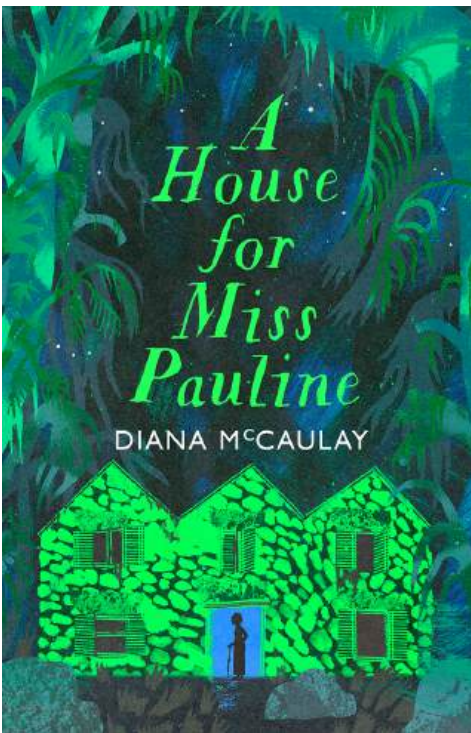


A HOUSE FOR MISS PAULINE

By Diana McCaulay

AN ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE READ. SHARE. RECOMMEND

About the Book:



Dialogue Books, 2025

When the stones of her home begin to rattle and call out to her in the quiet of the night, Pauline Sinclair knows she will not live to see her 100th birthday. From educating herself through stolen books to becoming one of the most successful ganja farmers in the area and raising a family, Pauline has lived a life on her own terms in Mason Hall, a rural Jamaican village.

Yet these whispering walls promise to topple the foundations of her security and exhume Pauline's many buried secrets, including the mysterious disappearance of the man who came to claim the very land on which she built her home, stone by stone, from the ruins of a plantation.

Compelled to make peace before she dies, Pauline decides to leave the only home she has ever known on a final, desperate mission to uncover truths she could never have imagined...

Lyrical, funny, eerie and profound, *A House for Miss Pauline* tells a timely and nuanced tale, infused with the patois and natural beauty of Jamaica, which questions who owns the land on which our identities are forged.

About the Author:

Diana McCaulay is a Jamaican environmental activist and the award-winning author of five novels. Winner of the Gold Musgrave Medal, Jamaica's highest award for lifetime achievement across the arts and sciences, and twice Winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for the Caribbean region (in 2022 and in 2012), she has also been shortlisted for the IMPAC Dublin Award, among other nominations, and is the winner of the Watson, Little 50 Prize for unrepresented writers aged 50+.



Diana McCaulay ©Jeremy Francis

Other Books by the Author:

Dog-Heart (2010), *Huracan* (2012), *Writing Jamaica: People, Places, Struggles* (2014), *White Liver Gal* (2016), *Gone to Drift* (2018), *Daylight Come* (2020).

Discussion Points:

- What does Miss Pauline's home represent to her? How does the novel explore questions of ownership, inheritance, and displacement?
- Discuss Miss Pauline as a central figure - her strength, her flaws, her survival. In what ways is she both a product of her environment and a woman who has resisted it?
- The novel gradually unearths long-held secrets. How does the tension between what is known, hidden, and revealed shape the story? What role do oral histories and memory play?
- How does the book reckon with Jamaica's colonial past, particularly through the imagery of the plantation ruins and land disputes? How do those histories echo into the present?
- How did the use of Jamaican patois (and language more generally) shape your reading experience? Did it deepen your understanding of Miss Pauline and her world?
- Miss Pauline begins the novel knowing her death is near. How does this awareness influence her choices?
- What does 'making peace' mean to her, and does she achieve it?

Useful Links:

- [A House for Miss Pauline by Diana McCaulay review – family secrets in Jamaica](#)
- [A House For Miss Pauline Writers Mosaic](#)
- [Roots of Stone: Diana McCaulay on Finding Your Story In That of Your Ancestors](#)
- [A House for Miss Pauline Book Launch: Diana McCaulay in Conversation with Maisy Card](#)

Suggested Further Reading:

The Mermaid of Black Conch by Monique Roffey
A Tall History of Sugar by Curdella Forbes
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
The Confessions of Frannie Langton by Sara Collins
Why We Can't Sleep: Colonialism & the Politics of Land in the Caribbean by Matthew J. Smith

Connect with the Author:

www.dianamccaulay.com

