1980s Philadelphia is its raw, darkly glittering counterpoint. *The Unsettled* is a spellbinding portrait of two fierce women reckoning with the steep cost of resistance: What legacy will we leave our children? Where can we be free?

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Geography and the Political Imaginary in the Novels of Toni Morrison Herman Beavers, 2018-02-06 This book examines Toni Morrison's fiction as a sustained effort to challenge the dominant narratives produced in the white supremacist political imaginary and conceptualize a more inclusive political imaginary in which black bodies are valued. Herman Beavers closely examines politics of scale and contentious politics in order to discern Morrison's larger intent of revealing the deep structure of power relations in black communities that will enable them to fashion counterhegemonic projects. The volume explores how Morrison stages her ruminations on the political imaginary in neighborhoods or small towns; rooms, houses or streets. Beavers argues that these spatial and domestic geographies are sites where the management of traumatic injury is integral to establishing a sense of place, proposing these “tight spaces” as sites where narratives are produced and contested; sites of inscription and erasure, utterance and silence.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Stockton County Cowboys Box Set R.W. Clinger, 2019-03-20 All five books (and one short story) of R.W. Clinger's best-selling contemporary western Stockton County Cowboys series combined into one box set for the first time! Contains the stories: Book 1: *Chasing Cowboys*: After one date during a business conference, sparks fly between Cord Darringer and Bradley Hull. When Cord returns home to Stockton County, Bradley chases after him. Is it meant to be? Or will the miles that separate them keep them apart? Book 2: *Riding Cowboys*: Cal Hoke has a secret: he's in love with ranch owner, Pax Raulton. Straight and sexy Pax is a handsome businessman at Riding Ranch. When he suffers a head injury caused by one of his prized horses, he spends days in recovery due to amnesia. Under Cal's care, Pax is provided with the help he needs to heal. Cal learns Pax has a secret of his own, a secret that will change the two forever. Book 3: *Roping Cowboys*: Dixon Pierce has fallen head over heels in love with Gray McKeever at Glock Ranch in Stockton County. The two plan to get married, but Gray is torn. He loves Dixon, but running into his ex Toby again reignited the flame he once held. Will he be able to choose one cowboy over the other before Dixon and Toby come to blows over him? Book 4: *Branding Cowboys*: Which cowboy murdered Evan Sting? This is what Joe Boxford is hired to find out. When Joe enlists the services of Tal Linear, sparks fly between the two. Romance heats up as they attempt to solve the branding crime. Then Tal vanishes, and Joe thinks his buddy is the killer's next victim. Can Joe solve the case and save his lover at the same time? Book 5: *Saddling Cowboys*: Sparks fly when entrepreneur Chip Cutter enters Dan Fargo's saddle store. When Fargo is implicated in a couple of fires downtown, his abusive ex returns, determined to protect Fargo. Eventually the arsonist is caught, but Brent remains at large. Can Fargo and Chip put aside their problems, saddle up, and ride off into life's wide blue yonder together? *Taming Brooks*: New ranch hand Randy Marke falls for sexy ranch owner, Dallas Brooks. Summer heat and a bath in the nearby creek draws the two cowboys together and their relationship turns intimate. Then Randy decides to tame Brooks the

old-fashioned cowboy way, with relentless sex. Can love between the two last longer than a summer, though?

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ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: The Star Side of Bird Hill Naomi Jackson, 2016-08-23 Two sisters are suddenly sent from their home in Brooklyn to Barbados to live with their grandmother, in Naomi Jackson's stunning debut novel. This lyrical novel of community, betrayal, and love centers on an unforgettable matriarchal family in Barbados. Two sisters, ages ten and sixteen, are exiled from Brooklyn to Bird Hill in Barbados after their mother can no longer care for them. The young Phaedra and her older sister, Dionne, live for the summer of 1989 with their grandmother Hyacinth, a midwife and practitioner of the local spiritual practice of obeah. Dionne spends the summer in search of love, testing her grandmother's limits, and wanting to go home. Phaedra explores Bird Hill, where her family has lived for generations, accompanies her grandmother in her role as a midwife, and investigates their mother's mysterious life. This tautly paced coming-of-age story builds to a crisis when the father they barely know comes to Bird Hill to reclaim his daughters, and both Phaedra and Dionne must choose between the Brooklyn they once knew and loved or the Barbados of their family. Naomi Jackson's Barbados and her characters are singular, especially the wise Hyacinth and the heartbreaking young Phaedra, who is coming into her own as a young woman amid the tumult of her family. Praise for *The Star Side of Bird Hill*: "Once in a while, you'll stumble onto a book like this, one so poetic in its descriptions and so alive with lovable, frustrating, painfully real characters, that your emotional response to it becomes almost physical. . . . The dual coming-of-age story alone could melt the sternest of hearts, but Jackson's exquisite prose is a marvel too. . . . A gem of a book." —Entertainment Weekly (A)

