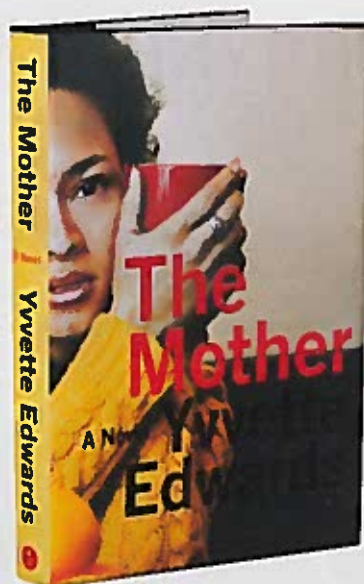


# Mother Courage and Her Son

A BRITISH NOVELIST DELIVERS A GRIPPING TALE OF LOSS AND LOVE



**F**our years ago, author Yvette Edwards emerged seemingly out of nowhere and was long-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize. *A Cupboard Full of Coats* (Amistad), her debut novel, and one of seven books on that long list, stood out for its literary elegance. Although

she didn't win, Edwards gained a devoted audience, who eagerly awaited her next offering. With the release of **The Mother** (Amistad, \$21.99), that wait is over. This heart-breaking and provocative story proves that Edwards's time was well spent. In a saga that could have been ripped from the headlines, the mother is Marcia Williams. Her world is shattered when Ryan, her sweet and sensitive 16-year-old son, is brutally murdered. All at once, Marcia is filled with rage and is hollow at the loss of her child. Adding salt to her open wounds, she attends the trial of her son's alleged murderer. Edwards gently taps into the emotional well that we witness too often in newspapers, on cable news and in our social media feed. Marcia is emblematic of everyday women trying to live their

lives. They are our family, our neighbors, our friends. They are the women, the mothers we don't know. We pass by them in shopping centers and grocery stores. And then we meet moms like Marcia, thrust into the media spotlight, having to endure one of the most personal and painful events that could happen. Edwards provides a face, a voice and an emotional depth to women like Marcia. Day in and day out at the courthouse, she learns more about her son's life and the troubled history of Tyson Manley, who is charged with stabbing Ryan. As the trial goes on, Marcia

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finds herself spiraling into despair. Her only sign of hope arrives in the form of Sweetie, Tyson's terrified girlfriend. Can Sweetie help Marcia find closure, or is there never closure when a mother buries her child? Edwards delicately answers both questions in this tour de force that deserves recognition and as wide an audience as possible. —P.H.B.



## ON THE DOWNLOAD

Looking for the perfect read for your mobile or digital device? Here's a funny and fearless tome that will keep you laughing, crying and guessing for days

Former television news producer Rojé Augustin has eyes, ears and a nose for a good story. The native New Yorker, who currently calls Sydney, Australia, home, has worked with A-list broadcasting talent including Barbara Walters and Diane Sawyer. In 2013's **The Unraveling of Bebe Jones** (Breaknight Books), Augustin creates a juicy setup: What happens when your dream job morphs into a nightmare? That's just what young Desiree Washington finds out when she lands a position assisting glamorous diva Bebe Jones. The old adage "Be careful what you wish for" is on fleek in this mesmerizing yarn of faded glory, a loss of innocence and psychological games on overdrive. —P.H.B.

