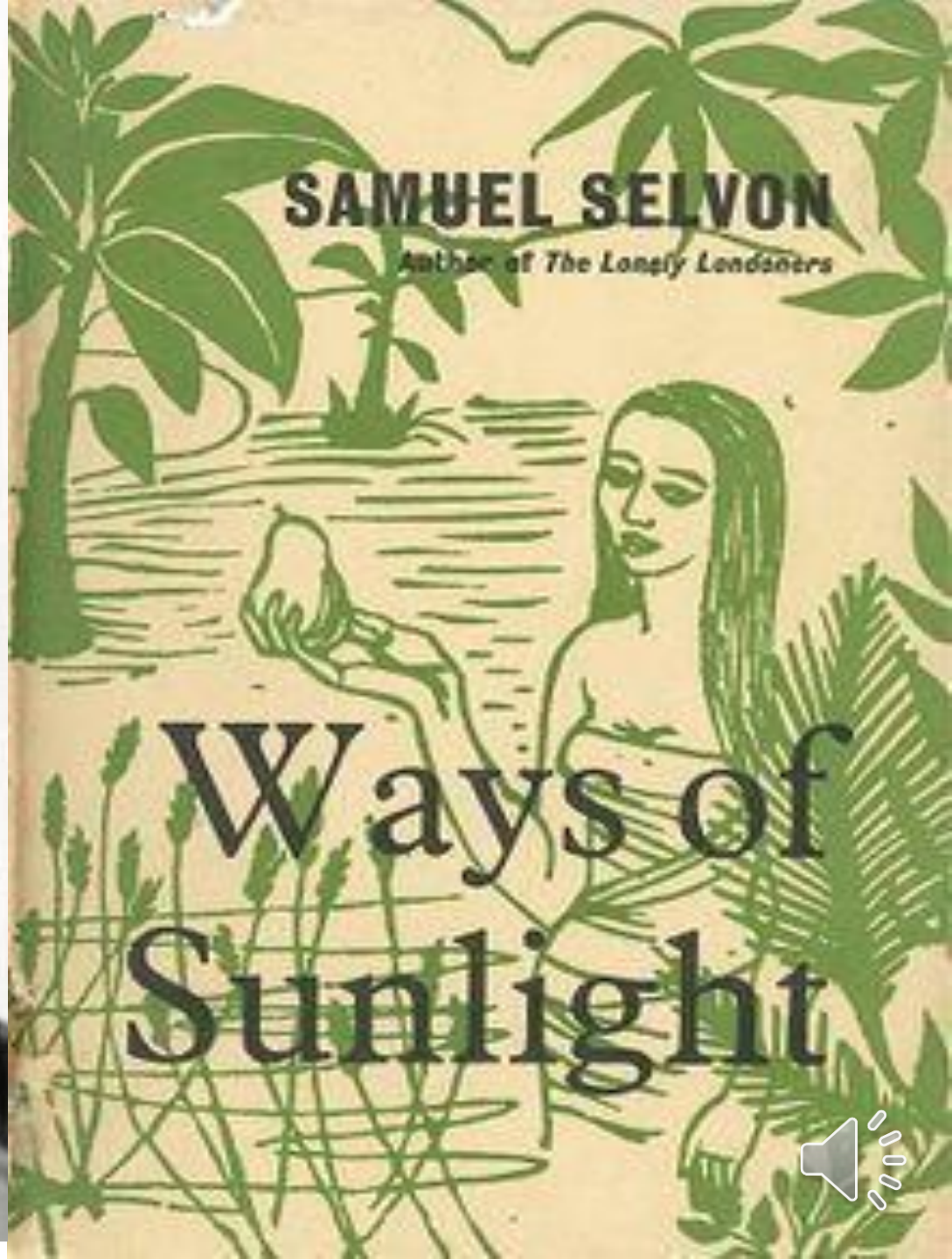
