

Fair Trade Shopping, Books, Films, and Music *Midwives For Haiti – Haiti* February 2013

Fair Trade Shopping



Alltech Café Citadelle is Fair Trade Certified™ **100% Arabica coffee** that serves as a sustainable source of income for farming families throughout Haiti. The profits from this shade-grown and hand-picked coffee fund hands-on involvement in Haiti, which includes the complete support of two primary schools along with economic development projects in the country. \$12 for 12 oz.

The Alltech Sustainable Haiti Project began in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, with the goal of helping build a sustainable future in one small part of Haiti. Alltech's efforts have focused on education by working on improving and upgrading schools, strengthening local Haitian enterprises by launching Haitian coffee and Haitian rum enterprises, and leading various economic development projects throughout the country.

\$12 for 12 oz. from <http://coffeestore.alltech.com/>

Created by Haitian craftspeople in Croix des Bouquets, this **natural sun wall art** is made from recycled steel oil drums. 10" diameter – regularly \$71.99 it is now on sale for \$34.49 from Worldstock, which purchases the work of Caribbean Crafts. <http://bit.ly/WSJlp4>

Caribbean Crafts, founded in 1990 by young Dutch and Belgian entrepreneurs, is a marketing organization for Haitian craftspeople. It has helped address Haiti's high unemployment with artisan training, design assistance and new export market outlets. Based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, Caribbean Crafts has contended with Haiti's difficult social problems and infrastructure limitations. In 1997 its premises were looted and destroyed by gang violence, but the organization has rebuilt and continued in a safer industrial park location.

The articles made by Caribbean Crafts are handcrafted from recycled or locally-produced material - visit <http://bit.ly/WSKF0N> to see a wide range of steel drum wall art.



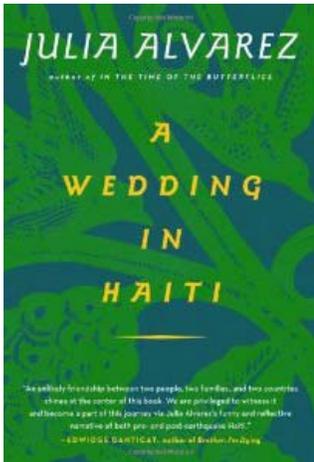
Soapstone Lady - This hand carved woman figurine is made from river stones in the Leogane and Gressier regions of Haiti. These were also the areas worst affected by the last earthquake. Available in a natural shade of grey, purchase of these stone sculptures will help artisans rebuild their lives.



Comite Artisanal Haitien supports over 200 artisans and their rich vibrant culture. The organization was founded in 1973 to support rural craft persons from Haiti to sell their crafts in the local markets at Port-au-Prince. The aim of the organization was to build a sale outlet for artisanal communities, and help reduce the flow of migrating youth from these communities into the city as wage workers. Soapstone Lady measures 3" high x 5-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" deep – available for \$28 from <http://bit.ly/WSOR0q>

Recommended Books – Fiction

A Wedding in Haiti by Julia Alvarez - <http://amzn.to/WShmvk> (Algonquin Books, 2012)



In a story that travels beyond borders and between families, acclaimed Dominican novelist and poet Julia Alvarez reflects on the joys and burdens of love—for her parents, for her husband, and for a young Haitian boy known as Piti.

In this intimate true account of a promise kept, Alvarez takes us on a journey into experiences that challenge our way of thinking about history and how it can be reimagined when people from two countries—traditional enemies and strangers—become friends.

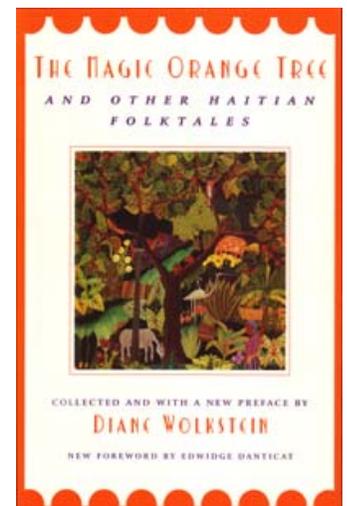
Alvarez was named one of the Top 10 Best Latino Authors for 2012 for this novel.

