



Banana Bottom

Claude McKay

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A Jamaican girl, Bitia Plant, who was adopted and sent to be educated in England by white missionary benefactors, returns to her native village of Banana Bottom and finds her black heritage at war with her newly acquired culture.

Banana Bottom Details

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From Reader Review Banana Bottom for online ebook

Jee Koh says

Banana Bottom by Claude McKay is an interesting Caribbean and post-colonial take on the traditional marriage plot. Black girl educated in England returns to urban/rural Jamaica. McKay's feeling for the instincts, for the value of sensual and social spontaneity, without discounting the sensitizing effect of books and learning, is right up my street.

Ruth says

Claude McKay wrote fantastic stories. Like McKay's earlier novel Banjo, this story can successfully transport a reader to another culture in another time. I enjoyed the detailed description of life in a Caribbean village and the romantic storyline. I felt that the characters were drawn without as much internal depth as in _Banjo_, though. Also, I felt that larger themes about cultural identity and cultural conflict were much more hidden in this book than in _Banjo_.

Alliyah says

It took me a while to get into this, but once I did I could really appreciate the beautiful mellow prose and the often non-fiction like descriptions. McKay brings to light the reality of the shade problem in Jamaica and also allows the reader to fall in love with rural Jamaica. Its soil and it's farms. Its natural vegetation and it's customs. A lovely read!

Linda says

Published 1933. Racial relations in Jamaica.

Helen Ladson says

Excellent read. Full of twist and turns. Claude McKay is not only a great poet he's an amazing author as well!

Laura says

The first book I read for my graduate Caribbean Literature course. It was rather involving and interesting to see how certain events in Bita's life brought on this amazing journey. But most interesting is the dualism between Bita's roots and her acquired English ways. A wonderful novel, but the ending left me wanting more

of it.

Yulande Lindsay says

Reading Banana Bottom for the sixth time has only served to cement it as one my absolutely favourite works of fiction. Claude McKay's exploration of the socio-cultural issues that ruled Jamaica during the early 20th century emphasises that much has changed in Jamaica and yet much has remained the same. The story of Bitia Plant is the universal one of the individual vs the society: who one truly is in contrast to what is expected. I recommend this to anyone without reservation.

Michael Cress says

Love McKay so much. The imagery and descriptions of the Caribbean landscape in this novel transport you there...he crafts it flawlessly. I authored a research paper on McKay entitled "From Blue Seas to Mango Trees: The Link Between Caribbean Paradise and African-American Pride" in which I focused on Bitia Plant's concentration on the nature around her; the lush landscapes and the beautiful surroundings in which she lived provided her the pride to thrive. Bitia's in-betweenism in regard to her British exile and her return to Banana Bottom provides a fascinating conflict...Loved loved loved this book.

Kay says

Every time I read this book I am captured by the details of landscape and struggle faced by Caribbean people within the diaspora. As relevant today as ever!

Melissa says

3.5 stars

rebekah says

This was a gift from my Jamaican father in law, the title is obviously awesome. Claude McKay is a Jamaican writer that was big in the Harlem Renaissance. This book is the story of a country girl that gets adopted by some missionaries that have her educated in London and she comes back to her home town of Banana Bottom and causes a ruckus cuz everyone wants that refined booty. I enjoyed reading it for historical purposes.
