

The Devil's Horsewhip

Damion Spencer

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A startlingly fine novel-in-stories about Caribbean folklore, superstitions and legends surrounding death



"A brilliant, enthralling read. Damion Spencer is a voice to look out for."

IRENOSEN OKOJIE

Author of Nudibranch and Curandera

"Damion Spencer is a fresh new voice in Caribbean fiction. He weaves compelling tales with impactful characters in this imaginative debut."

SHARMA TAYLOR

Author of What A Mother's Love Don't Teach You

"Vivid and with a spectacular voice."

WASAFIRI

At the pinnacle of the pandemic—a year already punctuated with daily funeral processions—a Jamaican expat gets an envelope covered in red writing from his doctor. It sends him into a mad tumble between bad omen days and fever dream nights until all that he thinks about is that bitter day in the Jamaican White River Valley, where he and other teenagers escaped a double-cutlass-wielding madman out for blood. But death is not one to give up easily. The years are not long enough, neither is fleeing across continents too far for death's spite and all the worse duppies not to come knocking.

Who will cheat death a second time? A Christian woman who decides to sleep with an obeah man's monkey. The man with the answer to whether Haitian voodoo is stronger than obeah. A woman who knows how to mourn a dead baby. Or the ones who know how to trap a rolling calf, outrun a three-foot horse, and battle a Chinese duppy and win.

If you're superstitious or wary of those who are, come read these sticky tales spun in barbwire.

Damion Spencer is originally from St. Mary in Jamaica, and now lives in Tokyo, Japan. He holds a BEd (Hons) in Literacy Studies from the University of the West Indies, Mona, and an MA with Distinction in Creative Writing from the University of Hull. His work explores the vestiges of colonialism and the effect of urban living on well-being and mental health via the immigrant experience. Versions of stories in his debut collection have been published by both Wasafiri (whose prose judges said his work was "vivid" with a "spectacular voice") and The Caribbean Writer. He was longlisted in the 2022 BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean and received an Honourable Mention for the award the following year.



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