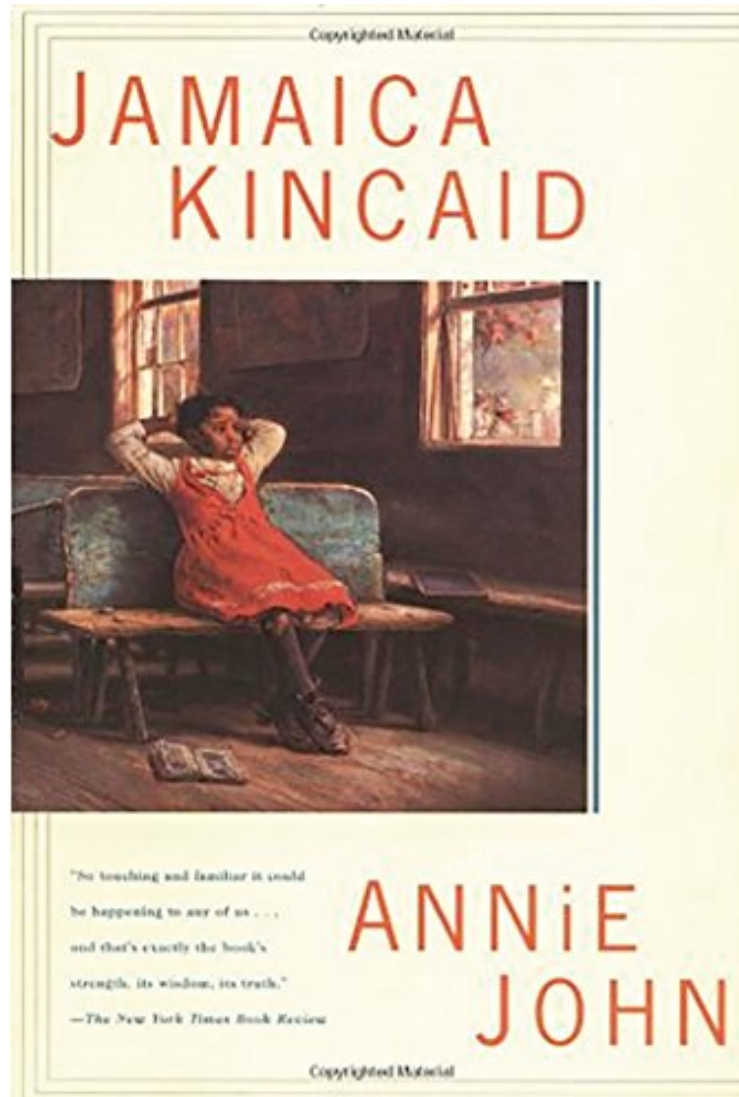


[DOWNLOAD] Annie John: A Novel

## Annie John: A Novel

Von Jamaica Kincaid

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**Von Jamaica Kincaid : Annie John: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Annie John: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brutally honest confessions of growing up painsVon Ein KundeJamaica Kincaid's "Annie John" is an easy book to read. It is written in plain simple language and is so direct and brutal in its honesty you cannot but marvel at the courage and integrity of its author. The "no bull@#\$t, warts and all styled" confessions of Annie John is prickly and edgy. You may even feel uncomfortable or negatively towards her. However you look at it, her growing resentment and

