

a history of seven killings

A History of Seven Killings: A Deep Dive into Marlon James' Masterpiece

Author: Marlon James, a Jamaican-born author, holds a unique position to write *A History of Seven Killings*. His experiences growing up in Jamaica, coupled with his extensive research into the island's turbulent political history, provided him with the necessary insight and perspective to craft this complex and sprawling novel. His personal familiarity with the culture, the political climate, and the pervasive violence significantly informed the narrative of *A History of Seven Killings*. This intimate understanding is evident throughout the book, lending authenticity and depth to its portrayal of Jamaica's political landscape.

Historical Context and Current Relevance of A History of Seven Killings

A History of Seven Killings, published in 2014, is a sprawling, ambitious novel that reconstructs the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in 1976. However, the book transcends a simple retelling of a historical event. Instead, it utilizes this pivotal moment in Jamaican history as a springboard to explore the broader political and social turmoil that plagued the island nation during the 1970s. The novel masterfully intertwines fact and fiction, seamlessly blending real historical figures with imagined characters, creating a richly textured narrative that captivates the reader.

The book's historical context centers on the period of intense political polarization in Jamaica, specifically the rivalry between the ruling People's National Party (PNP), led by Michael Manley, and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), led by Edward Seaga. This political climate, characterized by escalating violence and the rise of political gangs, is meticulously depicted in *A History of Seven Killings*. The novel doesn't shy away from the brutal realities of this era, vividly portraying the pervasive influence of political violence and the intricate web of alliances and betrayals that shaped the nation's fate.

The current relevance of *A History of Seven Killings* lies in its exploration of themes that continue to resonate today. The novel's examination of political corruption, gang violence, and the insidious effects of political polarization remains strikingly relevant in many parts of the world. The book serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the dangers of unchecked power and the devastating consequences of political extremism. Its exploration of the complexities of identity, race, and class further amplifies its contemporary significance. The book's examination of the international political forces at play during this period also holds relevance to contemporary geopolitical concerns.

The narrative structure of *A History of Seven Killings* is itself a noteworthy aspect. The novel utilizes a multi-perspective narrative, shifting between numerous characters, from the hitmen and their associates to CIA operatives, politicians, and ordinary citizens caught in the crossfire. This kaleidoscopic perspective provides a comprehensive, albeit fragmented, view of the events leading up to and following the assassination attempt. The fragmented nature of the narrative mirrors the fractured state of Jamaican society during that period.

Analyzing the Narrative and Themes in *A History of Seven Killings*

One of the key themes explored in *A History of Seven Killings* is the intersection of politics and violence. The novel demonstrates how political ambitions can fuel extreme violence and how ordinary citizens often become victims of this conflict. The blurring of lines between political factions and criminal organizations is a central aspect of the narrative. The book effectively depicts how political patronage, corruption, and the abuse of power contribute to the cycle of violence.

Further, *A History of Seven Killings* delves into the complexities of Jamaican identity and the impact of colonialism on the nation's social and political landscape. The legacy of colonialism, the struggle for independence, and the ongoing tensions between different social classes are all interwoven into the narrative. The novel explores the lasting effects of these historical forces on the present, highlighting how they continue to shape the lives and experiences of Jamaican people.

Publisher and Editor's Role

A History of Seven Killings was published by Riverhead Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Riverhead Books has a strong reputation for publishing literary fiction, and their involvement in the publication of this complex and challenging novel adds to its credibility. Their expertise in marketing and distributing works of this nature undoubtedly contributed to the book's critical and commercial success. The publisher's authority on literary fiction makes them a suitable choice for a novel like *A History of Seven Killings*.

While specific editor information is not readily available for public release, the high quality and intricate structure of the novel point towards a skilled and experienced editor who successfully guided the author through the complexities of the narrative, ensuring its cohesion and impact. The editor's attention to detail is evident in the polished final product.

Summary of Main Findings and Conclusions

This analysis of *A History of Seven Killings* reveals a multifaceted novel that transcends a simple historical account. It meticulously portrays the political and social turmoil in 1970s Jamaica, showcasing the intricate

interplay of political ambition, violence, and international influence. The novel's enduring relevance stems from its exploration of timeless themes: political corruption, gang violence, and the devastating consequences of political polarization – issues that remain sadly relevant today. Through its multi-perspective narrative and vivid prose, *A History of Seven Killings* offers a powerful and unforgettable portrayal of a pivotal moment in Jamaican history and its lasting impact.

Conclusion

Marlon James' *A History of Seven Killings* stands as a monumental achievement in contemporary literature. It's a challenging, rewarding, and deeply impactful novel that compels readers to confront the complexities of history, politics, and violence. Its lasting power lies not only in its meticulous recreation of a specific historical event but also in its exploration of enduring themes that resonate profoundly with readers across the globe. The book serves as both a historical account and a cautionary tale, leaving a lasting impression long after the final page is turned.

FAQs

1. What is the main plot of *A History of Seven Killings*? The main plot revolves around the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in 1976, using this event as a lens to explore the broader political and social landscape of Jamaica at the time.
1. What are the major themes explored in the novel? Key themes include political violence, corruption, the legacy of colonialism, identity, race, class, and the intersection of politics and crime.
1. How does the novel's structure contribute to its overall impact? The fragmented, multi-perspective narrative mirrors the fractured society depicted in the story, creating a complex and immersive reading experience.
1. Is *A History of Seven Killings* a historical fiction or a work of historical non-fiction? It's a work of historical fiction, blending real historical events and figures with fictional characters and narratives.

1. What is the significance of Bob Marley's role in the novel? Bob Marley serves as a central figure, embodying the hopes and fears of a nation grappling with intense political conflict.
1. How does the novel depict the role of international forces in Jamaica's political turmoil? The novel explores the involvement of the CIA and other international actors in Jamaica's political landscape, highlighting their influence on the events depicted.
1. What makes *A History of Seven Killings* a significant contribution to literature? Its ambitious scope, complex narrative, and exploration of important social and political themes distinguish it as a significant work of contemporary literature.
1. Is the novel graphic in its depiction of violence? Yes, the novel contains graphic depictions of violence, reflecting the brutal realities of the period it portrays.
1. What kind of reader would most appreciate *A History of Seven Killings*? Readers interested in historical fiction, political thrillers, and works exploring complex social and political issues will find this book particularly rewarding.

