

EDWIDGE DANTICAT



a novel

the
farming
of
bones

THE FARMING OF BONES

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The Farming of Bones

"Sensuously atmospheric... perfectly paced... lushly poetic and erotic... and starkly realistic."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



Breath, Eyes, Memory

"Extraordinarily ambitious... extraordinarily successful."

—*The New York Times Book Review*



Krik? Krak!

"Pure beguiling transformation."

—*Los Angeles Times*

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It is 1937, the Dominican side of the Haitian border. Amabelle, orphaned at the age of eight when her parents drowned, is a maid to the young wife of an army colonel. She has grown up in this household, a faithful servant. Sebastien is a field hand, an itinerant sugarcane cutter. They are Haitians, useful to the Dominicans but not really welcome. There are rumors that in other towns Haitians are being persecuted, even killed. But there are always rumors.

Amabelle loves Sebastien. He is handsome despite the sugarcane scars on his face, his calloused hands. She longs to become his wife and walk into their future. Instead, terror enfolds them. But the story does not end here: it begins.

The Farming of Bones is about love, fragility, barbarity, dignity, remembrance, and the only triumph possible for the persecuted: to endure.

Edwidge Danticat

was born in Haiti in 1969 and came to the United States when she was twelve years old. She graduated from Barnard College and received an M.F.A. from Brown University. Her first novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, was published to acclaim when she was twenty-five. The following year she was nominated for the National Book Award for her story collection *Krik? Krak!* Her stories have been widely anthologized.

She is the recipient of a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation grant and was named as one of the 20 "Best Young American Novelists" by *Granta* in 1996. She lives in New York.

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