“A glimpse into the heart of a complex country during a tumultuous time”—*National Geographic Traveler*

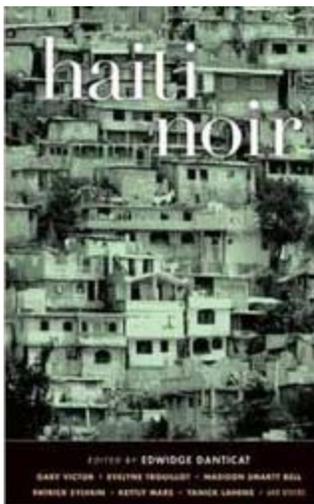
The Magic Orange Tree and Other Haitian Folktales by Diane Wolkstein- <http://amzn.to/WSh3R5> (Schocken, 1997)

When Diane Wolkstein, herself a well-known storyteller, traveled throughout the Haitian countryside in search of stories, she harvested a rich collection of twenty-seven tales, each of which is illuminated by fascinating introductory notes. From orange trees growing at the command of a child to talking fish, these stories present us with a world of wonder, delight, and mystery.

“This book is sheer delight. Grown-ups of all ages, as well as children of all ages, will revel in it”.—*The New Yorker*



Haiti Noir edited by Edwidge Danticat - <http://amzn.to/WSisar> (Akashic Books, 2010)

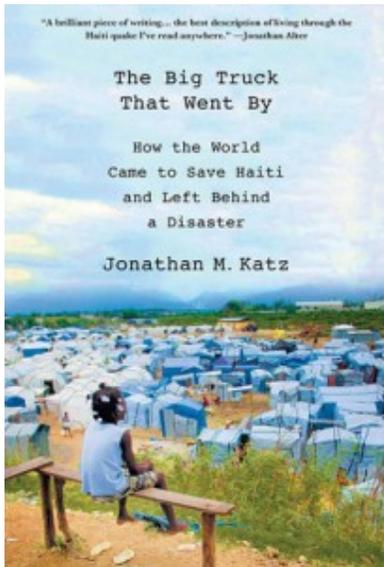


"Haiti Noir" is a collection of stories from assorted authors who present their tales of tracking down the truth and having some semblance of justice when everything in the world seems to be against it. A percentage of the sale of this book is being donated to the Lambi Fund of Haiti, helping to work towards a better Haiti of tomorrow.

“These 18 gritty tales – edited by award-winning Haitian author Edwidge Danticat – offer unique perspectives on life in the struggling nation.” – *The Christian Science Monitor*

Recommended Books – Non-Fiction

The Big Truck that Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster by Jonathan Katz - <http://amzn.to/WSiC1j> (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)



On January 12, 2010, the deadliest earthquake in the history of the Western Hemisphere struck the nation least prepared to handle one. Jonathan M. Katz, the only full-time American news correspondent in Haiti, was inside his house when it buckled along with hundreds of thousands of others. In this first-hand account, Katz takes readers inside the terror of that day, the devastation visited on ordinary Haitians, and through the monumental--yet misbegotten--rescue effort that followed.

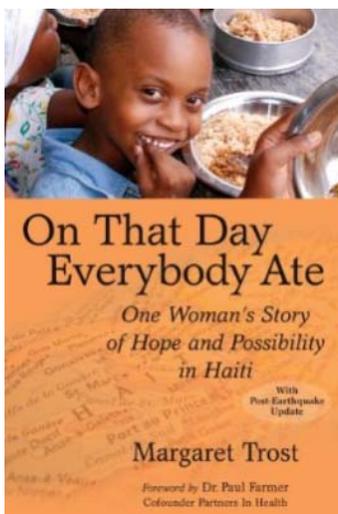
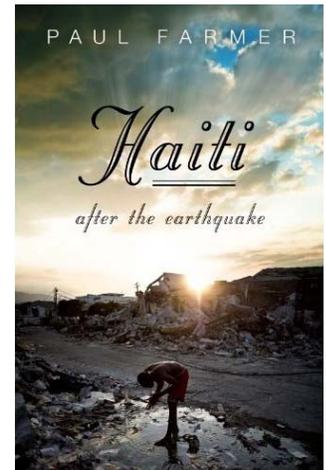
More than half of American adults gave money for Haiti, part of a global response that reached \$16.3 billion in pledges. But three years later, the effort has foundered. How did so much generosity amount to so little? What went wrong? *The Big Truck That Went By* presents a hard-hitting investigation into international aid and how good intentions go wrong.