Related Articles:

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a history of seven killings: A Brief History of Seven Killings Marlon James, 2015-09-08 A tale inspired by the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley spans decades and continents to explore the experiences of journalists, drug dealers, killers, and ghosts against a backdrop of social and political turmoil.

a history of seven killings: The Book of Night Women Marlon James, 2009-02-19 From the author of the National Book Award finalist *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* and the WINNER of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for *A Brief History of Seven Killings* An undeniable success." — The New York Times Book Review A true triumph of voice and storytelling, *The Book of Night Women* rings with both profound authenticity and a distinctly contemporary energy. It is the story of Lilith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a dark power that they- and she-will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Lilith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans. But when she begins to understand her own feelings, desires, and identity, Lilith starts to push at the edges of what is imaginable for the life of a slave woman, and risks becoming the conspiracy's weak link. But the real revelation of the book-the secret to the stirring imagery and insistent prose-is Marlon James himself, a young writer at once breathtakingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

a history of seven killings: Black Leopard, Red Wolf Marlon James, 2019-02-05 One of TIME's 100 Best Fantasy Books of All Time Winner of the L.A. Times Ray Bradbury Prize Finalist for the 2019 National Book Award The New York Times Bestseller Named a Best Book of 2019 by The Wall Street Journal, TIME, NPR, GQ, Vogue, and The Washington Post A fantasy world as well-realized as anything Tolkien made. --Neil Gaiman Gripping, action-packed....The literary equivalent of a Marvel Comics universe. --Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times The epic novel from the Man Booker Prize-winning author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings* In the stunning first novel in Marlon James's Dark Star trilogy, myth, fantasy, and history come together to explore what happens when a mercenary is hired to find a missing child. Tracker is known far and wide for his skills as a hunter: He has a nose, people say. Engaged to track down a mysterious boy who disappeared three years earlier, Tracker breaks his own rule of always working alone when he finds himself part of a group that comes together to search for the boy. The band is a hodgepodge, full of unusual characters with secrets of their own, including a shape-shifting man-animal known as Leopard. As Tracker follows the boy's scent--from one ancient city to another; into dense forests and across deep rivers--he and the band are set upon by creatures intent on destroying them. As he struggles to survive, Tracker starts to wonder: Who, really, is this boy? Why has he been missing for so long? Why do so many people want to keep Tracker from finding him? And perhaps the most important questions of all: Who is telling the truth, and who is lying? Drawing from African history and mythology and his own rich imagination, Marlon James has written a novel unlike anything that's come before it: a saga of breathtaking adventure that's also an ambitious, involving read. Defying categorization and full of unforgettable characters, *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* is both surprising and profound as it explores the fundamentals of truth, the limits of power, and our need to understand them both.

a history of seven killings: Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire Trevor Burnard, 2009-11-17 Eighteenth-century Jamaica, Britain's largest and most valuable slave-owning colony, relied on a brutal system of slave management to maintain its tenuous social order. Trevor Burnard provides unparalleled insight into Jamaica's vibrant but harsh African and European cultures with a comprehensive examination of the extraordinary diary of plantation owner Thomas Thistlewood. Thistlewood's diary, kept over the course of forty years, describes in graphic detail how white rule over slaves was predicated on the infliction of terror on the bodies and minds of slaves. Thistlewood treated his slaves cruelly even while he relied on them for his livelihood. Along with careful notes on sugar production, Thistlewood maintained detailed records of a sexual life that fully expressed the society's rampant sexual exploitation of slaves. In Burnard's hands, Thistlewood's diary reveals a great deal not only about the man and his slaves but also about the structure and enforcement of power, changing understandings of human rights and freedom, and connections among social class, race, and gender, as well as sex and sexuality, in the plantation system.

a history of seven killings: Home Toni Morrison, 2012-05-08 The latest novel from Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison. An angry and self-loathing veteran of the Korean War, Frank Money

finds himself back in racist America after enduring trauma on the front lines that left him with more than just physical scars. His home--and himself in it--may no longer be as he remembers it, but Frank is shocked out of his crippling apathy by the need to rescue his medically abused younger sister and take her back to the small Georgia town they come from, which he's hated all his life. As Frank revisits the memories from childhood and the war that leave him questioning his sense of self, he discovers a profound courage he thought he could never possess again. A deeply moving novel about an apparently defeated man finding himself--and his home.

a history of seven killings: See What I Have Done Sarah Schmidt, 2017-08-01 "One of America's most notorious murder cases inspires this feverish debut" novel that goes inside the mind of Lizzie Borden (The Guardian). On the morning of August 4, 1892, Lizzie Borden calls out to her maid: Someone's killed Father. The brutal ax-murder of Andrew and Abby Borden in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts, leaves little evidence and many unanswered questions. In this riveting debut novel, Sarah Schmidt reimagines the day of the infamous murders as an intimate story of a family devoid of love. While neighbors struggle to understand why anyone would want to harm the respected Borden family, those close to the family have a different tale to tell—of a father with an explosive temper, a spiteful stepmother, and two spinster sisters desperate for their independence. As the police search for clues, Lizzie's memories of that morning flash in scattered fragments. Had she been in the barn or the pear arbor to escape the stifling heat of the house? When did she last speak to her stepmother? Were they really gone and would everything be better now? Shifting among the perspectives of the unreliable Lizzie, her older sister Emma, the housemaid Bridget, and the enigmatic stranger Benjamin, the events of that fateful day are slowly revealed through a high-wire feat of storytelling.

