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Big Island, Small

a novel by Maureen St. Clair

“Maureen St. Clair’s voice is true, her writing lyrical, her story intriguing and unique. If it’s one thing I know, here lies the voice of a powerful writer.”

— Donna Morrissey, author of *The Fortunate Brother*

“Maureen’s foreign-local observations and voice give her great potential for sharing important stories.”

— Oonya Kempadoo, author of *All Decent Animals*

Sola is confused the first time she sees Judith, a fair-skinned woman with dreadlocks dancing to reggae music. Meeting her gaze, Judith thinks Sola is judging her for appropriating Black culture. A few days later, up against an interlocking fence, Judith kisses Sola. Onlookers hurl stones and racial and gay slurs. Thus begins the complicated friendship between Judith and Sola, who live in between the land they were born, the Caribbean, and the land where they presently live, North America.

Winner of the 2016 Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature and the 2015 Atlantic Writer’s Competition, *Big Island, Small* is a story of intimacy and friendship between two Caribbean/Canadian women with similar, yet vastly different, backgrounds who must dismantle their assumptions and biases around race, class, gender and sexuality in order to make amends with violent pasts, release shame, find joy and reconnect with themselves and each other.

Maureen St. Clair is an artist, peace educator, activist and writer. Born and raised in Canada, with Grenadian citizenship, Maureen has lived in Grenada, West Indies, for twenty-five years with her Grenadian partner Theo and daughter Maya. Maureen is known throughout the Caribbean and internationally for her vibrant, women-positive paintings inspired by her work with women and youth. She is also an associate of Coady International Institute, where she facilitates programs in community peacebuilding and global community leadership.