

james mcbride miracle at st anna

James McBride Miracle at St Anna: Exploring the Powerful Story Behind the Novel and Film

james mcbride miracle at st anna is a phrase that resonates deeply with readers and viewers who have encountered this impactful World War II narrative. The story weaves together themes of bravery, friendship, and the haunting scars of war, brought to life through both James McBride's compelling novel and Spike Lee's film adaptation. For those intrigued by historical fiction that combines emotional depth with raw historical truths, "Miracle at St Anna" offers a vivid glimpse into a lesser-known aspect of the war, illuminating the human experience amidst chaos.

In this article, we'll delve into the origins of James McBride's "Miracle at St Anna," unpack the novel's key themes, discuss the film adaptation, and explore why this story continues to captivate audiences today.

The Origins of James McBride's "Miracle at St Anna"

James McBride, an acclaimed author and musician, is known for his ability to blend history with rich storytelling. "Miracle at St Anna" is no exception. Published in 2004, the novel draws from real experiences and historical events surrounding the 92nd Infantry Division, an African American unit during World War II, often referred to as the Buffalo Soldiers.

McBride's inspiration came partially from family stories—his father served in the military during the war—and from a desire to shed light on the overlooked contributions and struggles of black soldiers in a segregated army. The novel is not just a war story; it is a deeply human tale that addresses themes of racism, brotherhood, and survival.

Historical Context: The 92nd Infantry Division and the Italian Campaign

The 92nd Infantry Division was one of the few African American combat units in World War II. Their deployment in the Italian campaign is a critical backdrop for "Miracle at St Anna." The division faced both the enemy on the battlefield and discrimination within the ranks. McBride's narrative focuses on four soldiers from this unit, whose paths intersect in a small Italian village called St. Anna.

Understanding this historical context enhances appreciation for the novel's depth. It's not just a story of battles and strategy, but of the soldiers' courage and resilience against overwhelming odds, both external and internal.

Unpacking the Themes in James McBride Miracle at St

Anna

What makes “Miracle at St Anna” stand out is its exploration of complex themes that go beyond the typical war story. Let’s look at some of the key motifs that James McBride weaves through his narrative.

Brotherhood and Friendship Amidst War

At its heart, “Miracle at St Anna” is about the bonds formed in the crucible of conflict. The four protagonists—Stamps, Sam, Melvin, and Bishop—come from different backgrounds but forge a profound connection as they navigate the horrors of war. McBride masterfully captures how friendship can provide strength and hope in the darkest times.

This theme resonates particularly because it humanizes soldiers, showing their vulnerabilities and dreams rather than just their roles as fighters. Readers often find themselves emotionally invested in these characters, making the story unforgettable.

Racism and Segregation in the Military

Another critical layer of the story is its candid portrayal of racial discrimination during World War II. African American soldiers like those in the 92nd Infantry Division faced segregation, prejudice, and limited opportunities despite their willingness to serve their country.

James McBride does not shy away from depicting these injustices, which adds a powerful social commentary dimension to the novel. This exploration enriches the narrative, reminding readers that the fight for freedom abroad was intertwined with the struggle for equality at home.

The Spiritual and Miraculous Elements

In addition to the gritty realism, “Miracle at St Anna” incorporates elements of spirituality and mysticism. The title itself hints at a miraculous event central to the story’s climax. This blend of history and the supernatural adds a unique texture, inviting readers to reflect on faith, hope, and the mysterious ways in which human lives can be touched by fate.

From Page to Screen: The Film Adaptation of Miracle at St Anna

The success of James McBride’s novel led to a film adaptation directed by the renowned Spike Lee, released in 2008. The movie brought the story to a wider audience and offered a visual and emotional representation of the novel’s key moments.

Spike Lee's Vision and Interpretation

Spike Lee approached "Miracle at St Anna" with a clear intent to honor the source material while using his cinematic expertise to highlight the story's emotional core. The film captures the brutal realities of war and the emotional toll on the soldiers, emphasizing the themes of brotherhood and racial injustice.

Lee's direction also brings out the significance of the Italian setting, with stunning visuals of the countryside juxtaposed against the devastation of war. The film's soundtrack, blending period music with original scores, further immerses viewers in the era and emotional landscape.

Reception and Impact of the Film

While the film received mixed reviews upon release, it was praised for shedding light on a little-known chapter of World War II history and for its heartfelt performances. The cast, including Derek Luke, Michael Ealy, and Laz Alonso, brought depth and authenticity to their roles.

