

the good lord bird james mcbride

The Good Lord Bird James McBride: A Deep Dive into the Novel and Its Impact

the good lord bird james mcbride is a phrase that resonates with readers who appreciate a compelling blend of history, humor, and humanity. This remarkable novel, penned by the talented author James McBride, has captivated audiences with its unique perspective on the abolitionist John Brown and the turbulent era leading up to the American Civil War. The Good Lord Bird not only showcases McBride's storytelling prowess but also offers a fresh lens through which to view a critical chapter in American history.

Understanding The Good Lord Bird by James McBride

James McBride's *The Good Lord Bird* is a historical fiction novel that weaves a rich tapestry of themes such as race, identity, and courage. The story follows a young enslaved boy named Henry Shackleford, who becomes entangled with the infamous abolitionist John Brown. Narrated with sharp wit and emotional depth, the book explores the complexities of morality and the fight against slavery in a way that's both accessible and thought-provoking.

The Inspiration Behind the Novel

James McBride drew inspiration from the real-life figure of John Brown, a man whose radical actions and uncompromising stance against slavery made him a controversial hero. By focusing on Henry's perspective—a young boy disguised as a girl to survive—McBride offers readers a fresh and often humorous viewpoint on historical events. This inventive narrative choice allows for an intimate exploration of courage and innocence amidst violence and upheaval.

Historical Context and Accuracy

While *The Good Lord Bird* is a work of fiction, McBride meticulously researched the historical setting of Bleeding Kansas and the raid on Harpers Ferry. The novel captures the tension and fervor of abolitionist movements, providing insight into the motivations and fears of those involved. Readers gain an understanding of the complexities of the era, including the deep divisions between North and South and the brutal realities of slavery.

The Literary Style and Narrative Voice in The Good Lord Bird

One of the hallmarks of the good lord bird james mcbride is its distinctive narrative voice. Told through Henry's eyes, the story combines humor, innocence, and a childlike curiosity that contrasts with the grim subject matter. McBride's writing is both lyrical and candid, weaving moments of levity with profound reflections on freedom and justice.

Humor as a Literary Device

Despite tackling heavy themes, McBride masterfully employs humor to engage readers and humanize historical figures. The comedic elements do not detract from the seriousness of the narrative; instead, they create a balanced reading experience that keeps readers invested. This approach makes the story accessible to a wide audience, blending entertainment with education.

Character Development and Relationships

Henry Shackleford's journey is at the heart of the novel, and his evolving relationship with John Brown is central to the narrative. Through their interactions, McBride explores themes of trust, loyalty, and the search for identity. The characters are richly drawn, with their flaws and virtues laid bare, creating a compelling emotional landscape.

The Cultural and Social Impact of The Good Lord Bird

Since its publication, the good lord bird james mcbride has had a significant cultural impact, sparking discussions about race, history, and storytelling. The novel's fresh take on abolitionism has encouraged readers to reconsider familiar historical narratives and recognize the diverse voices that shape America's past.

Award-Winning Recognition

James McBride's novel has been celebrated in literary circles, earning prestigious awards such as the National Book Award for Fiction. This recognition underscores the novel's literary merit and its ability to resonate with contemporary readers, affirming McBride's place among America's leading authors.

Adaptations and Broader Reach

The Good Lord Bird has also been adapted into a television miniseries, further expanding its audience. This adaptation brings the story to life visually, highlighting the novel's vibrant characters and dramatic events. The series has been praised for its faithful yet imaginative portrayal of McBride's work, introducing the story to new generations.

Why The Good Lord Bird by James McBride Remains Relevant Today

In today's social climate, the themes explored in the good lord bird james mcbride are more pertinent than ever. The novel invites readers to grapple with issues of racial injustice, moral conviction, and the power of individual action. By revisiting a pivotal moment in history through a fresh narrative lens, McBride challenges us to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality.