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: A Black Philadelphia Reader Louis J. Parascandola, 2024-06-11 The relationship between the City of Brotherly Love and its Black residents has been complicated from the city's founding through the present day. *A Black Philadelphia Reader* traces this complex history in the words of Black writers who were native to, lived in, or had significant connections to the city. Featuring the works of famous authors—including W. E. B. Du Bois, Harriet Jacobs, Sonia Sanchez and John Edgar Wideman—alongside lesser-known voices, this reader is an immersive and enriching composite portrait of the Black experience in Philadelphia. Through fiction and nonfiction, poetry and prose, readers witness episodes of racial prejudice and gender inequality in areas like public health, housing, education, policing, criminal justice, and public transportation. And yet amid these myriad challenges, the writers convey an enduring faith, a love of family and community, and a hope that Philadelphia will fulfill its promises to its Black citizens. Thoughtfully introduced and accompanied by notes that contextualize the works and aid readers' comprehension, this book will appeal to a wide audience of Philadelphians and other readers interested in American, African American, and urban studies.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Decent People De'Shawn Charles Winslow, 2023-01-17 The "propulsive" (L.A. Times), "intriguing" (Wall Street Journal) story of a black community reeling from a triple homicide, and the dark secrets the killings reveal. In the

still-segregated town of West Mills, North Carolina, in 1976, Marian, Marva, and Lazarus Harmon—three enigmatic siblings—are found shot to death in their home. The people of West Mills—on both sides of the canal that serves as the town's color line—are in a frenzy of finger-pointing, gossip, and wonder. The crime is the first reported murder in the area in decades, but the white authorities don't seem to have any interest in solving the case. Fortunately, one person is determined to do more than talk. Miss Josephine Wright has just moved back to West Mills from New York City to retire and marry a childhood sweetheart, Olympus “Lymp” Seymore. When she discovers that the murder victims are Lymp's half-siblings, and that Lymp is one of West Mills's leading suspects, she sets out to prove his innocence. But as Jo interviews those closest to the Harmons' deaths, she discovers more secrets than she'd ever imagined, and a host of cover-ups—ranging from medical misuse to illicit affairs—that could upend the reputations of many. Propulsive and thought-provoking, *Decent People* is a brilliant novel about shame, race, money, homophobia, and the reckoning required to heal a fractured community.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: *A Lucky Man* Jamel Brinkley, 2018-05-01 FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION In the nine expansive, searching stories of *A Lucky Man*, fathers and sons attempt to salvage relationships with friends and family members and confront mistakes made in the past. An imaginative young boy from the Bronx goes swimming with his group from day camp at a backyard pool in the suburbs, and faces the effects of power and privilege in ways he can barely grasp. A teen intent on proving himself a man through the all-night revel of J'Ouvert can't help but look out for his impressionable younger brother. A pair of college boys on the prowl follow two girls home from a party and have to own the uncomfortable truth of their desires. And at a capoeira conference, two brothers grapple with how to tell the story of their family, caught in the dance of their painful, fractured history. Jamel Brinkley's stories, in a debut that announces the arrival of a significant new voice, reflect the tenderness and vulnerability of black men and boys whose hopes sometimes betray them, especially in a world shaped by race, gender, and class—where luck may be the greatest fiction of all.

ayana mathis the twelve tribes of hattie: Nightcrawling Leila Mottley, 2023-04-11 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • AN OPRAH BOOK CLUB PICK • A dazzling novel about a young Black woman who walks the streets of Oakland and stumbles headlong into the failure of its justice system. This debut of a blazingly original voice “bursts at the seams of every page and swallows you whole” (Tommy Orange, author of *There There*). A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *TIME*, *GOODREADS* Kiara and her brother, Marcus, are scraping by in an East Oakland apartment complex optimistically called the Regal-Hi. Both have dropped out of high school, their family fractured by death and prison. But while Marcus clings to his dream of rap stardom, Kiara hunts for work to pay their rent—which has more than doubled—and to keep the nine-year-old boy next door, abandoned by his mother, safe and fed. One night, what begins as a drunken misunderstanding with a stranger turns into the job Kiara never imagined wanting but now desperately needs: nightcrawling. Her world breaks open even further when her name surfaces in an investigation that exposes her as a key witness in a massive scandal within the Oakland Police Department. Rich with raw beauty, electrifying intensity, and piercing vulnerability, *Nightcrawling* marks the stunning arrival of a voice unlike any we have heard before.

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