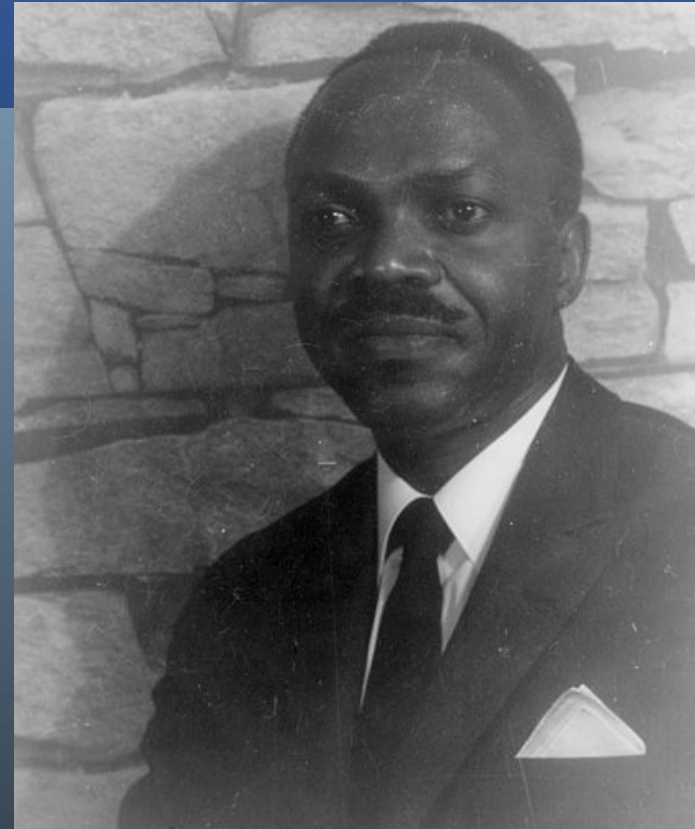


# Caribbean Books and Life



Andrea Levy



E.R. Braithwaite



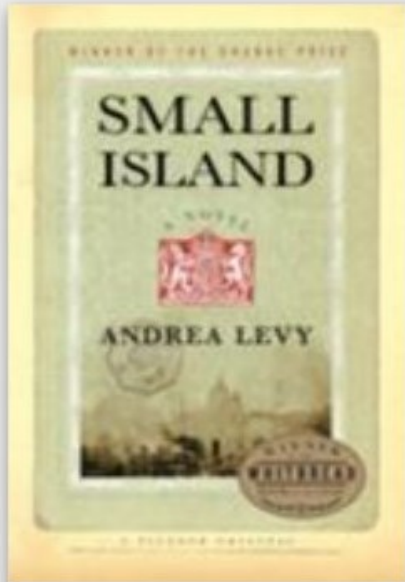
# Andrea Levy

From Wikipedia

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Born           | 7 March 1956<br><a href="#">London</a> , England  |
| Died           | 14 February 2019 (aged 62)  |
| Occupation     | Author  |
| Language       | English   |
| Period         | 1994–2019   |
| Notable works  | <a href="#">Small Island</a> (2004)<br><a href="#">The Long Song</a> (2010)   |
| Notable awards | <a href="#">Orange Prize for Fiction</a><br><a href="#">Whitbread Book of the Year</a><br><a href="#">Commonwealth Writers' Prize</a><br><a href="#">Walter Scott Prize</a> |
| Spouse         | Bill Mayblin  |

