



Strange Fruit (Paperback)

By Kamau Brathwaite

Peepal Tree Press Ltd, United Kingdom, 2016. Paperback.
Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In its title, Strange Fruit refers to the song of a lynching made famous by Billie Holiday and to the malign persecution that drove Kamau Brathwaite from his New York home to resettlement in his native Barbados. But the title also points to the enigma of beauty created out of that experience of cultural lynching, in poems of urgency, elegance, wisdom and brave humour. Strange Fruit charts a movement from the pain of poems written along the v/edge coast of death and carrefour, the despair of sensed erasure and abandonment, of dwindled voice, to a moment of revelation of a living ancestral presence. On the way, what you hear is Brathwaite's distinctive Barbadian nation-voice, his alternative vision, his creolisms of sound and graphic display, in dialogue with presences of many kinds: icons of survival and resistance such as Louis Armstrong, teef of sorrow, Bedward, Mandela, Ogou with his prompting to resolve and the visiting sparrows who are messengers of soul. The urgency comes in the dialogue between a sense of frailty (the last green slanting curve/ of wind and final bell) and...



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Reviews

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