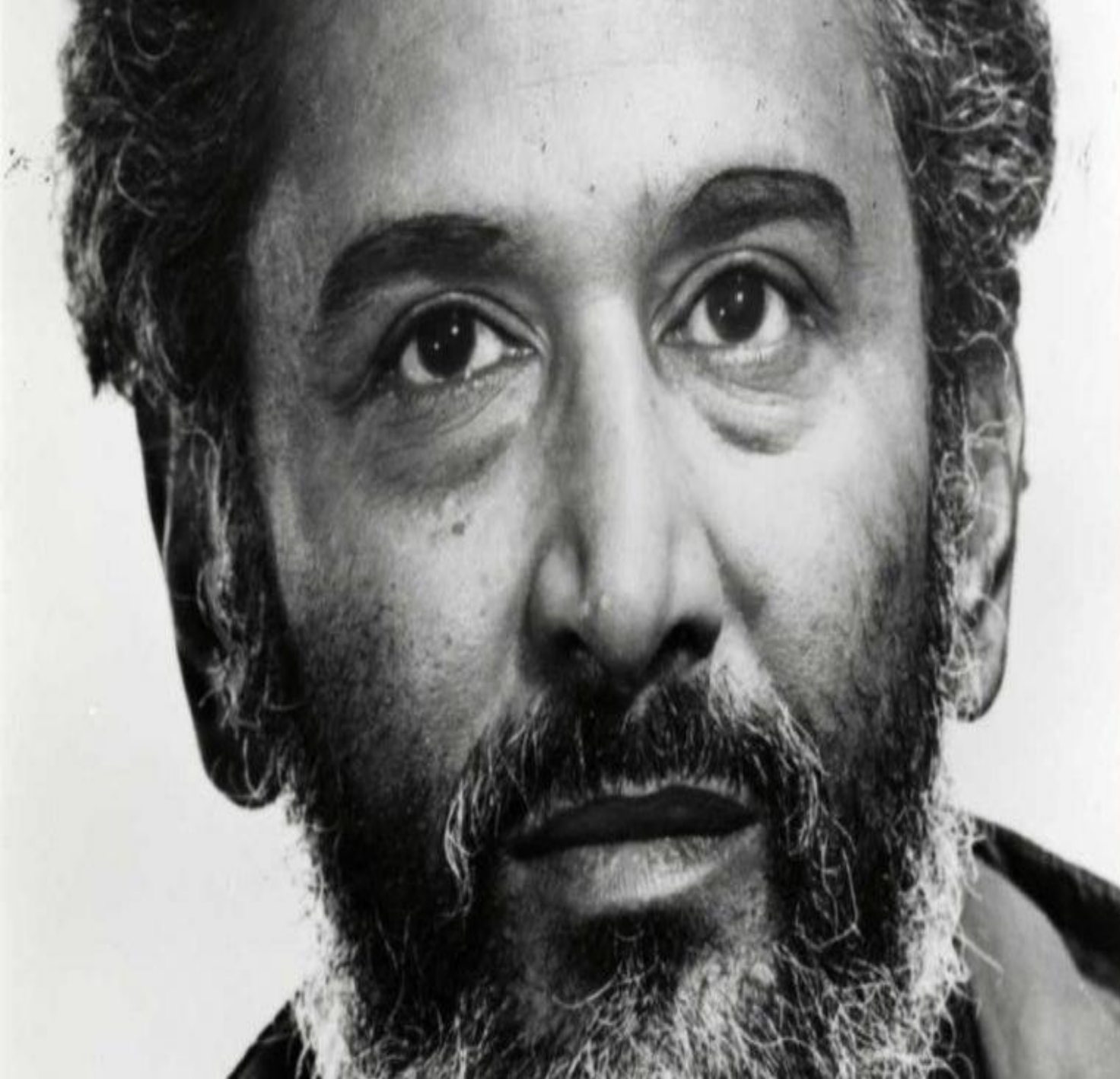