“Katz is a great storyteller who enmeshes the reader in a lively web of history, incident, and examples of humanity pushing through disaster, hard luck, iniquity, and triumph to muck it up all over again.” - *The judges of the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award*

Haiti after the Earthquake by Paul Farmer - <http://amzn.to/WSi40> (PublicAffairs, 2011)
Recommended by Midwives for Haiti

Within three days of the 2010 earthquake, Dr. Paul Farmer arrived in the Haitian capital, along with a team of volunteers, to lend his services to the injured. Farmer describes the incredible suffering - and resilience - that he encountered in Haiti. Having worked in the country for nearly thirty years, he explores the social issues that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake - the very issues that make it an "unnatural disaster." Complementing his account are stories from other doctors, volunteers, and earthquake survivors.

“A gripping recollection of the quake’s ruin, chaos, and despair, and the story of remarkable persistence, hope, and love in the aftermath. Once you’ve seen Haiti through Paul Farmer’s eyes, you’ll never see Haitians or any of the world’s poorest people, quite the same way again.” – *President Bill Clinton*



On That Day, Everybody Ate: One Woman’s Story of Hope and Possibility in Haiti by Margaret Trost - <http://amzn.to/WSjIuc> (Koa Books, 2008)

Following her husband’s death, Margaret Trost visited Haiti to heal her broken heart through service. Struggling to make sense of the extreme poverty and touched by the warmth and resilience of those she met, she partners with a local community and together they develop a program that now serves thousands of meals a week to those in need.

“This small, polished gem of a book is one compelling answer to many questions about how to inject meaning in our lives.” - *Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners In Health*

Recommended Films



Children of Haiti (PBS 2012, 51 minutes) purchase or rent from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/WSiHi6>, View film clip on YouTube - <http://bit.ly/WSme3B>

Even prior to the January 2010 earthquake, more than 500,000 orphan children wandered the streets of Haiti's cities day and night. *Children of Haiti* follows three teenage boys as they reflect on their country and their lives, while sharing a common dream of education, government assistance, and social acceptance. Following the evolution and transformation of these boys into young men, this film provides insight into Haiti's ongoing abandoned youth problem. In the voices of the street boys themselves, the film examines a complicated issue that has plagued the country for decades and grows more severe by the day.

"Children of Haiti reveals the country's strange contrasts; a land of breathtaking landscapes and remarkable heritage, but also great human tragedy, all seen through the eyes of these prolific, poetic boys." - *Independent Lens*

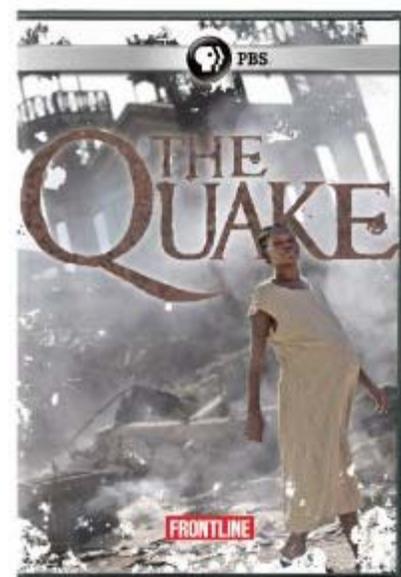
Frontline: The Quake (PBS 2010, 55 minutes) View this 55-minute film on PBS at <http://to.pbs.org/WSmOy5> or purchase from amazon - <http://amzn.to/WSmz6k>

With reporting from Martin Smith, this sobering edition of "Frontline" sifts through the rubble for answers in the wake of the 2010 Haiti earthquake that left tens of thousands dead and countless survivors without food, water, shelter or family.

