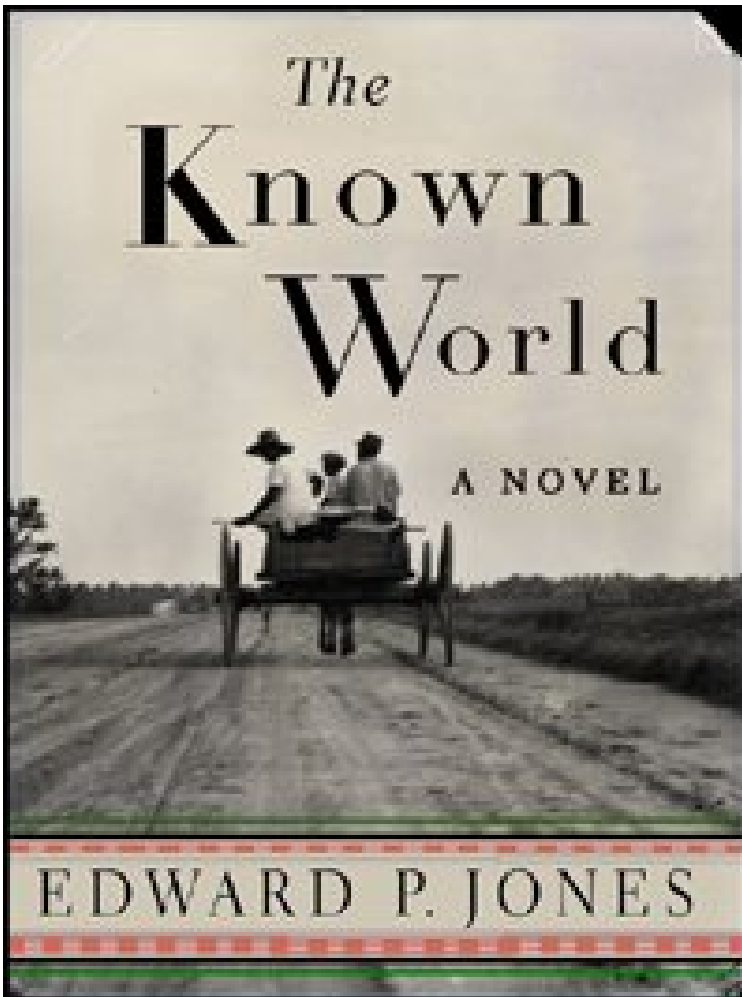


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# The Known World



*Par Edward P. Jones*  
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Prsentation de l'diteurFrom Edward P. Jones comes one of the most acclaimed novels in recent memorywinner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction.The Known World tells the story of Henry Townsend, a black farmer and former slave who falls under the tutelage of William Robbins, the most powerful man in Manchester County, Virginia. Making certain he never circumvents the law, Townsend runs his affairs with unusual discipline. But when death takes him unexpectedly, his widow, Caldonia, can't uphold the estate's order, and chaos ensues. Edward P. Jones has

woven a footnote of history into an epic that takes an unflinching look at slavery in all its moral complexities. A masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon. Time From AudioFile This remarkable novel, winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award and short-listed for the National Book Award, deserves all the acclaim it has won and then some, especially in this flawless rendition. The story is set in antebellum Virginia, in the morally complex world of prosperous free blacks who aspire to all the liberties of white citizenship, including owning slaves. Kevin Free's narration is so accomplished that when a woman character speaks, you utterly forget that she does it through a man's voice. He gives each character color, personality, and heft, without ever vamping or straining for effect. The novel bears comparison with Trollope and Faulkner, and Kevin Free's performance of it is in the same league. B.G. Winner of AudioFile Earphones Award AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine Revue de presse Jones has written a book of tremendous moral intricacy. (The New Yorker) A masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon. (Time) Breathtaking.... A fascinating counterweight to Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.... It is essential reading. (Entertainment Weekly) An exemplar of historical fiction. . . [it] will subdue your preconceptions, enrich your perceptions and trouble your sleep.. . . The way Jones tells this story. . . recalls Cormac McCarthy, William Faulkner and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. (Newsday) An exemplar of historical fiction. . . [it] will subdue your preconceptions, enrich your perceptions and trouble your sleep.. . . The way Jones tells this story. . . recalls Cormac McCarthy, William Faulkner and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. (Starred Library Journal) Astonishingly rich. . . The particulars and consequences of the right of humans to own other humans are dramatized with unprecedented ingenuity and intensity, in a harrowing tale that scarcely ever raises its voice. . . . It should be a major prize contender. (Kirkus s (starred)) A stunning debut novel. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) Fascinating...poignant.... [A] complex and fine novel. (Baltimore Sun) A strong, intricate, daring book by a writer of deep compassion and uncommon gifts. (Peter Matthiessen) Stunning.... His first novel is...likely to win acclaim. (New York Times) If Jones. . . keeps up this level of work, hell equal the best fiction Toni Morrison has written about being black in America. (Speakeasy) One of those rare works of fiction that both wound and heal. (O Magazine) The *Known World* is a great novel, one that may eventually be placed with the best of American Literature. (San Diego Union-Tribune) Heartbreaking....fascinating. (Newsweek) Brilliant....Glorious....[The *Known World*] belongs on the shelf with other classics of slavery, like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) Fascinating . . . There is grief and fear, genuine affection an envy in this complex and fine novel. (Philadelphia Inquirer) A major achievement. (Time Out New York) Extraordinary.....Nothing...quite prepares readers for the imaginative leaps and technical prowess of *The Known World*. (Seattle Times) A profoundly beautiful and insightful look at American slavery and human nature. (Booklist (starred)) Vivid....[An] epic novel. (Book Magazine) Beautifully written . . . [it] ought to enjoy the massive readership that Charles Frazier's runaway hit, *Cold Mountain* did. (USA Today) Brilliant...Jones novel movingly evokes one small landscape of a larger map that so stubbornly yields up its truths today (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) Stunning....Pitch-perfect....Too much cannot be said about Mr. Jones gifts as a storyteller and a stylist. (The Washington Times) Once you start the book you are hooked....Consider this novel necessary reading. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram) This...magical novel will touch you in a profound way. (People (4-Starred Critic's Choice)) Complex, beautifully written, and breathtaking...the book will knock the wind out of you with the depth of its compassion. (QBR: The Black Book ) Heartrending....[The *Known World*] walks with the pace and solemnity of the Bible. (Dallas Morning News) [A] powerful, multigenerational saga. (Chicago Tribune Books) An incredible saga. (Essence) Destined for a permanent spot on the...shelf of great American novels about slavery, next to Morrison...and Faulkner. (Boston Globe) A grand and inspired work of historical fiction. . . [It] deserves every word of praise that comes its way. (Chicago Tribune Books) A masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon. (Time magazine)