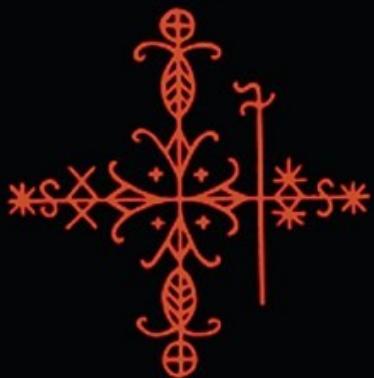


*The Book of Obeah*



*a novel by*  
*Sandra Carrington-Smith*

## **The Book of Obeah**

*Sandra Carrington-Smith*

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# **The Book of Obeah**

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## **The Book of Obeah** Sandra Carrington-Smith

Upon the passing of her beloved grandmother, Melody Bennet receives startling instructions that she is to take the ashes of Grandmama Giselle to southern Louisiana. Melody must step far outside her comfort zone in the suburbs of North Carolina to fulfill this dying wish.

## **The Book of Obeah Details**

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Author : Sandra Carrington-Smith

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## From Reader Review The Book of Obeah for online ebook

### Julie Wall says

I started this book on Thursday afternoon, while in the waiting room during one of my son's appointments. I got about 15-20 pages in and it was time to go home. Later that night, I picked it up again for a little while, right before bed, and got a few pages further. I took the day off on Saturday and decided while I was relaxing and doing nothing, I would get the book out again. I finished it Saturday night. I couldn't help it. It wouldn't let me put it down!

This story is a wild ride into the protagonist's inner-self. The discoveries that she makes on the adventures she has will speak to just about everyone who reads it.

The plot is gripping, and the road to Melody's self-awareness takes many turns. The fact that the twists and turns continue right up until the very end will leave many readers hungry for more! The transitions between past and present are seamless, which allows the reader to "keep up" without having to flip back to re-reference what was just read. Ms. Carrington-Smith's characters come to life, to the point where one can literally "see" them while reading. I felt like I knew many of them personally after finishing the book. I picked up on an underlying theme of embracing diversity, which is also something that happens to be a central point in my life, right now.

Having been someone who has enjoyed researching alternative religions and spirituality, this book spoke to me in a way that I haven't experienced since reading a friend's book on Wicca back in the mid-nineties. It makes me want to research Voodoo beyond Hollywood's spin on it, beyond the pins stuck in dolls, etc.

I also enjoyed the references to very real places in North Carolina. Since I live quite close to where the NC parts of the story took place, I really enjoyed reading about places that I have been.

The Book of Obeah is a page-turner, and I would recommend it to anyone! I can hardly wait for the next in the series to come out!

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### Betty says

*Published by O Books*

Obeah. The ancient religion from Africa. Obeah, brought to the New World and surrounding islands during the slave trade. To my mind, this book vibrates with mysticism, pulsing blood, and the rhythm of drumming. The Book of Obeah becomes a character of the story, even while no one knows where it is or even if it exists. But wait. This is the past, but the past will shortly catch up with the present and portents of the future. We, the readers, don't realize this yet.

There is a Preface which, though a Choctaw proclamation rather than African, is very meaningful in the basic principles of both religions, for want of a better word. It is worth reading this "Translation of Choctaw tribal shaman proclamation; Bayou-Lacombe, LA; Circa 1878" before you begin the story

The Prologue sent a chill down my spine, the terror was palpable whether based on reality or the mind of an

unstable mother. What an attention-grabber! This is crucial information and sets the scene that will answer many questions both in the story's future, and the near future of the main character, Melody Bennett. She is about to have her world turned inside-out. Melody has never heard of Obeah. She was born and raised in North Carolina.

Melody's precious Grandmama has died, and left her a letter with some very strange requests. She has instructed her to go to a specific bayou of New Orleans and scatter her ashes there. But first, she must find a childhood friend of Grandmama's Marie Devereux in the Louisiana bayou. A very daunting task, so many questions with no answers. Why New Orleans? Didn't they always live in North Carolina?. Melody had a very close bond with Grandmama and feels an urgency to carry out her last wishes.

Sandra Carrington-Smith weaves a magical tale of good and evil, spells and magic, protection and love. It is truly here where the story began many years before. The characterizations are remarkable, the wonders of New Orleans and the bayous beautifully descriptive. Even the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina plays a role in this scenario. After taking in the sights of the city Melody knows she must begin her quest. She meets many locals on the way who are only too willing to help her in her search for Marie. But a tarot reader has reacted badly in the midst of reading her cards and gives her a warning of extreme danger. Is it real? Melody is not sure what to think. She also encounters a malicious character who threatens her to give back what belongs to him. Melody has no idea what he is talking about.