For many viewers, the film served as an eye-opener about the complexities faced by black soldiers, encouraging further exploration of this historical period. It also sparked discussions about representation in war films, highlighting stories that had long been marginalized.

Why James McBride *Miracle at St Anna* Remains Relevant Today

Decades after its publication and film release, the story of "Miracle at St Anna" continues to find relevance in contemporary conversations about race, history, and memory. Here's why this narrative endures:

- **Highlighting Unsung Heroes:** The story shines a spotlight on African American soldiers whose contributions were overlooked for years, giving them the recognition they deserve.
- **Encouraging Dialogue on Racism:** By confronting the uncomfortable truths of segregation in the military, the novel and film promote ongoing discussions about systemic racism in society.
- **Humanizing History:** The personal stories within the broader historical event make the past accessible and emotionally resonant for modern audiences.
- **Inspiring Through Resilience:** The themes of friendship, courage, and faith offer inspiration to readers and viewers facing their own challenges.

Tips for Readers and Viewers Interested in James McBride's Work

If "Miracle at St Anna" piques your interest, here are some suggestions to deepen your experience:

1. **Read the Novel First:** James McBride's prose offers rich detail and character development that enrich the story beyond the film.
2. **Watch the Film with a Critical Eye:** Appreciate the visual storytelling while noting differences and interpretations compared to the book.
3. **Explore Historical Background:** Research the 92nd Infantry Division and the Italian campaign for a fuller understanding of the story's context.
4. **Discuss with Others:** Engage in book clubs or online forums to share insights and perspectives on the themes and historical issues raised.

The journey through James McBride's "Miracle at St Anna" offers more than a war story—it's a profound exploration of humanity against the backdrop of one of history's most turbulent times. Whether through the written word or cinematic presentation, this tale continues to educate, move, and inspire those who encounter it.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of James McBride's novel 'Miracle at St. Anna'?

The main theme of 'Miracle at St. Anna' is the bond of brotherhood and the horrors of war, focusing on the experiences of four African American soldiers during World War II in Italy.

How does James McBride portray the African American soldiers in 'Miracle at St. Anna'?

James McBride portrays the African American soldiers as courageous, complex, and resilient individuals who face not only the external enemy but also racial discrimination within their own army.

What historical events are depicted in 'Miracle at St. Anna' by James McBride?

The novel depicts the Battle of St. Anna in Tuscany, Italy, during World War II, highlighting the struggles and sacrifices of the African American 92nd Infantry Division.

Has 'Miracle at St. Anna' by James McBride been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'Miracle at St. Anna' was adapted into a film in 2008, directed by Spike Lee, bringing the story of the African American soldiers and their experiences during World War II to the big screen.

What inspired James McBride to write 'Miracle at St. Anna'?

James McBride was inspired by stories of African American soldiers' bravery during World War II and wanted to shed light on their overlooked contributions and the racial injustices they endured.

Additional Resources

James McBride's "Miracle at St. Anna": A Cinematic and Literary Exploration

james mcbride miracle at st anna emerges as a compelling intersection of literature and film, weaving a profound narrative that delves into the complexities of war, race, and brotherhood. This story, originally penned by James McBride and later adapted into a film directed by Spike Lee, offers a nuanced perspective on World War II, emphasizing the overlooked contributions and experiences of African American soldiers. The interplay between McBride's detailed literary work and Lee's cinematic vision invites both critical analysis and appreciation for its cultural and historical significance.

Context and Background of "Miracle at St. Anna"

James McBride's novel "Miracle at St. Anna," published in 2003, is a historical fiction piece centered around the experiences of four African American soldiers from the 92nd Infantry Division during World War II. These soldiers find themselves embroiled in a harrowing battle in a small Italian village, St. Anna di Stazzema. The narrative intertwines themes of survival, loyalty, and the brutal realities of war with deeper reflections on racial discrimination within the U.S. Army and broader society at the time.

The story's adaptation into a 2008 film directed by Spike Lee further amplified its reach, though it received mixed reviews. The film sought to visually represent McBride's intricate storytelling, highlighting the emotional and physical struggles of the characters.

The Significance of James McBride's Narrative Style

McBride's writing in "Miracle at St. Anna" is distinguished by its rich character development and historical accuracy. His narrative style combines vivid descriptions with intimate insights into the soldiers' psyches, making the story both educational and emotionally resonant. This approach allows readers to grasp the personal and collective challenges faced by African American troops during a time of systemic segregation and prejudice.