Lessons on Courage and Humanity

Through Henry's eyes, readers witness the courage required to stand up against oppression and the complexities involved in such a fight. The story highlights that heroism is not a monolith but a mosaic of intentions, mistakes, and perseverance. This nuanced portrayal encourages empathy and a deeper understanding of historical figures often reduced to stereotypes.

Encouraging Critical Engagement with History

The novel also serves as a reminder that history is multifaceted and that stories from marginalized perspectives are crucial to a fuller understanding of the past. McBride's work inspires readers to question dominant narratives and seek out diverse voices and experiences in historical discourse.

Tips for Readers Interested in Exploring The Good Lord Bird

If you're considering diving into the good lord bird james mcbride, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Familiarize Yourself with the Historical Background:** Learning about John Brown and the abolitionist movement beforehand can provide valuable context.

- **Pay Attention to the Narrative Voice:** Henry's perspective is unique and intentionally quirky, so embracing his voice will deepen your connection to the story.
- **Reflect on the Themes:** Take time to consider how themes like identity, freedom, and morality resonate with today's social issues.
- **Explore Supplementary Materials:** Interviews with James McBride and discussions about the novel can offer additional insights.
- **Watch the Adaptation:** Viewing the TV series after reading can provide a different dimension to the story.

Exploring *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride is more than just reading a novel—it's an invitation to engage with history, literature, and social consciousness in a meaningful way. Whether you're a history buff, a lover of well-crafted narratives, or someone interested in stories that challenge perspectives, this book offers a rich and rewarding journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'The Good Lord Bird'?

The author of 'The Good Lord Bird' is James McBride.

What is the main theme of 'The Good Lord Bird' by James McBride?

'The Good Lord Bird' explores themes of slavery, freedom, identity, and the moral complexities of the abolitionist movement through the story of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.

Is 'The Good Lord Bird' based on a true story?

Yes, 'The Good Lord Bird' is a historical novel inspired by the true story of abolitionist John Brown and his raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859.

What narrative perspective is used in 'The Good Lord Bird'?

'The Good Lord Bird' is narrated from the perspective of a fictional enslaved boy named Henry Shackleford, who disguises himself as a girl and joins John Brown's group.

Has 'The Good Lord Bird' by James McBride received

any awards?

Yes, 'The Good Lord Bird' won the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction.

What genre does 'The Good Lord Bird' belong to?

'The Good Lord Bird' is a historical fiction novel with elements of satire and adventure.

How does James McBride portray John Brown in 'The Good Lord Bird'?

James McBride portrays John Brown as a complex and passionate abolitionist, whose radical actions are seen through both humorous and serious lenses.

Has 'The Good Lord Bird' been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'The Good Lord Bird' was adapted into a television miniseries starring Ethan Hawke, which premiered in 2020.

What is the significance of the title 'The Good Lord Bird'?

The title 'The Good Lord Bird' refers to a nickname given to John Brown, symbolizing his perceived messianic mission to end slavery.

Additional Resources

The Good Lord Bird by James McBride: A Deep Dive into Historical Fiction and Narrative Innovation

the good lord bird james mcbride represents a compelling fusion of historical fact, rich storytelling, and nuanced character development. This novel, which has garnered significant critical acclaim since its publication, offers readers both an immersive journey into the turbulent era of American slavery and a fresh narrative voice that challenges conventional storytelling methods. James McBride's work stands out not only for its literary merit but also for its cultural and educational significance, making it a pivotal piece in contemporary American literature.

Exploring The Good Lord Bird: Context and Themes

At its core, The Good Lord Bird is a historical novel that centers on the life and exploits of John Brown, the radical abolitionist who believed in armed insurrection to overthrow the

institution of slavery in the United States. McBride approaches this contentious figure through the eyes of Henry "Onion" Shackleford, a fictional enslaved boy who becomes entangled in Brown's militant crusade. This choice of narrator allows the novel to blend historical events with personal, often humorous reflections, making the story accessible and engaging while still grounded in the harsh realities of the time.