Hiring a guide to take her into the bayous, she has another offers that leaves her wondering who to trust, and what in the world could she possibly have that everyone seems to want? Grandmama knew her granddaughter had abilities unknown to Melody yet, but she knew in making this request her instincts would be true. Melody learns she must trust and feels a connection with Old Paul, who takes her to meet Marie. Here she will learn some of the meaning of Obeah, but she still thinks of it as Voodoo and Hoodoo. Surprised to learn that Grandmama had lived in the bayous as a child, she was equally surprised that Marie was her best friend in those long ago days. Preparations by Marie begin in best Obeah fashion but with a sense of urgency; protection spells, the blessing of the ashes, briefing Melody on her part, and explaining the role of nature in the practice of Obeah, while Old Paul returns with many supplies for the ritual.

The author has done extensive study of Obeah, Voodoo, Hoodoo, Louisiana bayous, and the general feel of both bayou and city. She has brought all of it alive in this book. Mysteries surround them, danger is lurking, but where is it coming from? Why do so many people Melody meets and talks to make clandestine meetings and phone calls as soon as she leaves? Who are these people really? This is a process of learning, a process of believing, of feeling the power. The story builds up faster all through the novel. The creeping, living bayou and the old city and its people are all atmospheric. There are dangers all around, and some can not be clearly seen or recognized.

The talented Ms. Carrington-Smith brings all the loose ends, past and present, and binds them into a bewitching story, but also a classic story of greed. An exciting, riveting novel with many twists, this book will surely satisfy mystery fans and paranormal/mystical fans. The descriptive nature of the book brings us right into the heart of a wonderful old city and the people of the bayous. I thoroughly enjoyed it all the way through with no desire to take a break before finishing it. I will certainly be interested in reading another novel by this author.

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**Stephanie Bird says**

Hailing from suburban North Carolina, Melody is thrown into, what is for her, the mysterious and exotic world of voodoo by her Grandmama, a white practicing voodooist. Melody encounters many well developed characters along her journey of finding the powerful Book of Obeah. As a first novel for Sandra Carrington-Smith, "The Book of Obeah" is a shinning achievement. Though not derivative, Carrington-Smith's work has some of the mysticism, pace and suspense of "DaVinci Code." "The Book of Obeah" is actually filled with suspense and towards the end it works really well as a psychological thriller. "The Book of Obeah," the novel is a complex book in much the same way as the famed real life Book of Obeah. Carrington-Smith's book is part novel, part teaching text, building a better understanding of the intricate complexities of voodoo and its multi-hued practitioners.

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### **Adela says**

From the moment Sandra Carrington-Smith begins our journey with Melody Bennet into the Bayous of New Orleans, Louisiana armed with a broken heart and her grandmother's ashes, The Book of Obeah will have you transfixed on the powerful, dynamically written story you will be pleased you picked up.

This is a true page-turner in every sense of the word, as you instantly connect to Melody and her journey every step of the way – I literally could not put The Book of Obeah Down!

Well though out plot lines intertwine seamlessly to produce a very unique story, that underneath the surface becomes quite informative and thought provoking. The Book of Obeah will leave you with a new perspective regarding spiritual traditions unlike those you might be familiar with, and does so in a very raw, organic manner. Sandra Carrington-Smith successfully drives home the overwhelming theme that the overall vision of all paths to spirituality, no matter which one chooses to follow, in the end are the same. Grasping this understanding assists in understanding Voodoo as a mixing of various spiritual traditions and names, something that Carrington-Smith thoughtfully and eloquently provides for the reader. It is not often one can find a book that can touch them emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually – the journey through this book is one definitely worth taking!

The Book of Obeah is a pleasure to read for anyone, whether they have a familiarity with Afro-Caribbean religions, or will be exposed to this topic in prose for the first time. Intertwined into the text so seamlessly are tidbits of information that allow you to learn about the background with Melody as she tries to sort out the new life she has been thrust into.

The Book of Obeah transcends any expectation you could place on it, and will leave you waiting for Carrington-Smith's next unique novel!

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### **L.A. says**

Have you ever had the feeling that there was more to life then what you were experiencing. That there are more Universal truths then those we are trained from childhood to believe. Melody is soon to find herself on this very journey when her beloved GrandMama dies and leaves her legacy in the hands of her only granddaughter. Following the wishes of the woman who has been there for her for her entire life, Melody soon finds herself in very unfamiliar territory. It is all so familiar and yet so very different then she has ever

known. Realizing how very little she really understood of her Grandmother, she finds herself the guardian of a secret that is beyond her imaginings. The problem is that there are powerful forces that both want the secret for the powers they might gain, and others that want to destroy it and any part of what it means. It is a story full of awakenings for Melody and the reader as well. It is also a story about power and its corruption and the destruction of greed. Melody encounters new friendships, danger and love. A story about the beginnings of Voodoo and its connection to spiritualism. A powerful story of the unrelenting awakening of the soul and the different rational for the systems of personal beliefs.