The novel's structure is non-linear, employing flashbacks and multiple points of view, which

enhances the depth and complexity of the story. This literary technique mirrors the fragmented and chaotic nature of war, compelling readers to piece together the broader context while empathizing with individual experiences.

Film Adaptation: Spike Lee's Vision and Execution

The transition from page to screen with "Miracle at St. Anna" posed unique challenges. Spike Lee, known for his socially conscious filmmaking, brought a passionate and stylistic approach to the adaptation. The film aimed to honor McBride's work by maintaining the core themes of racial tension, brotherhood, and wartime heroism.

However, the film's reception was mixed, with critiques often centered on pacing and narrative cohesion. Some viewers found the film's multiple timelines and character arcs difficult to follow, contrasting with the novel's more immersive and layered storytelling. Despite this, the film was praised for its powerful performances, particularly by actors portraying the four main soldiers, and its evocative cinematography that captured the Italian countryside's stark beauty and the war's violence.

Comparative Analysis: Novel vs. Film

When analyzing the differences between James McBride's "Miracle at St. Anna" novel and its cinematic counterpart, several key aspects emerge:

- **Depth of Characterization:** The novel offers deeper internal monologues and background stories, enriching character motivations, whereas the film relies heavily on visual storytelling and dialogue.
- **Historical Detail:** McBride's book incorporates extensive historical context and nuances about the 92nd Infantry Division, which the film condenses for runtime constraints.
- **Narrative Structure:** The book's non-linear narrative is more intricate, while the film attempts to streamline the story, sometimes at the expense of clarity.
- **Emotional Impact:** Both mediums deliver strong emotional resonance, though readers may find the novel's immersive prose more affecting, while the film's audio-visual elements provide immediate sensory engagement.

Thematic Exploration in "Miracle at St. Anna"

At its core, James McBride's "Miracle at St. Anna" confronts several enduring themes relevant to historical and contemporary discourse.

Race and Segregation in the Military

A pivotal element of the story is its exploration of racial segregation within the U.S. military during World War II. The 92nd Infantry Division, composed primarily of African American soldiers, faced discrimination not only from enemy forces but also from their own ranks and command structures. McBride's narrative sheds light on the systemic barriers that limited African American soldiers' opportunities and recognition, reflecting broader social injustices of the era.

Brotherhood and Survival

Throughout the novel and film, the bond between the four soldiers—Stamps, Train, Croft, and Bishop—serves as an emotional anchor. Their camaraderie exemplifies resilience and solidarity, driving their will to survive the horrors of war. This theme resonates universally, emphasizing human connection amidst adversity.

The Impact of War on Identity

"Miracle at St. Anna" also probes the transformative effect of war on individual identity. Characters grapple with their roles as soldiers, their racial identities, and personal convictions. The story invites reflection on how conflict reshapes notions of self and belonging.

Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

James McBride's "Miracle at St. Anna" has been recognized for its contribution to both African American literature and historical fiction. Critics have lauded the novel for its meticulous research and empathetic portrayal of marginalized soldiers' experiences. The book has become a valuable educational resource, often included in discussions about race and military history.

The film adaptation, despite its mixed critical response, played a role in raising awareness about the 92nd Infantry Division and the complexities of African American military service during World War II. It also sparked conversations about how Hollywood portrays minority narratives and the challenges of adapting dense literary material for the screen.

Pros and Cons of the Adaptation

- **Pros:** Visually compelling, strong performances, and a powerful soundtrack that complements the mood.
- **Cons:** Narrative fragmentation, pacing issues, and some critics argue that the film sacrifices depth for spectacle.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

The enduring appeal of James McBride's "Miracle at St. Anna" lies in its ability to illuminate a lesser-known aspect of World War II history through a humanized lens. It challenges readers and viewers to reconsider traditional war narratives that have often marginalized African American contributions.

Moreover, the story's themes of racial injustice, brotherhood, and the psychological toll of war remain pertinent in contemporary discussions about race relations and military service. Educational institutions and cultural organizations continue to reference both the novel and film in programs aimed at fostering historical awareness and social empathy.

As both a literary work and a film, "Miracle at St. Anna" stands as a testament to the power of storytelling in bridging historical gaps, honoring overlooked heroes, and provoking thoughtful dialogue on enduring social issues.