The novel deftly explores themes such as freedom, identity, courage, and the moral complexity of violent resistance. McBride does not shy away from depicting the brutalities of slavery, yet he balances this with moments of levity and humanity that deepen the reader's understanding of the characters' experiences. This interplay of darkness and humor is a signature element of McBride's writing style, which has contributed to the novel's broad appeal.

The Role of Historical Accuracy and Fiction

While *The Good Lord Bird* is rooted in real historical events, McBride takes creative liberties to weave a narrative that is both engaging and thought-provoking. The use of a young, fictional narrator who is neither fully heroic nor entirely innocent allows McBride to explore the gray areas of history and human behavior. This blend of fact and fiction invites readers to reconsider their perceptions of historical figures like John Brown and the broader abolitionist movement.

In terms of historical accuracy, the novel is well-researched, drawing on extensive documentation of the period, including John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry. However, by intertwining fictional elements, McBride provides a fresh perspective that challenges traditional historical narratives and encourages critical reflection.

James McBride's Narrative Style and Literary Techniques

James McBride's narrative approach in *The Good Lord Bird* is notable for its distinctive voice and use of humor amidst grave subject matter. The first-person narration by Onion is marked by a colloquial, candid tone that injects vitality into the storytelling. This stylistic choice not only humanizes the characters but also bridges the gap between contemporary readers and a historical era that might otherwise feel distant or inaccessible.

Use of Humor and Satire

One of the novel's defining features is its strategic use of humor to navigate the difficult themes of slavery and violence. McBride employs satire and irony to critique the social and political attitudes of the time, as well as to highlight the absurdities and contradictions inherent in the fight for freedom. This technique serves to engage readers emotionally and intellectually, making the historical content more relatable without diminishing its seriousness.

Character Development and Perspective

The Good Lord Bird excels in its layered characterization. Onion's perspective is complex—marked by fear, curiosity, and a gradual awakening to the realities of his world. Meanwhile, John Brown is portrayed with a mixture of reverence and skepticism, capturing his zealotry and the controversial nature of his actions. Supporting characters are similarly nuanced, contributing to a rich tapestry that reflects the diverse experiences of those involved in the abolitionist struggle.

- **Onion Shackelford:** The novel's narrator and a symbol of innocence confronted with harsh realities.
- **John Brown:** The radical abolitionist whose moral fervor drives the plot.
- **Supporting cast:** Including enslaved individuals, abolitionists, and soldiers, providing multiple viewpoints.

Cultural Impact and Adaptations

The Good Lord Bird has had a significant cultural impact since its release, resonating with audiences seeking to understand America's complex racial history through compelling storytelling. The novel won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2013, cementing James McBride's reputation as a powerful voice in contemporary literature.

Television Adaptation

The story's popularity led to a high-profile television miniseries adaptation, which brought the narrative to an even broader audience. The series, starring Ethan Hawke as John Brown, was praised for its faithful yet inventive portrayal of the novel's themes and characters. This adaptation underscores the story's enduring relevance and its capacity to engage new generations in discussions about race, justice, and resistance.

Educational Significance

The Good Lord Bird is frequently incorporated into academic curricula focusing on American history, African American studies, and literature. Its blend of historical context and compelling narrative makes it an effective tool for exploring the complexities of slavery and abolitionism. Moreover, McBride's nuanced portrayal encourages critical thinking about morality, leadership, and the costs of social change.

Comparative Analysis: The Good Lord Bird and Other Historical Novels

When compared to other works of historical fiction dealing with slavery and abolition, *The Good Lord Bird* stands out for its unique narrative voice and its blending of humor with tragedy. For instance, while Toni Morrison's *Beloved* delves deeply into the psychological trauma of slavery through a somber and poetic lens, McBride's novel opts for a more accessible, often lighter tone that still confronts brutal truths.