a history of seven killings: Milkman Anna Burns, 2018-05-15 WINNER OF THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE WINNER OF THE DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD 'Utterly compelling' Irish Times 'Original, funny, disarmingly oblique' CLAIRE KILROY 'A triumph.' Guardian In an unnamed city, where to be interesting is dangerous, an eighteen-year-old woman has attracted the unwanted and unavoidable attention of a powerful and frightening older man, 'Milkman'. In this community, where suggestions quickly become fact, where gossip and hearsay can lead to terrible consequences, what can she do to stop a rumour once it has started? Milkman is persistent, the word is spreading, and she is no longer in control . . . SHORTLISTED FOR THE RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION SHORTLISTED FOR THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION

a history of seven killings: Augustown Kei Miller, 2017-05-23 11 April 1982: a smell is coming down John Golding Road right alongside the boy-child, something attached to him, like a spirit but not quite. Ma Taffy is growing worried. She knows that something is going to happen. Something terrible is going to pour out into the world. But if she can hold it off for just a little bit longer, she will. So she asks a question that surprises herself even as she asks it, Kaia, I ever tell you bout the flying preacherman? Set in the backlands of Jamaica, Augustown is a magical and haunting novel of one woman's struggle to rise above the brutal vicissitudes of history, race, class, collective memory, violence, and myth.

a history of seven killings: Paris, I Love You but You're Bringing Me Down Rosecrans Baldwin, 2012-04-24 A fresh, exhilarating take on one of the world's most popular topics—Paris, the City of Light!—by an acclaimed novelist Rosecrans Baldwin A self-described Francophile since the age of nine, Rosecrans Baldwin had always dreamed of living in France. So when an offer presented itself to work at a Parisian ad agency, he couldn't turn it down—even though he had no experience in advertising, and even though he hardly spoke French. But the Paris that Rosecrans and his wife, Rachel, arrived in wasn't the romantic city he remembered, and over the next eighteen months, his dogged American optimism was put to the test: at work (where he wrote booklets on breastfeeding), at home (in the hub of a massive construction project), and at every confusing dinner party in between. A hilarious and refreshingly honest look at one of our most beloved cities, Paris, I Love You but You're Bringing Me Down is the story of a young man whose preconceptions are usurped by the

oddities of a vigorous, nervy metropolis—which is just what he needs to fall in love with Paris a second time.

a history of seven killings: Dogeaters Jessica Hagedorn, 2024-11-12 “An original, raw, and wild novel that has held its power and demands to be read.” —Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* Finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction and Winner of the American Book Award Jessica Hagedorn is the recipient of The Before Columbus Foundation’s 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award A classic and influential story centered on the cultural and political stakes of life in Marcos-era Philippines One of The Atlantic’s Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years Welcome to Manila in the turbulent period of the Philippines’ late dictator. It is a world in which American pop culture and local Filipino tradition mix flamboyantly, and gossip, storytelling, and extravagant behavior thrive. A wildly disparate group of characters—including movie stars and waiters, a young junkie and the richest man in the Philippines—becomes ensnared in a spiral of events culminating in a beauty pageant, a film festival, and an assassination. At the center of this maelstrom is Rio, a feisty schoolgirl who will grow up to live in America and look back with longing on the land of her youth.

a history of seven killings: The Michigan Murders Edward Keyes, 2016-04-19 Edgar Award Finalist: The true story of a serial killer who terrorized a midwestern town in the era of free love—by the coauthor of *The French Connection*. In 1967, during the time of peace, free love, and hitchhiking, nineteen-year-old Mary Terese Fleszar was last seen alive walking home to her apartment in Ypsilanti, Michigan. One month later, her naked body—stabbed over thirty times and missing both feet and a forearm—was discovered, partially buried, on an abandoned farm. A year later, the body of twenty-year-old Joan Schell was found, similarly violated. Southeastern Michigan was terrorized by something it had never experienced before: a serial killer. Over the next two years, five more bodies were uncovered around Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan. All the victims were tortured and mutilated. All were female students. After multiple failed investigations, a chance sighting finally led to a suspect. On the surface, John Norman Collins was an all-American boy—a fraternity member studying elementary education at Eastern Michigan University. But Collins wasn’t all that he seemed. His female friends described him as aggressive and short tempered. And in August 1970, Collins, the “Ypsilanti Ripper,” was arrested, found guilty, and sentenced to life in prison without chance of parole. Written by the coauthor of *The French Connection*, *The Michigan Murders* delivers a harrowing depiction of the savage murders that tormented a small midwestern town.

a history of seven killings: So Much Things to Say: The Oral History of Bob Marley Roger Steffens, 2017-07-11 “Reggae’s chief eyewitness, dropping testimony on reggae’s chief prophet with truth, blood, and fire.” —Marlon James, Man Booker Prize-winning author Renowned reggae historian Roger Steffens’s riveting oral history of Bob Marley’s life draws on four decades of intimate interviews with band members, family, lovers, and confidants—many speaking publicly for the first time. Hailed by the New York Times Book Review as a “crucial voice” in the documentation of Marley’s legacy, Steffens spent years traveling with the Wailers and taking iconic photographs. Through eyewitness accounts of vivid scenes—the future star auditioning for Coxson Dodd; the violent confrontation between the Wailers and producer Lee Perry; the attempted assassination (and conspiracy theories that followed); the artist’s tragic death from cancer—*So Much Things to Say* tells Marley’s story like never before. What emerges is a legendary figure “who feels a bit more human” (The New Yorker).

a history of seven killings: Madeleine Is Sleeping Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, 2020-10-27 A National Book Award Finalist, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum’s enchanting and inventive first novel is a groundbreaking, contemporary classic When a girl falls into a mysterious, impenetrable sleep, the borders between her provincial French village and the peculiar, beguiling realm of her dreams begin to disappear: A fat woman sprouts delicate wings and takes flight; a failed photographer stumbles into the role of pornographer; a beautiful young wife grows to resemble her husband’s viol. Madeleine, the dreamer, travels in their midst, trying to make sense of her own metamorphosis. She

leaves home, joins a gypsy circus, and falls into an unexpected triangle of desire and love.