# Johnson and the Cascadura

Sam Selvon





**SAMUEL SELVON**

*Author of The Lonely Londoners*

# Ways of Sunlight



- One of the short stories in the collection *Ways of Sunlight*.
- Sam Selvon, Trinidadian novelist.
- Trinidad - **Trinidad** is the larger and more populous of the two major islands of Trinidad and Tobago
- The island lies 11 km off the northeastern coast of Venezuela and sits on the continental shelf of South America.
- The southernmost island in the West Indies
- Fifth largest in the West Indies



# WEST INDIES





- Cascadura



- “ There is a native legend in Trinidad which says that those who eat the cascadura will end their days in the island no matter where they wander”
- Author is the narrator
- Garry Johnson , Englishman, came to Trinidad, to spend a holiday on his friend Franklin’s estate.
- Narrator is the overseer of Franklin’s estate



- Franklin , kind hearted- treated like a Godfather in the village-
- Johnson – vigorous and active
- Intended to get background material for a book he was writing on superstition and witchcraft.
- Narrator tells him that he will get a lot of material, for the villagers are superstitious.
- Superstitions – Papa Bois- Johnson used to note all these down in his notebook



- Natives were pleased to help Johnson – writing about them
- Rumours about Johnson and Urmilla
- Narrator tries to dismiss the rumours and hints at its repercussions from a third person perspective.
- Narrator mentions of his infatuation towards Urmilla and how she resisted his advances





- One day Urmilla asked the narrator, when was Mr Johnson going back to England?
- Narrator scolds her
- She responds – narrator describes her beauty –tells him that Mr Johnson himself would tell her about his return
- In the course of the narrative a description is given about the geographical features of the island.



- One day the narrator saw Urmilla and Johnson sitting by the banks of the river – understood that they loved each other – the old longing for Urmilla welled up in the mind of the narrator.
- Returns to the estate – Franklin asks him about the rumours
- Franklin asks the narrator to ask Urmilla to leave the estate



- Sam tells him that that wouldn't do anything good.
- Franklin tells him that he only intends to stop the rumours
- That evening Urmilla came exhausted and frantic, informs, Sam, the narrator that Garry( Garry Johnson) climbed an immortelle tree and can't get down.







- He tried to procure eggs of vulture- 'corbeaux'
- Johnson tells Sam that he loves Urmila
- Narrator realised his true feelings for Urmila
- Sookdeo – Urmila's father – came to visit Franklin
- Narrator was disappointed when he finds out that her father knew nothing about the rumours





- Finally after having a drink her father musters up enough courage to tell Frankin about the rumours
- When asked by Franklin Sam tells them that there is nothing like that
- Sukdeo informs that once he saw them making love
- Sam leaves the room – dejected and angry
- In the evening – Johnson informs them that he is leaving the following week and would never see Urmilla again.



- Franklin intended to give a farewell party to Johnson
- Cascadura – Johnson heard about the cascadura – he was keen on catching one before he left- sam helps him – they got a dozen
- Gave 6 to Sukdeoo
- Party – Sam sees Urmilla – She informs him that she bought something for him-curry cascadoo
- Sam mocked her – legend –
- He suffered the indignity of aiding her in her love for him.



- Johnson ate the delicious curry
- Johnson informs Sam that he wants to bid farewell to Urmilla – asks him to help him
- Johnson departed – time flew – two years went by
- Sam tried to renew his wooing of Urmilla – but with little success
- Urmilla – nothing seemed to excite or interest her
- She always enquired about Garry, whenever Sam went to collect the estate mail



- She constantly pestered Sam asking updates about Garry and reassured herself that he will return for sure.
- She was awaiting his return with an infinite patience.
- Another year went by – womanhood crept up on her –
- Her father was ill – he asked her to marry Sam – but involuntarily Sam gave her ample time to decide
- A letter came from Johnson – rare blood disease – doctor advised him to stay away from English climate – Johnson coming to the island



- Conveys Urmilla that he is coming back next month - didn't tell her about his illness
- Describes her joy – her eyes were lit like pearls
- Tells her not to tell Garry about his love for her
- He resigns from his job as an overseer- America
- Johnson arrived – his book has been accepted for publication –
- Their marriage planned- Indian rites – settle on the estate





- When Sam met Johnson for the last time , Johnson asked him why he didn't marry Urmilla- Sam is surprised – hides his surprise and tells him that he always wanted to go abroad.



- Sam tells him that the cascadura legend really worked.
- Johnson tells him that he can't get Urmila to believe otherwise.
- Urmila was positive that Cascadura had worked a charm.
- When Sam was about to leave the island, he saw Urmilla, consulting the local obeah man for a medicine to cure Garry's illness.



- Urmilla
- Sam
- Johnson
- Franklin

