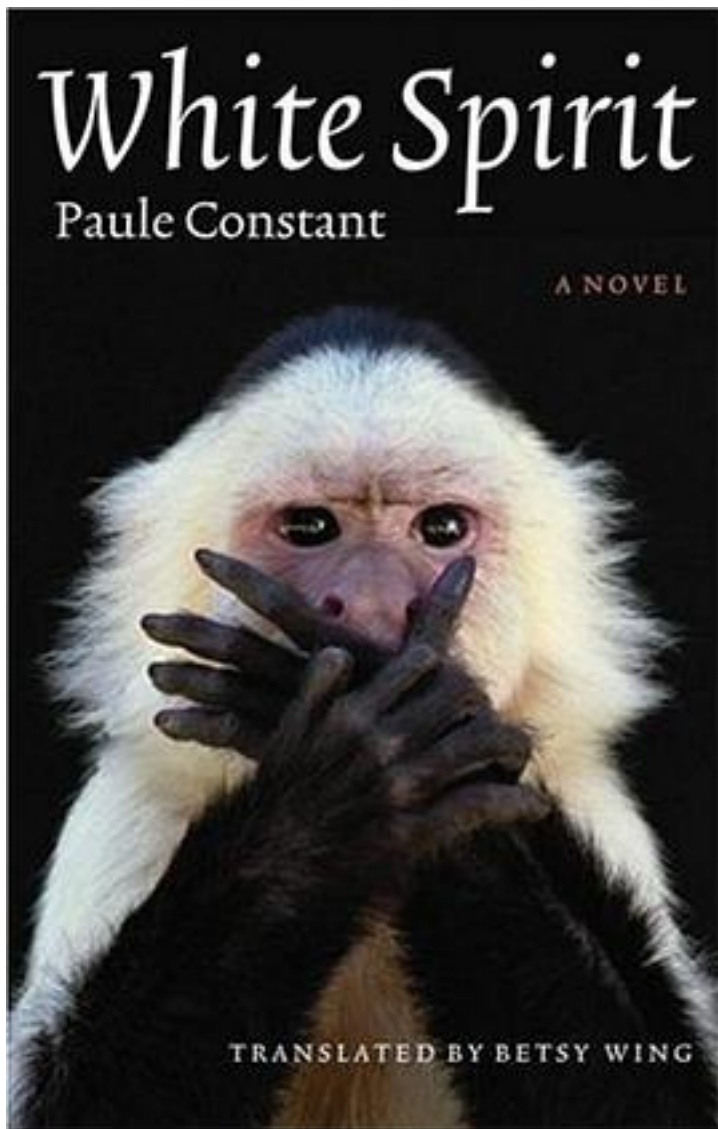


# White Spirit (European Women Writers Series)



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著者:Paule Constant

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After answering a classified ad placed by an import-export company looking for energetic young men willing to take on responsibilities for its African branches - no diploma required - Victor finds himself on *The Will of God*, a dilapidated boat heading into the heart of darkness as even Conrad couldn't have imagined. With the piquant mixture of hilarity and painful disenchantment characterizing Paule Constant's vision of the "colonial novel," *White Spirit* follows three innocents - Victor; Lola, a mulatto prostitute; and Alexis, who does not know he's a monkey - as they negotiate the perverse system of desires and hatreds on an African banana plantation. Selling what no one wants or needs, Victor takes delivery of a barrel of mysterious powder promptly christened "white spirit" for its ability to bleach the black arms of the workers handling the shipment. To become whiter and worthier of love, Lola buys some - and then she vanishes. In this nightmarish Africa where colonized and colonizers have each other in a stranglehold, the "white spirit" unleashes an obsession that merges whiteness with a return to paradise - an obsession that can only end in catastrophe. Through it all, with her characteristic caustic language, fierce irony, and enormous tenderness for human frailty, Constant portrays the ridiculous without ridicule - and, miraculously, sparks a light of hope in the midst of the torment and suffering. Paule Constant is the author of several novels, including *Trading Secrets*, winner of the Prix Goncourt, and *The Governor's Daughter*, both published by the University of Nebraska Press. Betsy Wing has translated Constant's previous novels published by the University of Nebraska Press, as well as Edouard Glissant's *The Fourth Century* (Nebraska 2001) and Helene Cixous' *The Book of Promethea* (Nebraska 1991).

作者介绍:

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