Embracing the earthy and the ethereal, the comical and the poignant, *Madeleine Is Sleeping* is part fairy tale, part coming-of-age story, and above all, an adventure in the discovery of art, sexuality, community, and the self.

a history of seven killings: *A Brief History of Seven Killings* Marlon James, 2014-10-02 Winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize One of Entertainment Weekly's Top 10 Books of the Decade One of the Top 10 Books of 2014 – Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* A “thrilling, ambitious . . . intense” (*Los Angeles Times*) novel that explores the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in the late 1970s, from the author of *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* In *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, Marlon James combines brilliant storytelling with his unrivaled skills of characterization and meticulous eye for detail to forge an enthralling novel of dazzling ambition and scope. On December 3, 1976, just before the Jamaican general election and two days before Bob Marley was to play the Smile Jamaica Concert to ease political tensions in Kingston, seven gunmen stormed the singer’s house, machine guns blazing. The attack wounded Marley, his wife, and his manager, and injured several others. Little was officially released about the gunmen, but much has been whispered, gossiped and sung about in the streets of West Kingston. Rumors abound regarding the assassins’ fates, and there are suspicions that the attack was politically motivated. *A Brief History of Seven Killings* delves deep into that dangerous and unstable time in Jamaica’s history and beyond. James deftly chronicles the lives of a host of unforgettable characters – gunmen, drug dealers, one-night stands, CIA agents, even ghosts – over the course of thirty years as they roam the streets of 1970s Kingston, dominate the crack houses of 1980s New York, and ultimately reemerge into the radically altered Jamaica of the 1990s. Along the way, they learn that evil does indeed cast long shadows, that justice and retribution are inextricably linked, and that no one can truly escape his fate. Gripping and inventive, shocking and irresistible, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is a mesmerizing modern classic of power, mystery, and insight.

a history of seven killings: *Shadowplay* Joseph O'Connor, 2020-06-16 A West End theater in London is shaken up by the crimes of Jack the Ripper in this novel by the New York Times-best-selling author of *The Star of the Sea*. Henry Irving is Victorian London’s most celebrated actor and theater impresario. He has introduced groundbreaking ideas to the theater, bringing to the stage performances that are spectacular, shocking, and always entertaining. When Irving decides to open his own London theater with the goal of making it the greatest playhouse on earth, he hires a young Dublin clerk harboring literary ambitions by the name of Bram Stoker to manage it. As Irving’s theater grows in reputation and financial solvency, he lures to his company of mummers the century’s most beloved actress, the dazzlingly talented leading lady Ellen Terry, who nightly casts a spell not only on her audiences but also on Stoker and Irving both. Bram Stoker’s extraordinary experiences at the Lyceum Theatre, his early morning walks on the streets of a London terrorized by a serial killer, his long, tempestuous relationship with Irving, and the closeness he finds with Ellen Terry, inspire him to write *Dracula*, the most iconic and best-selling supernatural tale ever published. A magnificent portrait both of lamp-lit London and of lives and loves enacted on the stage, *Shadowplay*’s rich prose, incomparable storytelling, and vivid characters will linger in readers’ hearts and minds for many years. “A vibrantly imaginative narrative of passion, intrigue and literary ambition set in the garish heyday of a theater. . . . Artfully splicing truth with fantasy, O’Connor has a glorious time turning a ramshackle and haunted London playhouse into a primary source for Stoker’s Gothic imaginings.” —Miranda Seymour, *The New York Times Book Review* “A gorgeously written historical novel about Stoker’s inner life. . . . I wasn’t prepared to be awed by his prose, which is so good you can taste it. . . . O’Connor dazzles.” —Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post* “And Mr. O’Connor’s main characters—Stoker, Irving and the beloved actress Ellen Terry—are so forcefully brought to life that when, close to tears, you reach this drama’s final page, you will return to the beginning just to remain in their company.” —Anna Mundow, *The Wall Street Journal* “This novel blows the dust off its Victorian trappings and brings them to scintillating life.” —Publishers Weekly, PW Picks, Starred Review FINALIST 2019 COSTA BOOK OF THE YEAR

FINALIST 2020 DALKEY LITERARY AWARD 2020 WALTER SCOTT PRIZE

a history of seven killings: American Tabloid James Ellroy, 2001-04-24 The internationally acclaimed author of the L.A. Quartet and The Underworld USA Trilogy, James Ellroy, presents another literary noir masterpiece of historical paranoia. We are behind, and below, the scenes of JFK's presidential election, the Bay of Pigs, the assassination--in the underworld that connects Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, D.C. . . . Where the CIA, the Mob, J. Edgar Hoover, Howard Hughes, Jimmy Hoffa, Cuban political exiles, and various loose cannons conspire in a covert anarchy . . . Where the right drugs, the right amount of cash, the right murder, buys a moment of a man's loyalty . . . Where three renegade law-enforcement officers--a former L.A. cop and two FBI agents--are shaping events with the virulence of their greed and hatred, riding full-blast shotgun into history. . . . James Ellroy's trademark nothing-spared rendering of reality, blistering language, and relentless narrative pace are here in electrifying abundance, put to work in a novel as shocking and daring as anything he's written: a secret history that zeroes in on a time still shrouded in secrets and blows it wide open.

a history of seven killings: A History of Murder Pieter Spierenburg, 2013-04-18 This book offers a fascinating and insightful overview of seven centuries of murder in Europe. It tells the story of the changing face of violence and documents the long-term decline in the incidence of homicide. From medieval vendettas to stylised duels, from the crime passionel of the modern period right up to recent public anxieties about serial killings and underworld assassinations, the book offers a richly illustrated account of murder's metamorphoses. In this original and compelling contribution, Spierenburg sheds new light on several important themes. He looks, for example, at the transformation of homicide from a private matter, followed by revenge or reconciliation, into a public crime, always subject to state intervention. Combining statistical data with a cultural approach, he demonstrates the crucial role gender played in the spiritualisation of male honour and the subsequent reduction of male-on-male aggression, as well as offering a comparative view of how different social classes practised and reacted to violence. This authoritative study will be of great value to students and scholars of the history of crime and violence, criminology and the sociology of violence. At a time when murder rates are rising and public fears about violent crime are escalating, this book will also interest the general reader intrigued by how our relationship with murder reached this point.