Similarly, compared to works like Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*, which employs magical realism, *The Good Lord Bird* stays grounded in historical realism while utilizing a youthful, often irreverent narrator to provide fresh insight. This combination of historical fidelity and narrative innovation has contributed to the novel's critical and popular success.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** Engaging narrative voice, rich historical detail, balanced use of humor and gravitas, complex characters.
- **Limitations:** Some readers may find the narrative tone inconsistent with the gravity of events; the fictional narrator might challenge purists seeking strict historical accounts.

The Good Lord Bird by James McBride ultimately offers a multifaceted exploration of a pivotal moment in American history. Through its distinctive narrative style and profound thematic concerns, the novel invites readers to grapple with the enduring questions of justice, sacrifice, and the means by which freedom is pursued. James McBride's work challenges conventional historical storytelling, making *The Good Lord Bird* a vital contribution to both literature and cultural discourse.

[The Good Lord Bird James McBride](#)

the good lord bird james mcbride: [The Good Lord Bird \(National Book Award Winner\)](#) James McBride, 2014-08-05 Now a Showtime limited series starring Ethan Hawke and Daveed Diggs Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction From the bestselling author of *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, *Deacon King Kong* (an Oprah Book Club pick) and *The Color of Water* comes the story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade—and who must pass as a girl to survive. Henry Shackleford is a young slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1856--a battleground between anti- and pro-slavery forces--when legendary abolitionist John Brown arrives. When an argument between Brown and Henry's master turns violent, Henry is forced to leave town--along with Brown, who believes Henry to be a girl and his good luck charm. Over the ensuing

months, Henry, whom Brown nicknames Little Onion, conceals his true identity to stay alive. Eventually Brown sweeps him into the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859--one of the great catalysts for the Civil War. An absorbing mixture of history and imagination, and told with McBride's meticulous eye for detail and character, *The Good Lord Bird* is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *The Good Lord Bird (TV Tie-in)* James McBride, 2020-07-28 Now a Showtime limited series starring Ethan Hawke and Daveed Diggs Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction From the bestselling author of *Deacon King Kong* (an Oprah Book Club pick) and *The Color of Water* comes the story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade—and who must pass as a girl to survive. Henry Shackleford is a young slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1856--a battleground between anti- and pro-slavery forces--when legendary abolitionist John Brown arrives. When an argument between Brown and Henry's master turns violent, Henry is forced to leave town--along with Brown, who believes Henry to be a girl and his good luck charm. Over the ensuing months, Henry, whom Brown nicknames Little Onion, conceals his true identity to stay alive. Eventually Brown sweeps him into the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859--one of the great catalysts for the Civil War. An absorbing mixture of history and imagination, and told with McBride's meticulous eye for detail and character, *The Good Lord Bird* is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *The James McBride 2 Books Set: the Good Lord Bird & the Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* James McBride, 2014-08-05

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Study Guide* SuperSummary, 2019-11-12 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 61-page guide for *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 32 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 Faith and Identity.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Unforgettable Sacrifice* Hilary N. Green, 2025-02-25 Rediscover the Civil War through the voices that refused to be silenced *Unforgettable Sacrifice* offers a groundbreaking exploration into the heart of African American memory of the Civil War, challenging conventional narratives and revealing a rich history preserved through oral traditions and communal efforts. Through extensive archival research and stories shared on the porches of African American families, Hilary Green provides a detailed examination of how diverse Black communities across the United States have actively preserved and contested the memory of the Civil War, from the nineteenth century to the present. By rejecting the reduction of their experiences to mere footnotes in history, African Americans have established a vibrant commemorative culture that respects the complexity of their ancestors' sacrifices and struggles. From the rural landscapes of Black Pennsylvanians to the heart of emancipated communities in the South, Green connects the narratives of those who not only fought on battlefields but also in the realms of memory and heritage, ensuring their stories of resilience, courage, and patriotism are remembered. *Unforgettable Sacrifice* brings to light the untold stories of ordinary African Americans who took extraordinary steps in remembrance and resistance. By refusing to accept diluted narratives and lies, they have ensured the legacy of the Civil War includes the end of slavery, the valor of Black soldiers and civilians, and the ongoing struggle for democracy and full citizenship. This book is a testament to the enduring power of memory and the steadfast spirit of the African American community. It is an indispensable addition to the libraries of scholars, general readers, and descendant communities alike, offering new perspectives on the lasting impact of the Civil War on American identity and the persistent pursuit of justice and equality.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* Linda De Roche, 2021-06-04 This four-volume reference work surveys American literature from the early 20th century to the present day, featuring a diverse range of American works and authors and an expansive selection of primary source materials. Bringing useful

