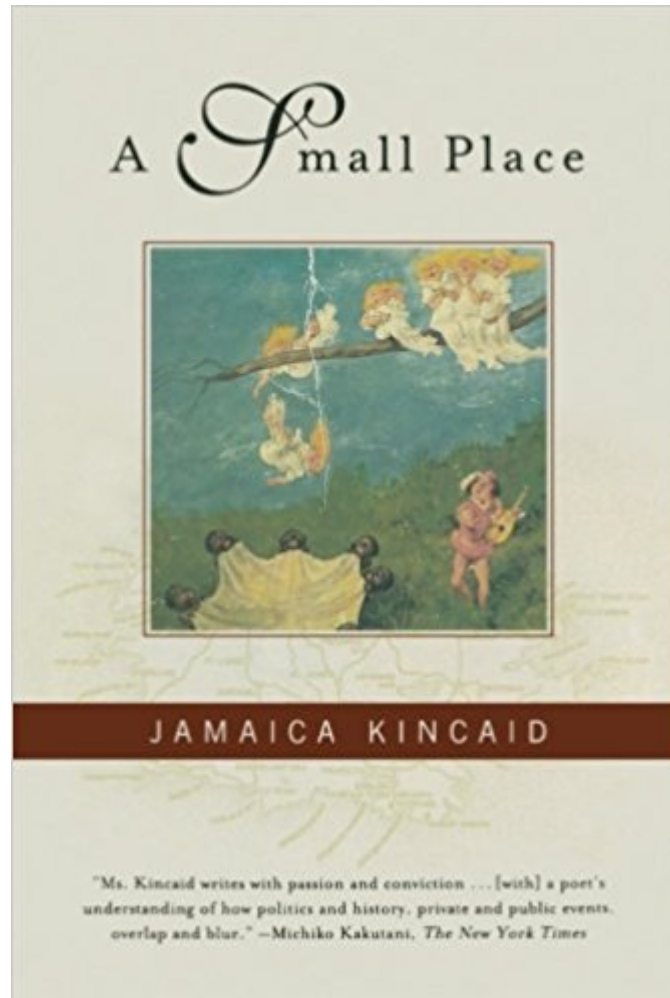




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A Small Place



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Synopsis

A brilliant look at colonialism and its effects in Antigua--by the author of *Annie John*"If you go to Antigua as a tourist, this is what you will see. If you come by aeroplane, you will land at the V. C. Bird International Airport. Vere Cornwall (V. C.) Bird is the Prime Minister of Antigua. You may be the sort of tourist who would wonder why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him--why not a school, why not a hospital, why not some great public monument. You are a tourist and you have not yet seen . . ."So begins Jamaica Kincaid's expansive essay, which shows us what we have not yet seen of the ten-by-twelve-mile island in the British West Indies where she grew up. Lyrical, sardonic, and forthright by turns, in a Swiftian mode, *A Small Place* cannot help but amplify our vision of one small place and all that it signifies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kincaid here examines the geography and history of Antigua, where she was raised. We first see the island through the eyes of the typical North American tourist, who aims to exchange his or her own "everydayness" for that of someone without the same privilege. But rather than interpret Antiguan experience for outsiders, Kincaid lays bare the limits of her own understanding. She asks us to grasp the crime of empire in a new way, stressing that it can be understood only from a post-colonial point of view: surveying 20 years of a corrupt "free" government, she finds the inheritance of colonialism to be a commercial and governmental enterprise that serves individual interests. Antiguan, she effectively demonstrates, are ordinary people saddled with an unthinkable but unbreachable past. Mollie Brodsky, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J. Copyright 1988 Reed

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“Ms. Kincaid writes with passion and conviction . . . [with] a poet’s understanding of how politics and history, private and public events, overlap and blur.” The New York Times
“A jeremiad of great clarity and force that one might have called torrential were the language not so finely controlled.” Salman Rushdie
“A rich and evocative prose that is also both urgent and poetic . . . Kincaid is a witness to what is happening in our West Indian back yards. And I trust her.” Los Angeles Times Book Review
“Kincaid continues to write with a unique, compelling voice that cannot be found anywhere else. Her small books are worth a pile of thicker--and hollower--ones.” San Francisco Chronicle
“This is truth, beautifully and powerfully stated . . . In truly lyrical language that makes you read aloud, [Kincaid] takes you from the dizzying blue of the Caribbean to the sewage of hotels and clubs where black Antiguanas are only allowed to work . . . Truth, wisdom, insight, outrage, and cutting wit.” The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
“Wonderful reading . . . Tells more about the Caribbean in 80 pages than all the guidebooks.” The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kincaid delivers the literary equivalent of Bruce Lee’s six-inch punch--radical, unconventional, and devastating. A short read, written in a personal style, that forces the casual beach tourist to examine what happens outside resort areas. Everyone talks about the "resource curse," but few understand the "tourism curse." I highly recommend Kincaid’s novella.

A Small Place tells the story of the island of Antigua through the eyes of its author, Jamaica Kincaid, an Antiguan now living in the United States. It was originally an essay for The New Yorker, but was rejected, which I guess was good for Kincaid. We start in second person, with Kincaid narrating the arrival of "you," the tourist, on the island of Antigua, and all of the wonderful activities - the beach, the food, the hotel - that you will experience. She then takes a turn towards with the pragmatic, detailing the island’s faults that are unseen to the tourist eye, including but not limited to: the island’s lack of proper sanitation and health care; the collapse of banking and local food production; hotels enforcing neo-colonialism by training native Antiguanas to serve tourists; the corruption of the government, mostly of Syrian descent...If you liked this review, come read more at my blog:
<http://wp.me/p3Aqzs-hz>

Kincaid is a brilliant author with a refreshing point of view. She does not write passively, does not pull her punches, instead giving you the side of the story that the reader generally won't hear otherwise. It may end up making you a little uncomfortable if you're not ready for what you're going to read, but I can't bring myself to spoil it. I had read this for one of my history courses and it remains one of my favorite non-fiction texts.

Awesome book! Bought this for a class, but would definitely recommend to any friends to read for leisure. Informative and gives great perspective on the Caribbean and the tourism industry. Would recommend to anyone thinking about taking a vacation to a resort area in the Caribbean.

Delivered on time and in pretty good condition as far as I remember. I liked it. I thought it was an interesting read, well written, and thought provoking. I hadn't heard much of the country before having read the novel, so it really left me knowing much more than I had before reading the novel. It isn't a particularly long read, but I've read it about three or four times and enjoyed doing so. Would definitely recommend.

Kincaid offers an honest and more complete view of Antigua than most people are willing to admit. In beautiful logical language, she describes the impossible beauty that was the destruction of Antigua. Open an honest, you walk beside her as she tells you her story. A delight to Read, a small boon filled with enormous ideas and stories.

Short story that I had to read for one of my classes, very good description of the views on tourism. I don't enjoy reading very often but this story kept my entertained and would recommend it to someone either taking a class on Latin America or looking to find out more on tourism in foreign countries and how it impacts the lives of their people.

A lovely read that inspired me to plan a trip to Antigua

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