[James McBride Miracle At St Anna](#)

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *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.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *Miracle at Sant'Anna* James McBride, 2002 Based on the historical incident of an unspeakable massacre at the site of Sant'Anna Di Stazzema, a small village in Tuscany, and on the experiences of the famed Buffalo soldiers from the 92nd Division in Italy during World War II, *MIRACLE AT SAINT. ANNA* is a singular evocation of war, cruelty, passion, and heroism. It is the story of four American Negro soldiers, a band of partisans, and an Italian boy who encounter a miracle - though perhaps the true miracle lies in themselves. Traversing class, race, and geography, *MIRACLE AT SAINT. ANNA* is above all a hymn to the brotherhood of man and the power to do good that lives in each of us.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: Spike Lee Jason P. Vest, 2014-09-30 Spike Lee's journey from guerrilla filmmaker to Hollywood insider is explored in light of his personal background, the cultural influence of his films, and the extensive scholarship his movies have inspired. This insightful study probes the iconic filmmaker's career as a director and shaper of American culture. It not only sheds light on the ways in which Lee's background, influences, and outlook affect his films but also discusses how he participates in, transforms, and transcends the tradition of black American filmmaking. Each chapter offers a critical assessment of at least one, and sometimes multiple, Lee

films, examining their production history; their place in Lee's filmography; and their aesthetic, cultural, and historical significance. Readers will come away from this first scholarly assessment of Lee's career and work with a better understanding of his penchant for stirring up controversy about significant social, political, and artistic issues as well as his role as an American artist who provokes his audiences as much as he pacifies them.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: Miracle at Sant'Anna QPD Edition James McBride, 2002-05-23 Based on the historical incident of an unspeakable massacre at the site of Sant'Anna Di Stazzema, a small village in Tuscany, and on the experiences of the famed Buffalo soldiers from the 92nd Division in Italy during World War II, *MIRACLE AT SANT'ANNA* is a singular evocation of war, cruelty, passion, and heroism. It is the story of four American Negro soldiers, a band of partisans, and an Italian boy who encounter a miracle - though perhaps the true miracle lies in themselves. Traversing class, race, and geography, *MIRACLE AT SANT'ANNA* is above all a hymn to the brotherhood of man and the power to do good that lives in each of us.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: 100 Most Popular African American Authors Bernard A. Drew, 2006-11-30 Here's a one stop resource, containing 100 profiles of your favorite contemporary African American writers, along with complete lists of their works. Focusing on writers who have made their mark in the past 25 years, this guide stresses African American writers of popular and genre literature—from Rochelle Alers and Octavia Butler, and Samuel Delaney to Walter Mosley, and Omar Tyree, with a few classic literary giants also included. Short profiles provide an overview of the author's life and summarize his or her writing accomplishments. Many are accompanied by black-and-white photos of the author. The biographies are followed by a complete list of the author's published works. Where can you find information about popular, contemporary African American authors? Web sites can be difficult to locate and unreliable, particularly for some of the newer authors, and their contents are inconsistent and often inaccurate. Although there are a number of reference works on African American writers, the emphasis tends to be on historical and literary authors. Here's a single volume containing 100 profiles of your favorite contemporary African American writers, along with lists of their works. Short profiles provide an overview of the author's life and summarize his or her writing accomplishments. Many are accompanied by black-and-white photos of the author. The biographies are followed by a complete list of the author's published works. Focusing on writers who have made their mark in the past 25 years, this guide covers African American writers of popular and genre literature—from Rochelle Alers, Octavia Butler, and Samuel Delaney to Walter Mosley, Omar Tyree, and Zane. A few classic literary giants who are popular with today's readers are also included—e.g., Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Richard Wright. Readers who want to know more about their favorite African American authors or find other books written by those authors, students researching AA authors for reports and papers, and educators seeking background information for classes in African American literature will find this guide invaluable. (High school and up.)

james mcbride miracle at st anna: Operation Homecoming , 2004

james mcbride miracle at st anna: The Color of Water James McBride, 2006-02-07 From the bestselling author of *Deacon King Kong* and the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*: The modern classic that spent more than two years on The New York Times bestseller list and that Oprah.com calls one of the best memoirs of a generation. Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared light-skinned woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in orchestrated chaos with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. Mommy, a fiercely protective woman with dark eyes full of pep and fire, herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached

thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain. In *The Color of Water*, McBride retraces his mother's footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story. The daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi, she was born Rachel Shilsky (actually Ruchel Dwara Zylska) in Poland on April 1, 1921. Fleeing pogroms, her family emigrated to America and ultimately settled in Suffolk, Virginia, a small town where anti-Semitism and racial tensions ran high. With candor and immediacy, Ruth describes her parents' loveless marriage; her fragile, handicapped mother; her cruel, sexually-abusive father; and the rest of the family and life she abandoned. At seventeen, after fleeing Virginia and settling in New York City, Ruth married a black minister and founded the all-black New Brown Memorial Baptist Church in her Red Hook living room. God is the color of water, Ruth McBride taught her children, firmly convinced that life's blessings and life's values transcend race. Twice widowed, and continually confronting overwhelming adversity and racism, Ruth's determination, drive and discipline saw her dozen children through college—and most through graduate school. At age 65, she herself received a degree in social work from Temple University. Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success. *The Color of Water* touches readers of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *Memory and Massacre* P. Pezzino, 2012-02-27 This book recounts the massacre at Sant'Anna di Stazzema and examines its after effects. During the Nazi occupation of Italy, SS officers were charged with destroying anti-Fascist and anti-Nazi partisans. Paolo Pezzino not only reconstructs the events, but deals with the forgetting of the massacre.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *Playing Piano in a Brothel* Terry Frei, 2010-09-16 Terry Frei combines reporting, historical research, memoir, and opinion . . . he discusses his varied experiences and the diverse characters-- including John and Jack Elway, plus 2010 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith-- he has encountered in covering Colorado, national and international sports since he was a green sportswriter in the era of '77--P.[2] of dustjacket.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *The Transatlantic Gaze* Mary Ann McDonald Carolan, 2014-02-01 Tracks the influence of Italian cinema on American film from the postwar period to the present. In *The Transatlantic Gaze*, Mary Ann McDonald Carolan documents the sustained and profound artistic impact of Italian directors, actors, and screenwriters on American film. Working across a variety of genres, including neorealism, comedy, the Western, and the art film, Carolan explores how and why American directors from Woody Allen to Quentin Tarantino have adapted certain Italian trademark techniques and motifs. Allen's *To Rome with Love* (2012), for example, is an homage to the genius of Italian filmmakers, and to Federico Fellini in particular, whose *Lo sceicco bianco/The White Sheik* (1952) also resonates with Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo* (1985) as well as with Neil LaBute's *Nurse Betty* (2000). Tarantino's *Kill Bill* saga (2003, 2004) plays off elements of Sergio Leone's spaghetti Western *C'era una volta il West/Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968), a transatlantic conversation about the Western that continues in Tarantino's Oscar-winning *Django Unchained* (2012). Lee Daniels's *Precious* (2009) and Spike Lee's *Miracle at St. Anna* (2008), meanwhile, demonstrate that the neorealism of Roberto Rossellini and Vittorio De Sica, which arose from the political and economic exigencies of postwar Italy, is an effective vehicle for critiquing social issues such as poverty and racism in a contemporary American context. The book concludes with an examination of American remakes of popular Italian films, a comparison that offers insight into the similarities and differences between the two cultures and the transformations in genre, both subtle and obvious, that underlie this form of cross-cultural exchange.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *The Big 100* William J. Kole, 2023-10-03 Journalist William J. Kole, reluctant but newly minted member of AARP, explores the looming era of super-aging—incredibly longer lifespans overall, and eight times more centenarians by the year 2050—through the lens of past, present, and future life at ages 50, 65, 80, and on to 100-plus. What happens to all of us when 65 is merely a life half-lived? By 2050, the world's centenarian

