

The first work of non-fiction from multi award-winning Jamaican poet Jason Allen- Paisant

Winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize

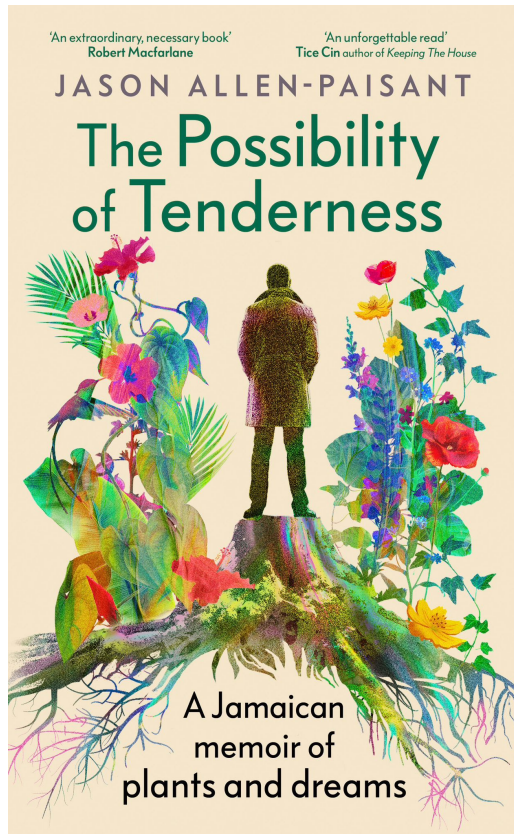
Winner of the Forward Prize for Poetry

‘Strangely restorative, and tenderly written. Hold it in your hands and then dream of the green world.’ Monique Roffey

‘A beautiful and urgent work’

Kwame Dawes, author of *Sturge Town*

‘Profound and lyrical, *The Possibility of Tenderness* is intimate in the telling and epic in reach, an exploration of colonial power and collective memory told from the ground up.’ Ekow Ekshun, author of *The Strangers*



The Possibility of Tenderness

A Jamaican memoir of plants and dreams

by Jason Allen- Paisant

Published by Hutchison Heinemann

in Hardback and eBook, £18.99

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Jason Allen-Paisant is a scholar, poet, and thinker shaping Afro-Diasporic futures through words and wisdom. He won the T.S. Eliot Prize and Forward Prize for Poetry for *Self-Portrait As Othello*. His first non-fiction work is a fierce reclamation of a link with the land, roaming from Jamaican hills to the woodlands of Leeds. *The Possibility of Tenderness* is a book for readers of memoirs such as *How To Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair and Robert Macfarlane’s nature writing.

The Possibility of Tenderness is a personal history narrated through the lens of the ‘grung’ and plants. It’s also a people’s history of the land, a family saga, an archival detective story through time. It’s the migration tale of a young scholar who arrives in Britain from rural Jamaica to study at Oxford to achieve ‘upward social mobility’ and who now lives in Roundhay Leeds. Suddenly, amidst his journey of dreams and class aspiration, the plants and people of his native district, Coffee Grove, begin to offer different ways of living, alternative dreams, and the possibility of tenderness and the permission to roam England.

Marrying the local and the familial with global history and unfolding as a timely and immersive tale of land, environment, and the world of plants, *The Possibility of Tenderness* reveals how the history of a tiny rural village in a mountainous region of Jamaica is interlinked with that of modern Britain. And, also what that rural village can teach us about leisure, land ownership and reclamation today.

Praise for Jason's previous work

‘A bold and impressive debut’ *Guardian* on *Thinking with Trees*

‘An expansive, fracturing subversive book’ *The Irish Times* on *Thinking with Trees*

‘*Self-Portrait As Othello* celebrates representation, understanding and speech as acts of glorious resistance.’ *Guardian* on *Self-Portrait As Othello*

‘A rich and twisty linguistic collection that finely balances the inner and outer space of black embodiment... a fine, fine accomplishment.’ Raymond Antrobus on *Self-Portrait As Othello*



About the author

Jason Allen-Paisant is a Jamaican writer and multi-award-winning poet. He is the author of two critically acclaimed books of poetry, *Thinking with Trees* and *Self-Portrait as Othello*, which won the UK's two most prestigious poetry awards for 2023 — the Forward Prize and T.S. Eliot Prize. He is also a Professor of Critical Theory and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester and Associate Editor of *Callaloo Literary Journal*. Jason lives in Leeds with his partner and two children.

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