This book was refreshing and very thought provoking. A different view on spiritual awakenings and set in a truly fascinating story of corruption, greed and family. The Author is very knowledgeable in different areas of spiritualism, and has a very smooth fast paced story. This is not my usual type of reading material but I found I could not put it down. This is a book I would recommend to my family and friends. I also believe it would be great fodder for a book club review.

This Review is based off a book obtained from the author. I am not receiving any compensation and all opinions are my own based of independent reading of this material

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### **Serenity L says**

Meh... it was well written enough to hold my attention. There are some aspects of the story I'm unsatisfied with. But for entertainment purposes... Great! But a legitimate discussion of Obeah... nope

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### **Noreen says**

Interesting glimpse into voo-doo dispelling some preconceived notions I had. I found both the plot and content interesting. Felt like I was learning some things.

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### **Joey Dye says**

#### Review of The Book of Obeah by Sandra Carrington-Smith

I bought this book on a whim not knowing what to expect but I started it and immediately got wrapped up in the story. There are so many things that I enjoyed about this book that I'll have to make some generalizations. The first thing that I thought was that the book was like The Celestine Prophecy in terms of plot structure in many ways, but differed in that an actual religion formed the underlying philosophy of the book. Sandra Carrington-Smith's biography would no doubt explain this with Catholic, Voodoo, Strega, and Christian healers in her family. This was an aspect of the book that I could deeply relate with in many ways. What she grew up with in her family, I have encountered in my own spiritual journey. When Melody went to meet with her parish priest about her grandmother's memorial service, she dwells some time on her relationship with the Church and its role in her life. The thoughts that come out in this encounter deeply resonated with me as they were often very similar to thoughts I had myself.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys suspense, romance, spirituality/mysticism,

Voodoo/hoodoo—it's a great pick for spiritual seekers who want to read a novel for a change!

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### **Ericka says**

It is safe to say that my thoughts of voodoo were limited prior to last year. When I thought of voodoo I thought of black people, animal blood sacrifices, dark spooky nights, and death. I mean who knew, it is actually a religion, and people use it's teachings for good and bad like any other religion. Now thanks to Sandra Carrington-Smith I now know that voodoo has diversity among its practitioners. Oh, the ignorance!!!!

Giselle said something that really got me to thinking about how important it is to not leave things unsettled.

"Is there anyone in this world without regret when death is near. "

~Giselle

Overall this is a great read. Dave Fennoy was an amazing narrator. He gave this book the spookiness it needed. The characters were well developed and I didn't get them confused. There are mysteries within mysteries and discoveries within discoveries. I do recommend this read if you enjoy mysteries and thrillers. Now, I'm off to read book two.

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### **Mochalove says**

The Book of Obeah by author Sandra Carrington- Smith is a tale steeped in the supernatural that is ripe with mystery, intrigue, spirituality and self-discovery. This is a story that grips the reader and takes a look into the world of Voodoo (also known as Obeah) and where it may intersect with other organized religions. This is nicely written story that is chock full of action, emotions, and greed as Melody Bennet, the story's heroine has to carry out her deceased grandmother's wishes that eventually leads her to the discovery of a supernatural family legacy.

Melody Bennet, while mourning the loss of her beloved grandma is charged with the normally innocuous task of spreading her ashes however before spreading her ashes Melody also has take a trip to Louisiana to a root worker deep in the swamps and have the ashes blessed through a special ceremony. As it turns out, for Melody, it is the completing of the ritual that leads to her experiencing events, the likes of which she has never seen nor believed in. During the course of the story, Melody discovers facts about herself and her family that changes her spiritual belief system forever.

While trying to fulfill her executor duties Melody also uncovers the answer to a year's old family mystery, which is - the real reason behind her grandmother Giselle's abrupt flight many, many years ago from her home in Louisiana to a farm in North Carolina. She discovers that Grandma Giselle Baton ran away to save the lives of herself and her innocent children from her be-spelled husband and his powerful and evil witch/ root worker lover. Giselle discovered that her life and the lives of her children were in grave danger. When Giselle ran, she also took a very powerful manual from her husband's lover "The Book of Obeah".

It is not long after scattering Grandma Giselle's ashes that Melody soon discovers the coveted book buried on her grandmother's farm in North Carolina. She also finds out just how powerful and important the book is

and unfortunately, for Melody there are others (including the Cardinal of the Catholic Church) that know that the book has resurfaced, the powerful information that the book contains and will not stop to gain possession of the book at any price even if it costs lives.

This book was a great read that kept me completely interested until the very end of the book. It is an adeptly written story concerning an interesting topic that deals with the supernatural and spirituality that seems to have been well researched by the author. Melody is a resilient and interesting character that keeps you rooting for her throughout the story. I recommend this book for a great summer read.