and engaging material into the classroom, this four-volume set covers more than a century of American literary history—from 1900 to the present. *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* profiles authors and their works and provides overviews of literary movements and genres through which readers will understand the historical, cultural, and political contexts that have shaped American writing. *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* provides wide coverage of authors, works, genres, and movements that are emblematic of the diversity of modern America. Not only are major literary movements represented, such as the Beats, but this work also highlights the emergence and development of modern Native American literature, African American literature, and other representative groups that showcase the diversity of American letters. A rich selection of primary documents and background material provides indispensable information for student research.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Miracle at St. Anna* James McBride, 2008-09-02 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction, and Deacon King Kong James McBride's powerful memoir, *The Color of Water*, was a groundbreaking literary phenomenon that transcended racial and religious boundaries, garnering unprecedented acclaim and topping bestseller lists for more than two years. Now McBride turns his extraordinary gift for storytelling to fiction—in a universal tale of courage and redemption inspired by a little-known historic event. In *Miracle at St. Anna*, toward the end of World War II, four Buffalo Soldiers from the Army's Negro 92nd Division find themselves separated from their unit and behind enemy lines. Risking their lives for a country in which they are treated with less respect than the enemy they are fighting, they discover humanity in the small Tuscan village of St. Anna di Stazzema—in the peasants who shelter them, in the unspoken affection of an orphaned child, in a newfound faith in fellow man. And even in the face of unspeakable tragedy, they—and we—learn to see the small miracles of life. This acclaimed novel is now a major motion picture directed by Spike Lee.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Afro-Nostalgia* Badia Ahad-Legardy, 2021-04-12 As early as the eighteenth century, white Americans and Europeans believed that people of African descent could not experience nostalgia. As a result, black lives have been predominately narrated through historical scenes of slavery and oppression. This phenomenon created a missing archive of romantic historical memories. Badia Ahad-Legardy mines literature, visual culture, performance, and culinary arts to form an archive of black historical joy for use by the African-descended. Her analysis reveals how contemporary black artists find more than trauma and subjugation within the historical past. Drawing on contemporary African American culture and recent psychological studies, she reveals nostalgia's capacity to produce positive emotions. Afro-nostalgia emerges as an expression of black romantic recollection that creates and inspires good feelings even within our darkest moments. Original and provocative, *Afro-Nostalgia* offers black historical pleasure as a remedy to contend with the disillusionment of the present and the traumas of the past.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Race, Transnationalism, and Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies* Robert S. Levine, 2017-11-02 Inspired by Toni Morrison's call for an interracial approach to American literature, and by recent efforts to globalize American literary studies, *Race, Transnationalism, and Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies* ranges widely in its case-study approach to canonical and non-canonical authors. Leading critic Robert S. Levine considers Cooper, Hawthorne, Stowe, Melville, and other nineteenth-century American writers alongside less well known African American figures such as Nathaniel Paul and Sutton Griggs. He pays close attention to racial representations and ideology in nineteenth-century American writing, while exploring the inevitable tension between the local and the global in this writing. Levine addresses transatlanticism, the Black Atlantic, citizenship, empire, temperance, climate change, black nationalism, book history, temporality, Kantian transnational aesthetics, and a number of other issues. The book also provides a compelling critical frame for understanding developments in American literary studies over the past twenty-five years.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Smooth Operating and Other Social Acts* Roland Leander

