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FOREIGNERS

BY CARYL PHILLIPS

**“Elegantly restrained
and brilliantly realized,”**

says DONNA SEAMAN in a starred review for *Booklist*.

“In each of his somberly beautiful and lacerating books, Caryl Phillips, a virtuoso, prize-winning novelist with a biographer’s avidity for fact, tells the stories of individuals caught up in the African diaspora, and ponders the question of how one retains a sense of self under the annihilating onslaught of racism. In this elegiac triptych, he reclaims the lives of three black men in England, deciphering the toxic social chemistry that first gave each man hope, and then destroyed him.

“Francis Barber, brought to England from Jamaica at age 10, became Dr. Johnson’s most trusted companion during the great literary genius’ wretched last days, only to fall into an abyss of poverty and prejudice. Randolph Turpin, a mixed-race Englishman, astonished the world in July 1951 by winning a match against Sugar Ray Robinson, but Britain’s first black champion boxer lost his bout with a hostile world. David Oluwale, a bright and ambitious Nigerian teenager, stowed away on a ship to England, intent on becoming an engineer. Instead he became the target of racist and sadistic policemen. A lone freedom fighter, he stood up to his attackers, who murdered him in 1969.

“As each elegantly restrained yet finely detailed tragic tale portrays a cruelly and unjustly condemned man and reveals hidden facets of English history, Phillips...poses an unspoken yet inevitable question, have things changed for ‘foreigners’ of color?”

Also by CARYL PHILLIPS and available in Vintage paperback:

The Atlantic Sound *Cambridge* *Crossing the River* *Dancing in the Dark*
A Distant Shore *The European Tribe* *The Final Passage* *Higher Ground*
The Nature of Blood *A New World Order* *A State of Independence*

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