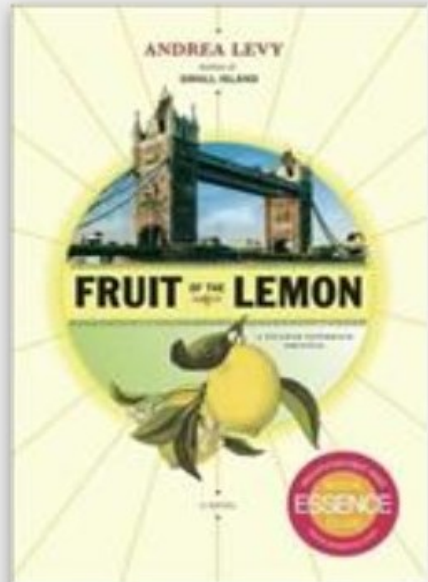
# Andrea Levy Books

## More by Andrea Levy



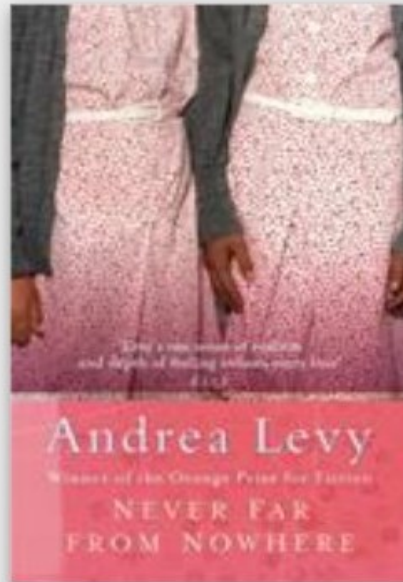
### Small Island

Andrea Levy



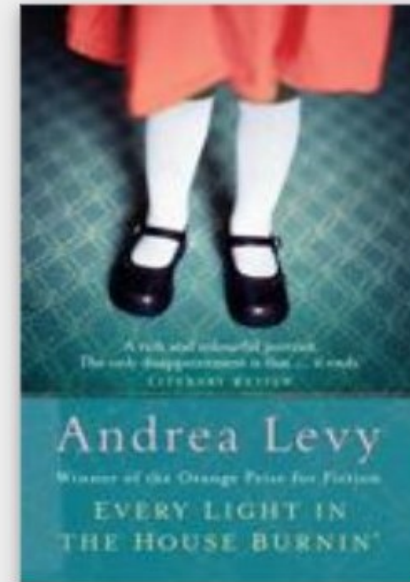
### Fruit of the Lemon

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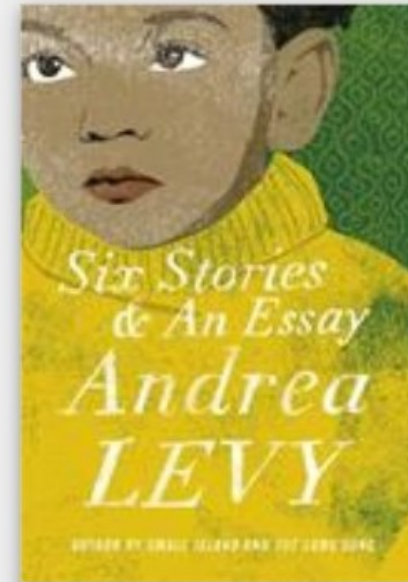
### Never Far from Nowhere

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### Every Light in the House