Williams, 2022-07-01 Through a cultural study of writings about slavery in the United States, *Smooth Operating and Other Social Acts* uncovers a mode of behavior adopted by African Americans for relief from the brutality of black bondage. Roland Leander Williams grants that African Americans have been beaten, but he guarantees that they have not been broken. While he acknowledges that they have been demeaned, he assures that they have not been diminished. Williams confesses that African Americans have been done harm, but he confirms that they have not become disheartened. Close readings of classic slave narratives, along with some neo-slave narratives—including *The Conjure Woman* (1899), *Kindred* (1979), *Dessa Rose* (1986), and *The Good Lord Bird* (2013)—furnish proof that African Americans have preserved their dignity and elevated their status through ingenious applications of improvisation. *Smooth Operating and Other Social Acts* establishes as well that a dim view of African Americans, propagated by black bondage, bears a resemblance to sexual discrimination, which prompts female targets of its gaze to practice dissembling.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Five-Carat Soul* James McBride, 2017-09-26 One of The New York Times' 100 Notable Books of 2017 "A pinball machine zinging with sharp dialogue, breathtaking plot twists and naughty humor... McBride at his brave and joyous best." —New York Times Book Review From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction, *Deacon King Kong*, and *Kill 'Em and Leave*, a James Brown biography. The stories in *Five-Carat Soul*—none of them ever published before—spring from the place where identity, humanity, and history converge. They're funny and poignant, insightful and unpredictable, imaginative and authentic—all told with McBride's unrivaled storytelling skill and meticulous eye for character and detail. McBride explores the ways we learn from the world and the people around us. An antiques dealer discovers that a legendary toy commissioned by Civil War General Robert E. Lee now sits in the home of a black minister in Queens. Five strangers find themselves thrown together and face unexpected judgment. An American president draws inspiration from a conversation he overhears in a stable. And members of The Five-Carat Soul Bottom Bone Band recount stories from their own messy and hilarious lives. As McBride did in his National Book award-winning *The Good Lord Bird* and his bestselling *The Color of Water*, he writes with humor and insight about how we struggle to understand who we are in a world we don't fully comprehend. The result is a surprising, perceptive, and evocative collection of stories that is also a moving exploration of our human condition.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* James McBride, 2023-09-12 In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows--

the good lord bird james mcbride: *The good lord bird. La storia di John Brown* James McBride, 2021

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Kill 'em and Leave* James McBride, 2016 National Book Award winner James McBride goes in search of the real James Brown and his surprising journey illuminates not only our understanding of the Godfather of Soul but the ways in which our cultural heritage has been shaped by Brown's legacy.

the good lord bird james mcbride: *Deacon King Kong (Oprah's Book Club)* James McBride, 2021-02-02 Winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Fiction Winner of the Gotham Book Prize One of Barack Obama's Favorite Books of the Year Oprah's Book Club Pick New York Times Readers Pick: 100 Best Books of the 21st Century Named one of the Top Ten Books of the Year by the New York Times, Entertainment Weekly and TIME Magazine A Washington Post Notable Novel From the author of *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*, and the bestselling modern classic *The Color of Water*, comes one of the most celebrated novels of the year. In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as

Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and, in front of everybody, shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of Deacon King Kong, James McBride's funny, moving novel and his first since his National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*. In *Deacon King Kong*, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself. As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters—caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York—overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion. Bringing to these pages both his masterly storytelling skills and his abiding faith in humanity, James McBride has written a novel every bit as involving as *The Good Lord Bird* and as emotionally honest as *The Color of Water*. Told with insight and wit, *Deacon King Kong* demonstrates that love and faith live in all of us.