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### **The Charmer: Lets Talk About Books says**

I really liked this story a lot. The story hooks you from the beginning. The narrators voice is spellbinding. I thought the characters in this book were all black with the exception of Marie and eventually Bertrude. I don't know if I missed it early on in the book, the details of their ethnicity, but I found out around ch 16 or 17. I feel like I should put a Spoiler Alert on this review, because I was surprised to find out that Melody and family were white. It did change how I felt about the book in how I interpreted the characters. This is the first book in a trilogy and I will finish the trilogy.

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### **Sandra Carrington-Smith says**

The Book of Obeah is a novel of paranormal suspense. It recently won the International Book Award for the multi-cultural fiction category.

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### **MissSusie says**

I really liked this book; however I am not sure I would have liked it as much if I had read it in print. But since I did listen I really enjoyed it, it was suspenseful and kept me on the edge of my seat. This is paranormal suspense about Voodoo and Hoodoo.

Melody's grandmother dies and asks that Melody take her ashes back to the Louisiana Bayou, but what her grandmother doesn't tell her is the inheritance of "The Sight" that she also passed on and that there is an old book that she needs to take care of as there are many willing to kill for. Melody didn't know anything about Voodoo or Hoodoo but soon finds out her grandmother did which comes as a shock to Melody. When she gets to Louisiana things get even weirder plus she is threatened by a man who says the book her grandmother stole is his and he will get it back no matter what. So we have a mystery a family story with some ghosts and hoodoo going on!

This isn't a story I would have been drawn to but since it is up for an Audie Award I listened to it and am glad I did, it had just the right amount of suspense and the paranormal add a little Catholic Church baddies to the mix and this made for a good story. I was glad a certain someone didn't end up being a bad guy (you'll know if you read it) and I am curious if that relationship will go on to the next book (which there is not an audio and that needs to be remedied!). I am curious if certain characters will carry over and which ones that

will be. I liked Melody I thought she took everything in stride and it was a lot to take in and I'd love to see how she goes forward and what becomes of 'the Sight'. This book grabbed me enough to want to continue on with the series.

Even though our heroine is female it didn't bother me at all that this one was narrated by a man because he was amazing and added to the spookiness of this book. Dave Fennoy has this voice it's the voice of every scary Voodoo witch doctor that's ever been heard or read he was perfect for this book. His voice is a cross between Barry White & Dion Graham and I really liked it and was very surprised to find out this was his only audiobook on audible so did some digging and found out he is a voice over actor and has some impressive credits to his name in commercials, animations, games and documentaries. I for one hope he narrates the second book in this series because it won't be the same without him! I also hope he will narrate more books because I could listen to him all day! There were times the music between chapters was annoying and times it felt like it fit in so just a warning to those of you who don't like music in your audiobooks.

4 Stars

5 Star narration

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### **ccqdesigns says**

Last Friday night I came home from work and found The Book of Obeah by Sandra Carrington-Smith in my mailbox. I had selected this book from Review the Book based on the out of the ordinary synopsis. I decided to pick the book up after supper and read a little before bedtime; at least that was the plan. This book captured me from the start and would not let me go. I kept looking for a stopping point, a place I could relax and take a breath, set it down and go to sleep, but there was none. I was physically attached to the characters and the prose and I could not stop until it was over, at 4:30 am. The last time a book took hold of me this way was a long time ago. And I have delayed writing this review because I have not wanted to scrutinize why this story touched me the way it did. But, review it I must.

Melody Bennet's beloved Grandmama Giselle dies and leaves her one last request. She is to take her grandmother's ashes to New Orleans, have them blessed by a Voodoo Priestess and spread them on Bear Bayou. Melody has lived her entire life in North Carolina with no awareness of her family history on the Bayou, the culture or practice of Voodoo or of any living relatives on the Bayou. What she finds is more than she bargained for and changes everything in her life forever.

This book is steeped in mystery, spirituality, lessons, love, loss and traditions. It makes you question your assessment of Voodoo and other religions and I kept wondering how much was fact and how much was fiction. It has led me on a quest for more information. And, I've had a wonderful conversation with the author herself who I have found open and delightful to talk to. I have already questioned her about more books to come and as I had guessed, this is the first book in a series so look for more great reading to come.

I see that I still have not told you why this book affected me in such a way, and this I cannot answer. You must read it for yourself, and see if it reaches up for you. But beware; you may want to wait till Saturday morning to start it!

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**Kristal says****Captured!**

This book caught and held my attention for its entirety. Melanie's journey is just beginning in this powerful world of her grandmama's and she is handling it like a pro! I love anything dealing with New Orleans and voodoo and this book satisfies both! Look forward to the next book!

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