NOTE: For a very different perspective, read *The Haitian Blogger's* response to the documentary - 'Haiti through the Distorted Lenses of PBS' Frontline'.

<http://bit.ly/Vy0aM3>

"It is Frontline's version of the political situation in Haiti that some will take the most issue with. In the "documentary" they address the future of Haiti only in terms of what the international community will do for Haiti, but neglect to explore the fact that Haitians are quite capable of determining their own course and finding the path to healing and recovery themselves. This paternalistic attitude is characteristic of the colonial narrative."



Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti (1985, 60 minutes) View this documentary in full on YouTube - <http://bit.ly/WSnhR7> or rent/purchase from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/WSnJyJ>

'Divine Horsemen' covers almost every conceivable aspect of the Voodoo (Voodoo) experience. Filmed between 1947 and 1951 by the legendary cult filmmaker and author Maya Deren, the footage was edited 20 years after Deren's death. As an initiate into these religious practices, her involvement made it possible for her to gain access into its most intimate circles and record songs, rituals and festivals long hidden from the eyes of the unbeliever. The documentary is extraordinary in every way and of immense educational value to anyone in the fields of comparative religions, anthropology, ethnology, musicology, or psychology.

"..a fascinating film that captures the essence of the recorded subjects. The music, the rituals, and the people all draw you into their world, and you are able to experience the spirituality of the Haitian people." – *Netflix reviewer*

Recommended Music

Recommended by Midwives For Haiti – three songs available on YouTube:

Sauveur Jean Jacques "Haiti Cherie" - <http://bit.ly/Vy8BXI>

John Steve Brunache "La Relev" - <http://bit.ly/Vy8OKF>

Ansy Derose "Nou vle" - <http://bit.ly/Vy91xr>

Following a successful slave revolt that ended in the early 19th century, Haiti became history's first black republic. It's no surprise then the Haitian culture that subsequently emerged had a distinct and uncensored African foundation. Drumming, dancing and song were central to the practice of the syncretic vodoun religion, which co-exists alongside Catholicism all over Haiti.



As Haitian music became more secularized, folkloric styles like twobadou (or troubadour), an intimate sound along the lines of American blues, grew in popularity. American jazz and African highlife began to be incorporated into Haitian music as bands grew bigger in size and musical patrons more discerning. A big-band, African-rooted and eventually globally influenced dance music known as **Kompa** eventually emerged and achieved massive popularity.

Kompa or **konpa** in Haitian creole is a modern Meringue. Worldwide, several festivals annually feature Kompa music. Popularized by Haitian sax and guitar player Nemours Jean-Baptiste in 1955, Kompa is the basic music of many countries in the Caribbean and is very influential in Africa, France, Canada, South and North America.

Listen to a selection by various artists on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/Vxl8K7>. YouTube has a compilation – 15 minutes of Kompa at <http://bit.ly/VxJswN>

Emeline Michel - Moso Manman (2000) in Haitian Creole on YouTube - <http://bit.ly/WSWCUE>

Named the "Joni Mitchell of Haiti," Emeline Michel has emerged as the reigning queen of Haitian song. Her songs merge native Haitian kompas and rara with jazz, pop, bossa nova and samba. A captivating performer, versatile vocalist, accomplished dancer, songwriter and producer, Emeline sings in French and Haitian Creole, and her world-wide concerts and seven CD recordings have catapulted her to international acclaim.

Emeline draws on the roots and history of Haiti in many ways. The intertwined rhythms of the manman tanbou, boula, and katabou — Haitian drums — provide the foundation for original lyrics peppered with Haitian proverbs and positive messages.