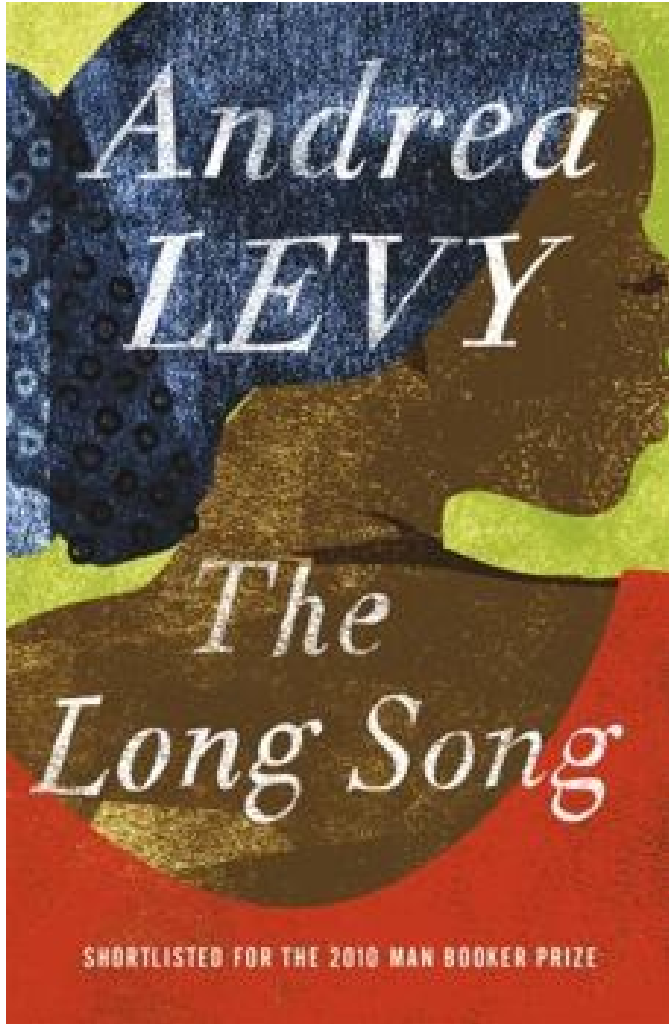
Andrea Levy



### Six Stories and an Essay

Andrea Levy

## The Long Song



This was a delightful read. The main character July is a slave in Jamaica. Her story encompasses her birth, her transfer from her mother to the plantation owner's sister Carol, her affair with Carol's husband and the eventual kidnapping of her daughter by Carol and her husband to England when they leave the island. The storyteller is sassy with an undertone of sadness and wisdom. It brings to light some of the more serious issues of the time such as how slaves were treated, and the attitudes of both the slave owners and lighter skinned (mixed race) native islanders.

Thriftbooks review



# Clip from The Long Song



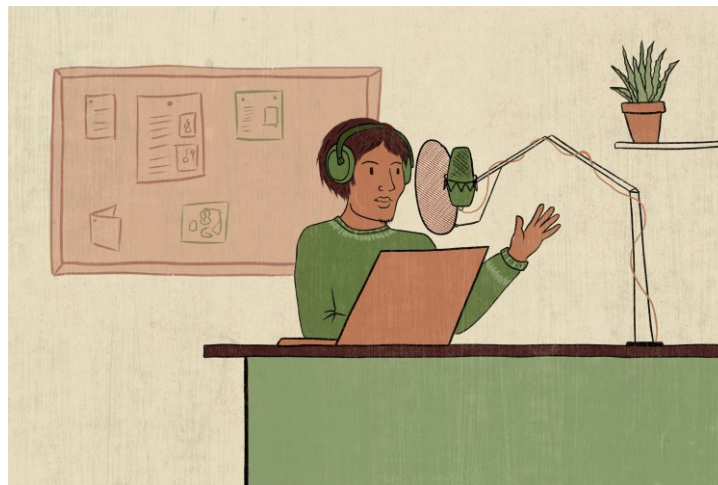
# Video of Small Island

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# Audio clip of Queenie at the World's Fair

<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxxB1Z3SIB9WHf2B2X6k5XzOJ1vXKkAynP?si=TjtbJxyQib8Jh3le>



## E. R. Braithwaite

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Born       | Eustace Edward Ricardo Braithwaite<br>June 27, 1912<br><a href="#">Georgetown</a> , <a href="#">British Guiana</a> (now <a href="#">Guyana</a> )   |
| Died       | December 12, 2016 (aged 104)<br><a href="#">Rockville, Maryland</a> , U.S.   |
| Occupation | Novelist, writer, diplomat, teacher, pilot   |
| Alma mater | <a href="#">City College of New York</a> (B.S.)<br><a href="#">University of Cambridge</a> (MSc)   |
| Genre      | Fiction, literature  |
| Books      | <i><a href="#">To Sir, With Love</a></i> (1959) <sup>[4][22]</sup><br><i><a href="#">Paid Servant</a></i> (1962) <sup>[4][22]</sup><br><i><a href="#">A Kind of Homecoming</a></i> (1962) <sup>[4]</sup><br><i><a href="#">Choice of Straws</a></i> (1965) <sup>[4]</sup><br><i><a href="#">Reluctant Neighbors</a></i> (1972) <sup>[4][22]</sup><br><i><a href="#">Honorary White</a></i> (1975) <sup>[4][22]</sup> |





# Facts from “The Daily Herald’s” obituary of Braithwaite

- London’s East End was a long way from Georgetown, British Guiana, where he was born Edward Ricardo “Ricky” Braithwaite on June 27, 1912. His parents were both Oxford graduates; his father a gold and diamond miner. He attended the elite Queen’s College in Georgetown before studying engineering at City College in New York.
- Out of college he worked at an oil refinery in Aruba but then moved to England to study at Cambridge, fulfilling a long- held ambition to travel to Britain. He always believed it was where he could realize his dreams. In 1940 he joined the RAF, serving as a pilot in a specially formed squadron with a high proportion of blacks from around the British Empire. During his service he experienced no discrimination and later described it as an “exciting time”.

