

"Mesmerizing.... Clarke's heroine...
begins a murder confession... steeped in slavery,
colonialism, and sexual exploitation."

—*New York Times Book Review*

WINNER OF THE
GILLER PRIZE

THE POLISHED HOE

Austin
Clarke

A NOVEL

Polished Hoe A Novel

Austin Clarke



Polished Hoe A Novel:

The Polished Hoe Austin Clarke, 2003-09-03 Winner of the 2002 Scotiabank Giller Prize and of the 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize Best Book Canada and the Caribbean When an elderly Bimshire village woman calls the police to confess to a murder the result is a shattering all night vigil that brings together elements of the African diaspora in one epic sweep Set on the post colonial West Indian island of Bimshire in 1952 The Polished Hoe unravels over the course of 24 hours but spans the lifetime of one woman and the collective experience of a society informed by slavery As the novel opens Mary Mathilda is giving confession to Sargeant a police officer she has known all her life The man she claims to have murdered is Mr Belfeels the village plantation owner for whom she has worked for more than thirty years Mary has also been Mr Belfeels mistress for most of that time and is the mother of his only son Wilberforce a successful doctor What transpires through Mary s words and recollections is a deep meditation about the power of memory and the indomitable strength of the human spirit Infused with Joycean overtones this is a literary masterpiece that evokes the sensuality of the tropics and the tragic richness of Island culture

The Polished Hoe Austin Clarke, 2003 *The Austin Clarke Library* Austin Clarke, 2015-08-22 Gathered together are three extraordinary books by renowned storyteller and memoirist Austin Clarke Membering Clarke s breathtaking memoir spans over fifty years of his life as a writer chronicling his coming to Canada in the fifties formative experiences with Malcolm X Chinua Achebe and LeRoi Jones and bursting with cultural insights and poignant memories from a narrative master In The Polished Hoe winner of the Giller Prize and the 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize when an elderly Bimshire village woman calls the police to confess to a murder the result is a shattering all night vigil that brings together elements of the African diaspora in one epic sweep Set on the post colonial West Indian island of Bimshire in 1952 The Polished Hoe unravels over the course of 24 hours but spans the lifetime of one woman and the collective experience of a society informed by slavery Choosing His Coffin is a selection of Clarke s finest work from more than forty years of storytelling drawing on his Caribbean roots and his years in Canada These stories range in theme from growing up in West Indian society and what it means to be black in both the United States and Canada to surviving as an immigrant in a predominantly Anglo Saxon culture

The Polished Hoe Austin Clarke, 2022-09-27 This is a literary masterpiece that evokes the sensuality of the tropics and the tragic richness of Island culture *More* Austin Clarke, 2009-09-15 At the news of her son BJ s involvement in gang crime Idora Morrison a maid at the local university collapses in her basement apartment For four days and nights she retreats into a vortex of memory pain and disappointment that becomes a riveting expos of her life as a Caribbean immigrant living abroad While she struggled to make ends meet her deadbeat husband Bertram abandoned her for a better life in New York Left alone to raise her son Idora has done her best to survive against immense odds But now that BJ has disappeared into a life of crime she recoils from his loss and is unable to get out of bed burdened by feelings of invisibility As she summons the strength to investigate her son s troubles and her own weaknesses the book quietly builds to its crescendo

Eventually Idora finds her way back into the light with a courage that is both remarkable and unforgettable More zeroes in with laserlike intensity on the interior life of an extraordinary ordinary woman showcasing Clarke's skill as a writer of inimitable force *Page Fright* Harry Bruce, 2009-09-22 A witty round up of writers' habits that includes all the big names such as Dickens Flaubert Tolstoy Hemingway At public events readers always ask writers how they write The process fascinates them Now they have a very witty book that ranges around the world and throughout history to answer their questions All the great writers are here Dickens dashing off his work Henry James dictating it Flaubert shouting each word aloud in the garden Hemingway at work in cafés with his pencil But pencil or pen trusty typewriter or computer they all have their advocates Not to mention the writers who can only keep the words flowing by writing naked or while walking or listening to music and generally obeying the most bizarre superstitions On Shakespeare's works Fantastic And it was all done with a feather Sam Goldwyn I write nude seated on a thick towel and perhaps with a second towel around me Paul West I've never heard of anyone getting plumber's block or traffic cop's block Allan Gurganus I'm a drinker with a writing problem Brendan Behan **Notable Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans** Serafín Méndez-Méndez, Gail Cueto, 2003-07-30 This is the first major biographical dictionary devoted exclusively to celebrating Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans who have made significant contributions to their society and beyond More than 160 profiles feature historical and contemporary figures from every Caribbean island the United States and even England and Canada and from a diverse range of fields such as acting sports political activism and more Selection criteria included the notable demonstration of a Caribbean ethos or style combined with a lasting and novel impact Individual narrative entries discuss family background education challenges and achievements The breadth of coverage in *Notable Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans* will enlighten and inspire students and general readers alike Many lesser known role models such as labor activist and educator Antonia Pantoja and political philosopher Frantz Fanon are presented along with engaging portraits of better known personalities like reggae superstar Bob Marley and baseball great Sammy Sosa Bibliographical sources for further research complement each entry A wide selection of photographs accompanies the text **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 [Afro-Greeks](#) Emily

Greenwood,2010-01-28 An exploration of the reception of Classics in the English speaking Caribbean Emily Greenwood argues that writers such as Kamau Brathwaite C L R James V S Naipaul and Derek Walcott have successfully adapted Classics to the cultural context of the Caribbean creating a distinctive tradition Postcolonial Postmortems Christine Matzke,Susanne Muehleisen,2006 Recent crime fiction increasingly transcends national boundaries with investigators operating across countries and continents Frequently the detective is a migrant or comes from a transcultural background To solve the crime the investigator is called upon to decipher the meaning s hidden in clues and testimonies that require transcultural forms of understanding For the reader the investigation discloses new interpretive methods and processes of social investigation often challenging facile interpretations of the postcolonial world order Under the rubric postcolonial postmortems this collection of essays seeks to explore the tropes issues and themes that characterise this emergent form of crime fiction But what does the postcolonial bring to the genre apart from the well known and valid discourses of resistance subversion and ethnicity And why postmortems A dissection and medical examination of a body to determine the cause of death the postmortem of the postcolonial not only alludes to the investigation of the victim s remains but also to the body of the individual text and its contexts This collection interrogates literary concepts of postcoloniality and crime from transcultural perspectives in the attempt to offer new critical impulses to the study of crime fiction and postcolonial literatures International scholars offer insights into the postcolonial postmortems of a wide range of texts by authors from Africa South Asia the Asian and African Diaspora and Australia including Robert G Barrett Unity Dow Wessel Ebersohn Romesh Gunsekera Kazuo Ishiguro Sujata Massey Alexander McCall Smith and Michael Ondaatje

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