population—those aged 100 or more—will increase eightfold. Half of today's 5-year-olds can expect to reach the same heights. It's going to upend everything we thought we knew about health care, personal finance, retirement, politics, and more. Whether we're 18 or 81, this tectonic demographic shift will affect us all. The Big 100 confronts readers with both the brightness and potential bleakness of a fate few of us thought possible. Journalist William Kole guides us on this journey into our future, an optimistic but sometimes fraught exploration of super-aging as the grandson of a centenarian. Along the way, there are expert sources, like Dr. Jane Goodall, longevity expert Dr. Thomas Perls, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and even 101-year-old influencer and fashionista Iris Apfel; along with surprises, including the truth about those so-called "Blue Zones" everyone thinks are centenarian factories. (Spoiler alert: They're not.) And there's the troubling truth that those reaching extreme longevity tend to be overwhelmingly white, a product of what experts deem the "weathering theory": the idea that the health of African Americans begins to deteriorate in early adulthood as a physical consequence of socio-economic disadvantages. How long can we live? How long should we live? And what happens when 65 is merely a life half-lived? The Big 100 explores the most pressing questions of our super-aging future, and offers a glimpse of a reality that awaits us, our children, and our grandchildren.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *Symptomatic* Danzy Senna, 2005-02-01 The much anticipated sophomore novel from the bestselling author of *Caucasia* and the forthcoming *Colored Television* A young woman moves to New York City for what promises to be a dream job. Displaced, she feels unsure of her fit in the world. Then comes a look of recognition, a gesture of friendship from an older woman named Greta who shares the same difficult-to-place color of skin. On common ground, a tenuous alliance grows between two women in racial limbo. So too, does the older woman's unnerving obsession, leading to a collision of two lives spiraling out of control. A beautifully written novel, at once suspenseful, erotic, and tantalizingly clever, *Symptomatic* is a groundbreaking contribution to the literature of racial identity.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *My Father's War* Carolyn Johnston, 2012-08-03 The author draws on her father's account of the war and her extensive interviews with other veterans of the 92nd Division to describe the experiences of a naive southern white officer and his segregated unit on an intimate level. During the war, the protocol that required the assignment of southern white officers to command black units, both in Europe and in the Pacific theater, was often problematic, but Johnston seemed more successful than most, earning the trust and respect of his men at the same time that he learned to trust and respect them. Gene Johnston and the African American soldiers were transformed by the war and upon their return helped transform the nation. The 92nd Division of the Fifth Army was the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe during 1944 and 1945, suffering more than 3,200 casualties. Members of this unit, known as Buffalo Soldiers, endured racial violence on the home front and experienced racism abroad. Engaged in combat for nine months, they were under the command of southern white infantry officers like their captain, Eugene E. Johnston.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Historical Fiction* Jennifer S. Baker, 2015 Whether set in ancient Egypt, Feudal Japan, the Victorian Age, or Civil War-era America, historical fiction places readers squarely at the center of fascinating times and places, making it one of the most popular genres in contemporary publishing. The definitive resource for librarians and other book professionals, this guide Provides an overview of historical fiction's roots, highlighting foundational classics, and explores the genre in terms of its scope and style Covers the latest and most popular authors and titles Discusses appeal characteristics and shows how librarians can use a reader's favorite qualities to make suggestions Includes lists of recommendations, with a compendium of print and web-based resources Offers marketing tips for getting the word out to readers Emphasizing an appreciation of historical fiction in its many forms and focusing on what fans enjoy, this guide provides a fresh take on a durable genre.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *Equivocal Subjects* Shelleen Greene, 2014-03-27 Analysing the depiction of African Italian mixed-race subjects from the historical epics of the Italian

silent golden era to the contemporary period, *Equivocal Subjects* engages the history of Italian nationalism and colonialism through theories of subject formation, ideologies of race, and postcolonial theory. Greene's approach also provides a novel interpretation of recent developments surrounding Italy's status as a major passage for immigrants seeking to enter the European Union. This book provides an original theoretical approach to the Italian cinema that speaks to the nation's current political and social climate.

james mcbride miracle at st anna: *The Other Side of Terror* Erica R. Edwards, 2021-08-10 WINNER, 2022 John Hope Franklin Prize, given by the American Studies Association HONORABLE MENTION, 2022 Gloria E. Anzaldúa Book Prize, given by the National Women's Studies Association Reveals the troubling intimacy between Black women and the making of US global power The year 1968 marked both the height of the worldwide Black liberation struggle and a turning point for the global reach of American power, which was built on the counterinsurgency honed on Black and other oppressed populations at home. The next five decades saw the consolidation of the culture of the American empire through what Erica R. Edwards calls the "imperial grammars of blackness." This is a story of state power at its most devious and most absurd, and, at the same time, a literary history of Black feminist radicalism at its most trenchant. Edwards reveals how the long war on terror, beginning with the late-Cold War campaign against organizations like the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and the Black Liberation Army, has relied on the labor and the fantasies of Black women to justify the imperial spread of capitalism. Black feminist writers not only understood that this would demand a shift in racial gendered power, but crafted ways of surviving it. *The Other Side of Terror* offers an interdisciplinary Black feminist analysis of militarism, security, policing, diversity, representation, intersectionality, and resistance, while discussing a wide array of literary and cultural texts, from the unpublished work of Black radical feminist June Jordan to the memoirs of Condoleezza Rice to the television series *Scandal*. With clear, moving prose, Edwards chronicles Black feminist organizing and writing on "the other side of terror", which tracked changes in racial power, transformed African American literature and Black studies, and predicted the crises of our current era with unsettling accuracy.

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