# Obit continued...

- In 1945, he went back to his studies, earning a doctorate in physics, but soon found the Britain of reality didn't match the Britain of his expectations. This was an era before citizens of the colonies started flooding into Britain, and most whites were still wary of "coloured" foreigners even if they were British citizens.
- Despite Braithwaite's service to the Empire, the colour of his skin remained a barrier to him working as an engineer. He did some retraining in education and took up a job as a teacher, being sent to an impoverished neighbourhood in East London, which still showed the scars of World War II with craters and bombed-out buildings.
- It was a job he hated at first, seeing it as something he did to survive, but eventually he became involved in the welfare of the students, who came from London's poorest quarters. He left teaching in 1959 and his students presented him with a parting gift, a box containing cigarettes and a note that said "To Sir With Love".

Sidney Poitier is Mark Thackeray in *To Sir With Love* (1967), which was adapted from E.R. Braithwaite's book of the same name.



- *To Sir With Love* remained in print but was made even more popular by the 1967 film adaptation, of the same name, starring Sidney Poitier.
- Directed by James Clavell, the film version tinkered with the book, changing the setting to the '60s, with Poitier playing a character named Mark Thackeray and the racial themes were downplayed somewhat. Braithwaite would later say that when he saw the film he was “not impressed” and that something had been “lost”.
- He loathed the film, particularly because of its omission of the novel's interracial relationship, although it provided Braithwaite with some financial security from royalties

# Clip from To Sir With Love

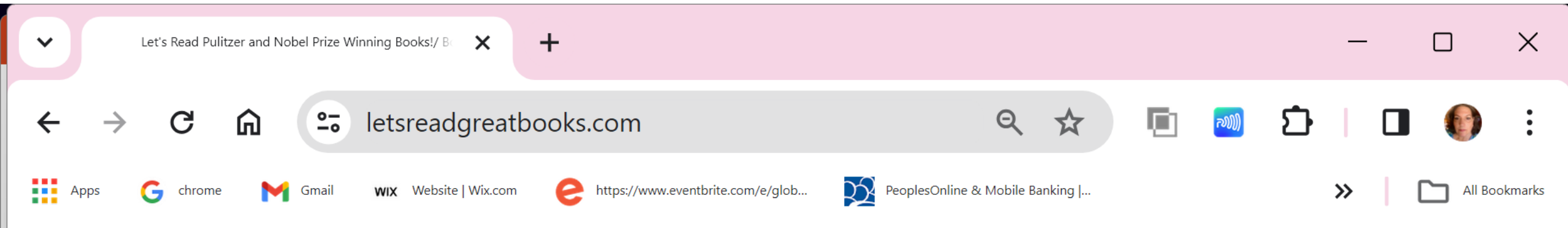


# Follow up clip





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A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL [letsreadgreatbooks.com](http://letsreadgreatbooks.com). The browser interface includes navigation buttons (back, forward, refresh, home), search, star, and window management icons. Below the address bar, there are several open tabs: 'Apps', 'chrome', 'Gmail', 'Wix Website | Wix.com', 'https://www.eventbrite.com/e/glob...', and 'PeoplesOnline & Mobile Banking |...'. On the right side of the browser, there are icons for a folder labeled 'All Bookmarks' and a user profile picture.



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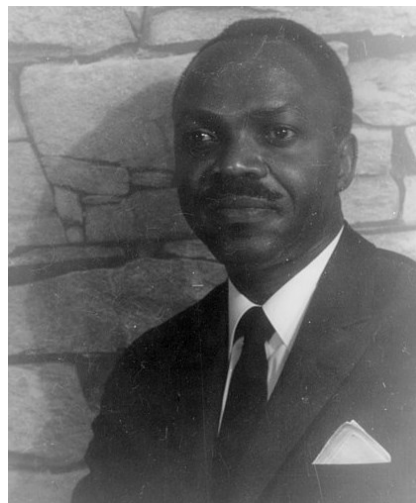
**December 27th at**

**4PM EDT**

## Caribbean Books and Life



Andrea Levy



E.B. Braithwaite