the good lord bird james mcbride: Chase's Calendar of Events 2015 Editors of Chase's Calendar of Events, 2014-10-17 Publisher's Note: Products purchased from Third Party sellers are not guaranteed by the publisher for quality, authenticity, or access to any online entitlements included with the product. 12,500 entries. 196 countries. 365 days. Find out what's going on any day of the year, anywhere across the globe! If you're looking to tie a promotional event to a special month, travel to a music festival halfway around the world, blog about a historical milestone or do a celebrity birthday round-up on your radio show or Twitter feed, Chase's Calendar of Events is the one resource that has it all. For broadcasters, journalists, event planners, public relations professionals, librarians, editors, writers or simply the curious, this is one reference you can't do without! Chase's Calendar of Events 2015 brings you: Major sporting events such as the FIFA Women's World Cup (June 6), the Pan American Games (July 10) and the 48th Transpacific Yacht Race (July 13). Milestones such as the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, 200th anniversary of Waterloo, 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, 75th anniversary of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, 150th birth anniversary of poet W.B. Yeats and much more. New birthday entries for news makers like the new king of Spain, Felipe VI of Bourbon and Greece (Jan 30), or political activist Nadezhda Tolokonnikova (Nov 7); sports stars such as Meryl Davis (Jan 1) and Johnny Manziel (Dec 6); and entertainers Lupita Nyong'o (Mar 1), Chiwetel Ejiofor (July 10), Jamie Dornan (May 1), Dakota Johnson (Oct 4), Lorde (Nov 7) and Macklemore (June 19). New special days such as Take Your Poet to Work Day (July 15), National Black Women in Jazz and the Arts Day (Mar 1), National Biscotti Day (Sept 29), Runner's Selfie Day (June 23), No Selfies Day (Mar 16) and many more. New! Get exclusive access to the Chase's Calendar of Events companion website with: What's on Today? All the holidays, events, anniversaries, celebrity birthdays, and so on for the current day Advanced Search: customize your search--date ranges, location, key word, category, attendance--however you want! Unique Festivals of the World: a new, interactive map of the world--click on a country and discover its major festivals Tabbed pages for Major Awards, About the Holidays, Spotlight for 2015, Glossary of Calendar Terms and Special Months For information on the url and password of the companion website, please see details inside the book.

the good lord bird james mcbride: The Color of Water James McBride, 2012-03-01
_____ 'A triumph' - New York Times Book Review 'A startling, tender-hearted tribute to a woman for whom the expression tough love might have been invented' - The Times 'As lively as a novel, a well-written, thoughtful contribution to the literature on race' - Washington Post
_____ MORE THAN TWO YEARS ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER LIST
_____ From the New York Times bestselling author of *Deacon King Kong* and *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, came this modern classic that Oprah.com calls one of the best memoirs of a generation and that launched James McBride's literary career. As a boy in Brooklyn's Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he

asked her about it, she'd simply say 'I'm light-skinned.' Later he wondered if he was different too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. 'You're a human being! Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!' she snapped back. And when James asked about God, she told him 'God is the color of water.' This is the remarkable story of an eccentric and determined woman: a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the Deep South who fled to Harlem, married a black preacher, founded a Baptist church and put twelve children through college. A celebration of resilience, faith and forgiveness, *The Color of Water* is an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

_____ 'Inspiring' - Glamour 'Vibrant' - Boston Globe 'A wonderfully evocative, moving book'
- Literary Review

the good lord bird james mcbride: Song Yet Sung James McBride, 2008-02-05 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction, *Deacon King Kong*, *Five-Carat Soul*, and *Kill 'Em and Leave*, a James Brown biography. In the days before the Civil War, a runaway slave named Liz Spocott breaks free from her captors and escapes into the labyrinthine swamps of Maryland's eastern shore, setting loose a drama of violence and hope among slave catchers, plantation owners, watermen, runaway slaves, and free blacks. Liz is near death, wracked by disturbing visions of the future, and armed with "the Code," a fiercely guarded cryptic means of communication for slaves on the run. Liz's flight and her dreams of tomorrow will thrust all those near her toward a mysterious, redemptive fate. Filled with rich, true details—much of the story is drawn from historical events—and told in McBride's signature lyrical style, *Song Yet Sung* is a story of tragic triumph, violent decisions, and unexpected kindness.

the good lord bird james mcbride: Programs University of Michigan. School of Music, Theatre & Dance, 2015

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