



As Flies to Whatless Boys

Robert Antoni

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Finalist for the 2014 OCM Bocas Prize!

One of Edwidge Danticat's Best Books of 2013, the *New Yorker*

A Favorite Novel of 2013, *Tin House*

"William's account of young love attests to Antoni's fluency in the poetry of nostalgia. In words as vibrant as the personalities he creates, Antoni deftly captures unconquered territories and the risks we're willing to take exploring them."

--*Publishers Weekly*

"A rollicking 19th-century colonial tale blends history with imagination."

--*Library Journal*

"The emotional influence of Willy's narrative—his loving descriptions of the people who surround him—is profoundly effective...Strikes strong emotional chords."

--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Antoni...has written a novel epic in scope that...is driven by outbursts of fine writing."

--*Booklist*

"This tragic historical novel, accented with West Indian cadence and captivating humour, provides an unforgettable glimpse into 19th-century T&T. The book's narrator, Willy, falls headover-heels for the enthralling and wise Marguerite Whitechurch. Coming from the gentry, Marguerite is a world away from Willy's labouring class."

--*The Trinidad Guardian*, one of the Best Caribbean Books of the Year

"A bittersweet coming-of-age tale of tragedy, chicanery, high ideals, harsh realities, and the hard choice between love and family duty, *As Flies to Whatless Boys* is highly recommended."

--*Midwest Book Review*

"*As Flies to Whatless Boys* is a kind of complex word game, a historical narrative in a lilting Caribbean accent, wrapped around with an oddball love story in a wild form of English that seems to create itself as it goes along. In between, snippets of contemporary records provide foils for both these linguistic inventions."

--*Historical Novel Society*

"Antoni has a fine ear for cultural tensions and a wicked sense of humor."

--*Ocean Drive Magazine*

"*As Flies to Whatless Boys* by Trinidadian Robert Antoni is a tragic historical novel, accented with West Indian cadence and captivating humour, and provides an unforgettable glimpse into 19th-century T&T."

--*Trinidad Express Newspapers*

"*As Flies to Whatless Boys* is an inventive, witty, comic romance that is as much about history and adventure as it is about language. With virtuosic attention to language, Robert Antoni delightfully explores the written word in all its forms--as letters, as e-mails, as reportage, as narration, as archives--to tell stories, to paint characters, to demonstrate the range and integrity of English and its dialects, and to edge us closer to ourselves as equally human beings."

--Earl Lovelace, author of *Is Just a Movie*

In 1845 London, an engineer, philosopher, philanthropist, and bold-faced charlatan, John Adolphus Etzler, has invented machines that he thinks will transform the division of labor and free all men. He forms a collective called the Tropical Emigration Society (TES), and recruits a variety of London citizens to take his machines and his misguided ideas to form a proto-socialist, utopian community in the British colony of Trinidad.

Among his recruits is a young boy (and the book's narrator) named Willy, who falls head-over-heels for the enthralling and wise Marguerite Whitechurch. Coming from the gentry, Marguerite is a world away from Willy's laboring class. As the voyage continues, and their love for one another strengthens, Willy and Marguerite prove themselves to be true socialists, their actions and adventures standing in stark contrast to Etzler's disconnected theories.

Robert Antoni's tragic historical novel, accented with West Indian cadence and captivating humor, provides an unforgettable glimpse into nineteenth-century Trinidad & Tobago.

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From reader reviews:

Connie Sims:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called As Flies to Whatless Boys? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

Marie Heidelberg:

The particular book As Flies to Whatless Boys will bring one to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book As Flies to Whatless Boys is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Deborah Knight:

That e-book can make you to feel relax. This particular book As Flies to Whatless Boys was vibrant and of course has pictures around. As we know that book As Flies to Whatless Boys has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

Douglas Gibson:

A number of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt it when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose typically the book As Flies to Whatless Boys to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading ability is developing when you including reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the feeling about book and reading through especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to start a book and read it. Beside that the guide As Flies to Whatless Boys can to be your brand new friend when you're sense alone and confuse with what must you're doing of this time.

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