a history of seven killings: The Dead Yard Ian Thomson, 2011-03-29 Named the Dolman Travel Book of the Year, The Dead Yard paints an unforgettable portrait of modern Jamaica. Since independence, Jamaica has gradually become associated with twin images--a resort-style travel Eden for foreigners and a new kind of hell for Jamaicans, a society where gangs control the areas where most Jamaicans live and drug lords like Christopher Coke rule elites and the poor alike. Ian Thomson's brave book explores a country of lost promise, where America's hunger for drugs fuels a dependent economy and shadowy politics. The lauded birthplace of reggae and Bob Marley, Jamaica is now sunk in corruption and hopelessness. A synthesis of vital history and unflinching reportage, The Dead Yard is a fascinating account of a beautiful, treacherous country (Irish Times).

a history of seven killings: Heiresses Laura Thompson, 2022-02-15 New York Times bestselling author Laura Thompson returns with Heiresses, a fascinating look at the lives of heiresses throughout history and the often tragic truth beneath the gilded surface. Heiresses: surely they are among the luckiest women on earth. Are they not to be envied, with their private jets and Chanel wardrobes and endless funds? Yet all too often those gilded lives have been beset with trauma and despair. Before the 20th century a wife's inheritance was the property of her husband, making her vulnerable to kidnap, forced marriages, even confinement in an asylum. And in modern times, heiresses fell victim to fortune-hunters who squandered their millions. Heiresses tells the stories of these million dollar babies: Mary Davies, who inherited London's most valuable real estate, and was bartered from the age of twelve; Consuelo Vanderbilt, the original American "Dollar Heiress", forced into a loveless marriage; Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress who married seven times and died almost penniless; and Patty Hearst, heiress to a newspaper fortune who was arrested

for terrorism. However, there are also stories of independence and achievement: Angela Burdett-Coutts, who became one of the greatest philanthropists of Victorian England; Nancy Cunard, who lived off her mother's fortune and became a pioneer of the civil rights movement; and Daisy Fellowes, elegant linchpin of interwar high society and noted fashion editor. *Heiresses* is about the lives of the rich, who—as F. Scott Fitzgerald said—are ‘different’. But it is also a bigger story about how all women fought their way to equality, and sometimes even found autonomy and fulfillment.

a history of seven killings: Say Nothing Patrick Radden Keefe, 2020-02-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • SOON TO BE AN FX LIMITED SERIES STREAMING ON HULU • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • From the author of *Empire of Pain*—a stunning, intricate narrative about a notorious killing in Northern Ireland and its devastating repercussions. One of The New York Times’s 20 Best Books of the 21st Century Masked intruders dragged Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widow and mother of 10, from her Belfast home in 1972. In this meticulously reported book—as finely paced as a novel—Keefe uses McConville's murder as a prism to tell the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Interviewing people on both sides of the conflict, he transforms the tragic damage and waste of the era into a searing, utterly gripping saga. —New York Times Book Review Reads like a novel ... Keefe is ... a master of narrative nonfiction. . .An incredible story.—Rolling Stone A Best Book of the Year: The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, TIME, NPR, and more! Jean McConville's abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the I.R.A. was responsible. But in a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. In 2003, five years after an accord brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, a set of human bones was discovered on a beach. McConville's children knew it was their mother when they were told a blue safety pin was attached to the dress—with so many kids, she had always kept it handy for diapers or ripped clothes. Patrick Radden Keefe's mesmerizing book on the bitter conflict in Northern Ireland and its aftermath uses the McConville case as a starting point for the tale of a society wracked by a violent guerrilla war, a war whose consequences have never been reckoned with. The brutal violence seared not only people like the McConville children, but also I.R.A. members embittered by a peace that fell far short of the goal of a united Ireland, and left them wondering whether the killings they committed were not justified acts of war, but simple murders. From radical and impetuous I.R.A. terrorists such as Dolours Price, who, when she was barely out of her teens, was already planting bombs in London and targeting informers for execution, to the ferocious I.R.A. mastermind known as The Dark, to the spy games and dirty schemes of the British Army, to Gerry Adams, who negotiated the peace but betrayed his hardcore comrades by denying his I.R.A. past—Say Nothing conjures a world of passion, betrayal, vengeance, and anguish.

a history of seven killings: Beowulf , 2012-03-01 Finest heroic poem in Old English celebrates the exploits of Beowulf, a young nobleman of southern Sweden. Combines myth, Christian and pagan elements, and history into a powerful narrative. Genealogies.

a history of seven killings: A Death in Harlem Karla FC Holloway, 2019-09-15 In *A Death in Harlem*, famed scholar Karla FC Holloway weaves a mystery in the bon vivant world of the Harlem Renaissance. Taking as her point of departure the tantalizingly ambiguous “death by misadventure” at the climax of Nella Larsen’s *Passing*, Holloway accompanies readers to the sunlit boulevards and shaded sidestreets of Jazz Age New York. A murder there will test the mettle, resourcefulness, and intuition of Harlem’s first “colored” policeman, Weldon Haynie Thomas. Clear glass towers rising in Manhattan belie a city where people are often not what they seem. For some here, identity is a performance of passing—passing for another race, for another class, for someone safe to trust. Thomas’s investigation illuminates the societies and secret societies, the intricate code of manners, the world of letters, and the broad social currents of 1920s Harlem. *A Death in Harlem* is an exquisitely crafted, briskly paced, and impeccably stylish journey back to a time still remembered as a peak of American glamour. It introduces Holloway as a fresh voice in storytelling, and Weldon Haynie Thomas as an endearing and unforgettable detective.

