

# A thematic study on violence, peace in the novels of Matron James in *A brief history of seven killings*

N.Gayathri  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Jawaharlal Nehru College for Women  
Pali,Ulundurpet,Villupuram,Tamilnadu.

## Abstract

This paper an attempt to emphasize that this pervasive violence in turn creates more violence, as people seek revenge for the harm done to them and gradually lose a sense of their own humanity, including any hope that the violence might eventually subside. The frequency of deaths and the title *A Brief History of Seven Killings* further emphasize the seemingly all-consuming power of violence. Violence leads to death, and when certain perpetrators of violence are killed, new perpetrators simply rise up to take their place. While much of the violence depicted in the novel centers around the gang members in the Kingston ghetto beating, torturing, raping, and murdering others, not all of the novel's violence plays out on an interpersonal level.

**Keywords:** violence, death

Jamaican essayist Marlon James' third novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, for which he won the lofty Man Booker Prize in 2015, is a wrongdoing novel which looks past the surface to investigate and uncover stifled chronicles Truth be told, James himself has portrayed his novel as the demonstration of the pulling off a line that may "disturb the entire texture" (James2015) James, who could unquestionably be added to the rundown, incorporates a West Kingston gay criminal, Weeper as a principle character of his novel.

Despite the fact that the presence of a transparently gay criminal during the 1970s in Jamaica may be fairly doubtful, it in any case enables the essayist to reflect, as the writer himself has communicated, both the gayness and bad faith of Jamaica (James2016). (447) All taking all things together, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is unquestionably an earth shattering West Indian wrongdoing novel.

Jamaican essayist Marlon James' third novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, for which he won the lofty Man Booker Prize in 2015, is a wrongdoing novel which looks past the surface to investigate and uncover stifled chronicles. The class itself, wrongdoing fiction, has turned out to be prosperous ground to embrace such investigations. In *Twentieth-Century Crime Fiction*, Lee Horsley declares that basically "the demonstration of seeing what has been covered up is in itself laden with signifying" (2005: 203) and he further indicates that the criminologist or wrongdoing story is "a perfect type of investigation of stifled substances.

The insightful structure gives an instant instrument to uncovering the already imperceptible wrongdoings against individuals". Truth be told, James himself has portrayed his novel as the demonstration of the pulling off a line that may "disturb the entire texture" (James 2015). So also, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* could likewise be regarded "unsafe" in Edwidge Danticat's terms. In her work *Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work*, Danticat contends that hazardous composing is that composition which is energetic, bold and includes uncovering submerged recollections. Along these lines, the essayist has no other decision yet to make as a progressive demonstration that breaks with the hushes, and in this manner, both the composition and perusing wind up unsafe endeavors. Danticat discloses that to make perilously is "to make valiantly, strongly grasping general society and private dread that would quiet us, at that point courageously pushing ahead notwithstanding when it feels just as we are pursuing or being pursued by phantoms" (2010: 148). In this sense, the novel looks to deal with a few scenes of the ongoing past in Jamaica which have been generally ignored and hushed. Phantoms are available directly from the earliest starting point, and they also take the obligation of uncovering untold stories, to such an extent that the novel opens with the announcement "Tune in. Dead individuals talk constantly" (James 2015: 1),<sup>1</sup> expressed by the dead Sir Arthur George Jennings, a pre-autonomy political figure who returns occasionally especially to go with the passing's of real characters, for example, the young hoodlum Bam-Bam. One from here on, page numbers moving along without any more sign alludes to *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. Coolabah, No.20, 2016, ISSN 1988-5946, Observatori: Center d'Estudis Australians/Australian Studies Center, Universitat de Barcelona. The epic goes for comprehending, generally, the fierce decade of the 1970s in Jamaica, just as its outcomes, which broaden truly until the 1990s and geologically until New York.