alienation from her mother cannot be sufficiently explained by the developing sexual tension between the two women. It's inexplicable and that's the point. Kincaid is almost unapologetic about Annie's slyness, deception and faithlessness towards those around her. The emotional turbulence of adolescence, in particular the deep dark secrets of a little black girl growing up in Antigua, isn't an easy subject to tackle but Kincaid is in commanding form throughout and deals with it in a most arresting manner. There's also some great humour in there, like the "breadfruit" episode which makes the smile of Annie's mother resemble that of a crocodile. Sure, some of us may feel ambivalent towards Annie as she sets sail for England, but there's a startling honesty about Kincaid's insights into the heart of a bright young girl desperate to burst out of the confines of her home that is simply undeniable. Therein lies the value of this little book. Definitely worth checking out.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Dark Side of a Girl's Coming of AgeVon Plume45This book is not particularly for kids, although teenage girls may well identify with Annie's painful process of emotional disengagement with her lovely mother. In 8 slightly related vignettes Jamaica Kincaid bares her soul, as she recounts her psychological journey from adoring only-daughter of 10, into a resentful and rebellious teenager. Raised on the island nation of Antigua in the West Indies, Annie is very bright though somewhat small for her age. She impresses her teachers with her quick mind; she is immediately noticed by her new classmates as well, but they gradually realize her penchant for mischief, which increases to a general defiance of authority. Alas, as she matures Annie develops a dark side--weaving a web of lies, deceit, theft and flagrant disobedience. As a child she is surprised that even children can die; perhaps she is shocked by the death of her own childhood innocence. As a preteen she has secret or sudden friendships of incredible intensity; she is tormented by the desire for her body to ripen (lying top-naked under a full moon might help) and later by the jeers of older boys. Most of all Annie practices a secret life nurtured in her own devious mind, as her feelings of love and respect for her mother are twisted into veiled hatred--an un verbalized enmity of long-standing, which may be inevitable when women (which she desperately wants to become) are at war. Is this the only way she can proclaim her own identity, by this cruel and silent antagonism before a father who seems not to notice? Annie also wrestles with: conflicting beliefs about black magic; a terrifying protracted illness of both mind and body; and her confusion about her older father's sexuality. Walking the tightrope between modern ideas and centuries of voodoo practice, she despairs of escaping the confines of her island home. Must she travel to distant England in order to reclaim the right to her own womanhood? This is not a sympathetic protagonist, yet her inner struggle touches a poignant spring in the hearts of all women who have grappled with the jealousy of maturation. ANNIE JOHN is amusing in parts, deeply provocative, and relevant to the universal woman, but with a distinctly dark side.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I really enjoyed this book.Von Ein KundeI had no intention of writing a review for this book (or any other for that matter), but after reading how severely some of the readers panned this book, I decided to weigh in. I will admit that I did not choose this book. My roommate in college was an ethnic studies major and she gave me a list of books that she had read in her college career that she thought I should read. The list included *Beloved*, *The Bluest Eye* and others. This was certainly one of my favorites (followed closely by *Their Eyes were Watching God*). I found this book to be fresh and interesting and contrary to some reviews, I didn't think this book's appeal was limited to those interested in Antigua at all. I will admit that I haven't read the book in a while but I still remember vividly some of the descriptions. I especially enjoyed the way the main character's mind worked. She had a refreshing and peculiar way of viewing the world. I really enjoyed this book and this is not a genre of books that I normally read at all. Additionally, I recommended this book to my mother (who generally reads Michael Crichton, et al) and she really liked it, too.

KurzbeschreibungAnnie John is a haunting and provocative story of a young girl growing up on the island of Antigua. A classic coming-of-age story in the tradition of *The Catcher in the Rye* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Kincaid's novel focuses on a universal, tragic, and often comic theme: the loss of childhood. Annie's voiceurgent, demanding to be heardis one that will not soon be forgotten by readers.An adored only child, Annie has until recently lived an idyllic life. She is inseparable from her beautiful mother, a powerful presence, who is the very center of the little girl's existence. Loved and cherished, Annie grows and thrives within her mother's benign shadow. Looking back on her childhood, she reflects, "It was in such a paradise that I lived." When she turns twelve, however, Annie's life changes, in ways that are often mysterious to her. She begins to question the cultural assumptions of her island world; at school she instinctively rebels against authority; and most frighteningly, her mother, seeing Annie as a "young lady," ceases to be the source of unconditional adoration and takes on the new and unfamiliar guise of adversary. At the end of her school years, Annie decides to leave Antigua and her family, but not without a measure of sorrow, especially for the mother she once knew and never ceases to mourn. "For I could not be sure," she reflects, "whether for the rest of my life I would be able to tell when it was really my mother and when it was really her shadow standing between me and the rest of the world."deJamaica Kincaid beautifully delineates hatred and fear, because she knows they are often a step away from love and obsession. At the start of *Annie John*, her 10-year-old heroine is engulfed in family happiness and safety. Though Annie loves her father, she is all eyes for her mother. When she is almost 12,

however, the idyll ends and she falls into deep disfavor. This inexplicable loss mars both lives, as each grows adept at public falsity and silent betrayal. The pattern is set, and extended: "And now I started a new series of betrayals of people and things I would have sworn only minutes before to die for." In front of Annie's father and the world, "We were politeness and kindness and love and laughter." Alone they are linked in loathing. Annie tries to imagine herself as someone in a book--an orphan or a girl with a wicked stepmother. The trouble is, she finds, those characters' lives always end happily. Luckily for us, though not perhaps for her alter ego, Kincaid is too truthful a writer to provide such a finale. Pressestimmen "So touching and familiar it could be happening to any of us . . . and that's exactly the book's strength, its wisdom, its truth." --"The New York Times Book " "So neon-bright that the traditional story of a young girl's passage into adolescence takes on a shimmering strangeness." --Elaine Kendall, "The Los Angeles Times " So touching and familiar it could be happening to any of us . . . and that's exactly the book's strength, its wisdom, its truth. "The New York Times Book " So neon-bright that the traditional story of a young girl's passage into adolescence takes on a shimmering strangeness. "Elaine Kendall, The Los Angeles Times"" "So touching and familiar it could be happening to any of us . . . and that's exactly the book's strength, its wisdom, its truth." --The New York Times Book "So neon-bright that the traditional story of a young girl's passage into adolescence takes on a shimmering strangeness." --Elaine Kendall, The Los Angeles Times