a history of seven killings: Emotional Inheritance Galit Atlas, 2022-01-25 Award-winning

psychoanalyst Dr. Galit Atlas draws on her patients' stories—and her own life experiences—to shed light on how generational trauma affects our lives in this intimate, textured, compassionate book (Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of *The Healing Power of Mindfulness*). The people we love and those who raised us live inside us; we experience their emotional pain, we dream their memories, and these things shape our lives in ways we don't always recognize. *Emotional Inheritance* is about family secrets that keep us from living to our full potential, create gaps between what we want for ourselves and what we are able to have, and haunt us like ghosts. In this transformative book, Galit Atlas entwines the stories of her patients, her own stories, and decades of research to help us identify the links between our life struggles and the “emotional inheritance” we all carry. For it is only by following the traces those ghosts leave that we can truly change our destiny.

a history of seven killings: *Hurricane Season* Fernanda Melchor, 2020-10-06 The English-language debut of one of the most thrilling and accomplished young Mexican writers Winner of the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute's Translation Prize Longlisted for the National Book Award Shortlisted for the Booker Prize Winner of the Internationaler Literaturpreis New York Public Library Best Books of 2020 Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2020 *The Witch is dead*. And the discovery of her corpse has the whole village investigating the murder. As the novel unfolds in a dazzling linguistic torrent, with each unreliable narrator lingering on new details, new acts of depravity or brutality, Melchor extracts some tiny shred of humanity from these characters—innies whom most people would write off as irredeemable—forming a lasting portrait of a damned Mexican village. Like Roberto Bolaño's 2666 or Faulkner's novels, *Hurricane Season* takes place in a world saturated with mythology and violence—real violence, the kind that seeps into the soil, poisoning everything around: it's a world that becomes more and more terrifying the deeper you explore it.

a history of seven killings: *The Amityville Horror* Jay Anson, 2019-12-03 “A fascinating and frightening book” (Los Angeles Times)—the bestselling true story about a house possessed by evil spirits, haunted by psychic phenomena almost too terrible to describe. In December 1975, the Lutz family moved into their new home on suburban Long Island. George and Kathleen Lutz knew that, one year earlier, Ronald DeFeo had murdered his parents, brothers, and sisters in the house, but the property—complete with boathouse and swimming pool—and the price had been too good to pass up. Twenty-eight days later, the entire Lutz family fled in terror. This is the spellbinding, shocking true story that gripped the nation about an American dream that turned into a nightmare beyond imagining—“this book will scare the hell out of you” (Kansas City Star).

a history of seven killings: *Kingston Noir* Colin Channer, 2012-05-29 “Subverts the simplistic sunshine/reggae/spliff-smoking image of Jamaica at almost every turn . . . with a rich interplay of geographies and themes.” —Los Angeles Times From Trench Town to Half Way Tree to Norbrook to Portmore and beyond, the stories of *Kingston Noir* shine light into the darkest corners of this fabled city. Joining award-winning Jamaican authors such as Marlon James, Leone Ross, and Thomas Glave are two “special guest” writers with no Jamaican lineage: Nigerian-born Chris Abani and British writer Ian Thomson. The menacing tone that runs through some of these stories is counterbalanced by the clever humor in others, such as Kei Miller's “White Gyal with a Camera,” who softens even the hardest of August Town's gangsters; and Mr. Brown, the private investigator in Kwame Dawes's story, who explains why his girth works to his advantage: “In Jamaica a woman like a big man. She can see he is prosperous, and that he can be in charge.” Together—with more contributions from Patricia Powell, Colin Channer, Marcia Douglas, and Christopher John Farley—the outstanding tales in *Kingston Noir* comprise the best volume of short fiction ever to arise from the literary wellspring that is Jamaica. “Thoroughly well-written stories . . . fans of noir will enjoy this batch of sordid tales set in the sweltering heat of the tropics.” —Publishers Weekly “An eclectic and gritty mélange of tales that sears the imagination . . . *Kingston Noir* proves its worth as a quintessential piece of West Indian literature—rich, artistic, timeless, and above all, draped in unmistakable realism.” —The Gleaner (Jamaica)

a history of seven killings: *Killings* Calvin Trillin, 2017 Originally published: New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1984.

a history of seven killings: *Blood Meridian* Cormac McCarthy, 2010-08-11 25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION • From the bestselling author of *The Passenger* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Road*: an epic novel of the violence and depravity that attended America's westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the Wild West. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, *Blood Meridian* traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into the nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest bestselling novels, *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*.

a history of seven killings: *Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel* Dan Ephron, 2015-10-19 Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History and one of the New York Times's 100 Notable Books of the Year. The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin remains the single most consequential event in Israel's recent history, and one that fundamentally altered the trajectory for both Israel and the Palestinians. In *Killing a King*, Dan Ephron relates the parallel stories of Rabin and his stalker, Yigal Amir, over the two years leading up to the assassination, as one of them planned political deals he hoped would lead to peace, and the other plotted murder. Carefully reported, clearly presented, concise and gripping, It stands as a reminder that what happened on a Tel Aviv sidewalk 20 years ago is as important to understanding Israel as any of its wars (Matti Friedman, *The Washington Post*).

a history of seven killings: *Kintu* Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, 2018-01-25 'Ugandan literature can boast of an international superstar in Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi' *Economist* An award-winning debut that vividly reimagines Uganda's troubled history through the cursed bloodline of the Kintu clan In this epic tale of fate, fortune and legacy, Jennifer Makumbi vibrantly brings to life this corner of Africa and this colourful family as she reimagines the history of Uganda through the cursed bloodline of the Kintu clan. The year is 1750. Kintu Kidu sets out for the capital to pledge allegiance to the new leader of the Buganda kingdom. Along the way he unleashes a curse that will plague his family for generations. Blending oral tradition, myth, folktale and history, Makumbi weaves together the stories of Kintu's descendants as they seek to break free from the burden of their past to produce a majestic tale of clan and country – a modern classic.