Specifically, the episode around which the entire story is developed are those 5 minutes on the third December 1976 which as per the creator "made a huge difference" (James 2015), yet which appear to have been ignored in most of records: the Bob Marley's endeavored homicide activated by the appointive crusade of 1976, two days before a show for the sake of national solidarity which was to occur in a matter of seconds before the race. The repercussions of this assault were complex, or more all it was evidence of the political component of savagery, and of the associations between sorted out wrongdoing and parliamentary legislative issues, just as the associations of the last with the CIA, specifically. This unmistakably and proudly fierce novel is perused by Philip Nanton as "a purposeful anecdote for the Caribbean void" (2015: 79), since the novel's focal concerns are savagery and demise. Truth be told, these keep on eclipsing the truth of numerous countries in the Caribbean district, for example, Jamaica, Bahamas, Trinidad or Saint Kitts and Nevis; nations with the absolute most elevated wrongdoing rates on the planet. In the novel a large portion of the killings appear as repulsive passings; exploited people are shot, consumed, hanged, beaten and cut. Passing is delineated as a staple in the ghetto of West Kingston, which as per Demus – a Ghetto-inhabitant and criminal – transforms into the "Wild West" (107). The universality of death in the ghetto is paralleled by its unaccountability – which is tragically still a reality these days, as Bam-Bam clarifies, "life doesn't amount to nothing. Is nothing to execute a kid" (11). In any case, culpability does not just beset the ghetto; savagery is a regular risk for all. Nina Burgess, a white collar class young lady, depicts its advent and the control it has over her life: "It's not the wrongdoing that annoys me... I mean, it pesters me like it troubles anyone... the likelihood it can occur whenever, any second, even in the following moment... Even in the event that it never comes, the fact of the matter is I'll be sitting tight for it" (103).

It is important that James was conceived in an effectively free Jamaica and instructed in the island. As a major aspect of a more youthful age of West Indian journalists, he offers a point of view not quite the same as that of essayists brought into the world in what was as yet the British West Indies and for the most part taught in the Metropolis. This is reflected in his utilization of language just as his decision of managing homosexuality. Despite the fact that language has dependably been a subject in itself in West Indian writing, James' impression of the etymological setting of the island goes up against another measurement. As has

likewise been the situation of a significant number of James' forerunners, he tries to legitimize the utilization of Creole in writing. The epic mirrors a fixation on talking "legitimate English" and not "visiting terrible" – that is, speaking Patwa or Jamaican Creole – just as its association with a strict class division. The creator cautiously utilizes code-exchanging, as in genuine ordinary discourse circumstances, and the distinctive voices move inside the Creole continuum dependent on both the conversationalist or on various questioners and the specific circumstance. The in excess of twelve unique characters which portray the story or "history" – as the title goes – through their diverse voices, enable him to evade a bound together account, and the consequent various leveled refinement among portrayal and exchange. On account of this bedlam of voices and numerous points of view, the author's impression of the semantic setting is undeniably loaded with subtlety. Coolabah, No.20, 2016, ISSN 1988-5946, Observatori: Center d'Estudis Australians/Australian Studies Center, Universitat de Barcelona On the other hand, James has additionally added to turning around the area's conventional non-treatment of non-hetero matters in writing.

As far as sexuality by and large, the Caribbean area is characterized by conservatism. Be that as it may, as Jennifer Rahim clarifies, "another direction on sexuality is creating in Caribbean social talk, one that has been supported by the expanding strength of inventive essayists in drawing in the topic" (2006: 3-4). Along these lines, moving far from the oversight of the homoerotic in Caribbean writing, another framework of essayists have risen among whom Rahim incorporates Shani Mottoo, Patricia Powell, Dionne Brand, Lawrence Scott and Michelle Cliff. James, who could unquestionably be added to the rundown, incorporates a West Kingston gay criminal, Weeper as a principle character of his novel. Despite the fact that the presence of a transparently gay criminal during the 1970s in Jamaica may be fairly doubtful, it in any case enables the essayist to reflect, as the writer himself has communicated, both the gayness and bad faith of Jamaica (James 2016). In the novel Weeper fears for his life, and is compelled to conceal his sexual introduction from society. Despite the fact that his predominant and West Kingston Don Josey Wales knows about his "homosexual business" (69), he regardless expects that "[e]very time he screw a lady I trust this is the lady that fix him. Since some sickness lick him in jail, something that make him not ordinary" (138). He, in this way, pursues the endorsed terms of presence for non-hetero people in the locale, and significantly more so on account of the universe of Jamaican packs, that is, the thing that Rahim calls "compulsory

imperceptibility" (2006: 3) for social survival or truly, as on account of Weeper, sheer survival. He acknowledges the difficulty of living out of the wardrobe and regularly having the capacity to encounter a motion picture sort of scene in bed with an accomplice the following morning:

Have a similar outlook as a film. This part you put on your garments, kid wake up (yet kid would be young lady) and one of you state angel, I gotta go. Or on the other hand remain in bed and do the whatever, the sheet at the man abdomen however comfortable lady bosom. Never heading out to be a motion picture with a scene like this room ever. Wear' know. (447) All taking all things together, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is unquestionably an earth shattering West Indian wrongdoing novel. This honor winning novel presents unnoticed issues, and offers earlier stifled points of view that assistance comprehend and deal with the historical backdrop of the island of Jamaica, and the Caribbean district overall.

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