a history of seven killings: *How to Love a Jamaican* Alexia Arthurs, 2018-07-24 "In these kaleidoscopic stories of Jamaica and its diaspora we hear many voices at once. All of them convince and sing. All of them shine."—Zadie Smith *An O: The Oprah Magazine* "Top 15 Best of the Year" • A Well-Read Black Girl Pick Tenderness and cruelty, loyalty and betrayal, ambition and regret—Alexia Arthurs navigates these tensions to extraordinary effect in her debut collection about Jamaican immigrants and their families back home. Sweeping from close-knit island communities to the streets of New York City and midwestern university towns, these eleven stories form a portrait of a nation, a people, and a way of life. In "Light-Skinned Girls and Kelly Rowlands," an NYU student befriends a fellow Jamaican whose privileged West Coast upbringing has blinded her to the hard realities of race. In "Mash Up Love," a twin's chance sighting of his estranged brother—the prodigal son of the family—stirs up unresolved feelings of resentment. In "Bad Behavior," a couple leave their wild teenage daughter with her grandmother in Jamaica, hoping the old ways will straighten her out. In "Mermaid River," a Jamaican teenage boy is reunited with his mother in New York after eight years apart. In "The Ghost of Jia Yi," a recently murdered student haunts a despairing Jamaican athlete recruited to an Iowa college. And in "Shirley from a Small Place," a world-famous pop star retreats to her mother's big new house in Jamaica, which still holds the power to restore something vital. Alexia Arthurs emerges in this vibrant, lyrical, intimate collection as one of fiction's most dynamic and essential authors. Praise for *How to Love a Jamaican* "A sublime short-story collection from newcomer Alexia Arthurs that explores, through various characters, a specific strand of the immigrant experience."—*Entertainment Weekly* "With its singular mix of psychological precision and sun-kissed lyricism, this dazzling debut marks the emergence of a knockout new voice."—*O: The Oprah Magazine* "Gorgeous, tender, heartbreaking stories . . . Arthurs is a witty, perceptive, and generous writer, and this is a book that will last."—Carmen Maria Machado, author of *Her Body and*

Other Parties "Vivid and exciting . . . every story rings beautifully true."—Marie Claire

a history of seven killings: Dungeon Crawler Carl Matt Dinniman, 2024-08-27 The apocalypse will be televised! Welcome to the first book in the wildly popular and addictive Dungeon Crawler Carl series by Matt Dinniman—now with bonus material exclusive to this print edition. You know what's worse than breaking up with your girlfriend? Being stuck with her prize-winning show cat. And you know what's worse than that? An alien invasion, the destruction of all man-made structures on Earth, and the systematic exploitation of all the survivors for a sadistic intergalactic game show. That's what. Join Coast Guard vet Carl and his ex-girlfriend's cat, Princess Donut, as they try to survive the end of the world—or just get to the next level—in a video game-like, trap-filled fantasy dungeon. A dungeon that's actually the set of a reality television show with countless viewers across the galaxy. Exploding goblins. Magical potions. Deadly, drug-dealing llamas. This ain't your ordinary game show. Welcome, Crawler. Welcome to the Dungeon. Survival is optional. Keeping the viewers entertained is not. Includes part one of the exclusive bonus story "Backstage at the Pineapple Cabaret."

a history of seven killings: Born Fi' Dead Laurie Gunst, 1996-03-15 Of the ethnic gangs that rule America's inner cities, none has had the impact of the Jamaican posses. Spawned in the ghettos of Kingston as mercenary street-fighters for the island's politicians, the posses began migrating to the United States in the early 1980's, just in time to catch and ride the crack wave as it engulfed the country. Laurie Gunst's provocative exposé of the Jamaican politicians' role in creating this problem is also a moving and compelling tale of suffering and exploitation. Leone Ross' substantial afterword examines further the issues raised by the book from a British and Jamaican perspective. --Back cover.

a history of seven killings: Inside the CIA's Secret War in Jamaica Casey Gane-McCalla, 2016-01-26 Inside The CIA's Secret War In Jamaica tells the story of the campaign from the United States to destabilize the Michael Manley government in 1976 due to his ties to Fidel Castro. The book covers the rise of violence between the PNP (People's National Party) and the JLP (Jamaica Labor Party), the assassination attempt of Bob Marley, and the rise of the Jamaica Shower Posse and its ties to the CIA. Gane-McCalla also takes an in-depth look into the events leading up to 1976 for both the CIA and the country of Jamaica including Jamaica's history of pirates and slave rebellions, and its road to independence. To understand the nature and history of the CIA, the book gets to the bottom of the John F. Kennedy assassination, Watergate, CIA heroin smuggling in Laos during the Vietnam War, and cocaine trafficking during Iran-Contra, which involved the same players who were involved in destabilizing Jamaica.

a history of seven killings: Cold Comfort Farm Clare West, Stella Gibbons, 1998-01-01 A school reader for secondary pupils, in the OXFORD BOOKWORMS. BLACK SERIES STAGE 6. This new series offers students at all levels the opportunity to extend their reading and appreciation of English.

a history of seven killings: Songs of Jamaica Claude McKay, 2021-05-28 Songs of Jamaica (1912) is a poetry collection by Claude McKay. Published before the poet left Jamaica for the United States, Songs of Jamaica is a pioneering collection of verse written in Jamaican Patois, the first of its kind. As a committed leftist, McKay was a keen observer of the Black experience in the Caribbean, the American South, and later in New York, where he gained a reputation during the Harlem Renaissance for celebrating the resilience and cultural achievement of the African American community while lamenting the poverty and violence they faced every day. "Quashie to Buccra," the opening poem, frames this schism in terms of labor, as one class labors to fulfill the desires of another: "You tas'e petater an' you say it sweet, / But you no know how hard we wuk fe it; / You want a basketful fe quattiewut, / 'Cause you no know how 'tiff de bush fe cut." Addressing himself to a white audience, he exposes the schism inherent to colonial society between white and black, rich and poor. Advising his white reader to question their privileged consumption, dependent as it is on the subjugation of Jamaica's black community, McKay warns that "hardship always melt away / Wheneber it comes roun' to reapin' day." This revolutionary sentiment carries throughout Songs of

Jamaica, finding an echo in the brilliant poem “Whe’ fe do?” Addressed to his own people, McKay offers hope for a brighter future to come: “We needn’ fold we han’ an’ cry, / Nor vex we heart wid groan and sigh; / De best we can do is fe try / To fight de despair drawin’ night: / Den we might conquer by an’ by— / Dat we might do.” With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Claude McKay’s *Songs of Jamaica* is a classic of Jamaican literature reimagined for modern readers.

a history of seven killings: *The Four Humors* Mina Seckin, 2022-11-08 This wry and visceral debut novel follows a young Turkish-American woman who, rather than grieving her father's untimely death, seeks treatment for a stubborn headache and grows obsessed with a centuries-old theory of medicine. [A] humane and refreshingly astringent novel. —Lauren LeBlanc, *The New York Times Book Review* Twenty-year-old Sibel thought she had concrete plans for the summer. She would care for her grandmother in Istanbul, visit her father’s grave, and study for the MCAT. Instead, she finds herself watching Turkish soap operas and self-diagnosing her own possible chronic illness with the four humors theory of ancient medicine. Also on Sibel’s mind: her blond American boyfriend who accompanies her to Turkey; her energetic but distraught younger sister; and her devoted grandmother, who, Sibel comes to learn, carries a harrowing secret. Delving into her family’s history, the narrative weaves through periods of political unrest in Turkey, from military coups to the Gezi Park protests. Told with pathos and humor, Sibel’s search for strange and unusual cures is disrupted as she begins to see how she might heal herself through the care of others, including her own family and its long-fractured relationships.

a history of seven killings: *The Year of the Runaways* Sunjeev Sahota, 2016-03-29 Short-listed for the 2015 Man Booker Prize *The Guardian*: The Best Novels of 2015 *The Independent*: Literary Fiction of the Year 2015 From one of Granta’s Best of Young British Novelists and Man Booker Prize nominee Sunjeev Sahota—a sweeping, urgent contemporary epic, set against a vast geographical and historical canvas, astonishing for its richness and texture and scope, and for the utter immersiveness of its reading experience. Three young men, and one unforgettable woman, come together in a journey from India to England, where they hope to begin something new—to support their families; to build their futures; to show their worth; to escape the past. They have almost no idea what awaits them. In a dilapidated shared house in Sheffield, Tarlochan, a former rickshaw driver, will say nothing about his life in Bihar. Avtar and Randeep are middle-class boys whose families are slowly sinking into financial ruin, bound together by Avtar’s secret. Randeep, in turn, has a visa wife across town, whose cupboards are full of her husband’s clothes in case the immigration agents surprise her with a visit. She is Narinder, and her story is the most surprising of them all. *The Year of the Runaways* unfolds over the course of one shattering year in which the destinies of these four characters become irreversibly entwined, a year in which they are forced to rely on one another in ways they never could have foreseen, and in which their hopes of breaking free of the past are decimated by the punishing realities of immigrant life. A novel of extraordinary ambition and authority, about what it means and what it costs to make a new life—about the capaciousness of the human spirit, and the resurrection of tenderness and humanity in the face of unspeakable suffering.

a history of seven killings: *Murder in Montego Bay* Paula Lennon, 2017-06 First book in the exceptional new detective series set in Montego Bay, Jamaica with two memorable lead protagonists: Jamaican detective Ray Preddy and Glaswegian detective Sean Harris. In Montego Bay, Jamaica, privileged Chinese-Jamaican brothers Lester and Carter Chin Ellis have enjoyed a sheltered life as the heirs to the iced desserts empire Chinchillerz. One fateful night, following a fiery encounter with local law enforcement the brothers are taken to Pelican Walk Police Station, where Lester is detained for drunk driving, while Carter is released without charge. Within minutes of leaving the station Carter is shot dead in a drive-by, while his brother Lester is brutally assaulted in his cell. Discredited Detective Raytheon Preddy is put in charge of the case and is forced to accept the assistance of Detective Sean Harris, a Scottish lawman seconded to Jamaica. With his superiors watching his every move and the Chin Ellis family interfering with the investigation, Preddy is

determined to catch the killer and save his career. A veritable blockbuster of a crime novel Peter Kalu, author of *Yard Dogs*

a history of seven killings: [American Harvest](#) Marie Mutsuki Mockett, 2020-04-07 An epic story of the American wheat harvest, the politics of food, and the culture of the Great Plains For over one hundred years, the Mockett family has owned a seven-thousand-acre wheat farm in the panhandle of Nebraska, where Marie Mutsuki Mockett's father was raised. Mockett, who grew up in bohemian Carmel, California, with her father and her Japanese mother, knew little about farming when she inherited this land. Her father had all but forsworn it. In *American Harvest*, Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the heartland at the invitation of Eric Wolgemuth, the conservative farmer who has cut her family's fields for decades. As Mockett follows Wolgemuth's crew on the trail of ripening wheat from Texas to Idaho, they contemplate what Wolgemuth refers to as "the divide," inadvertently peeling back layers of the American story to expose its contradictions and unhealed wounds. She joins the crew in the fields, attends church, and struggles to adapt to the rhythms of rural life, all the while continually reminded of her own status as a person who signals "not white," but who people she encounters can't quite categorize. *American Harvest* is an extraordinary evocation of the land and a thoughtful exploration of ingrained beliefs, from evangelical skepticism of evolution to cosmopolitan assumptions about food production and farming. With exquisite lyricism and humanity, this astonishing book attempts to reconcile competing versions of our national story.

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