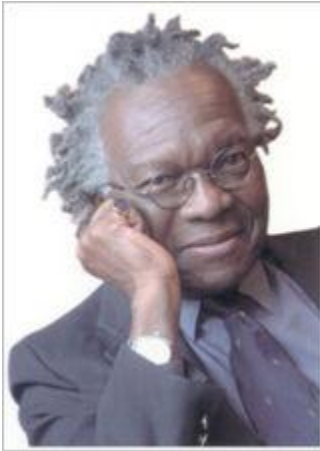


Austin Clarke



Austin Clarke photo from [Bukowski Agency](#)

[*The Polished Hoe*](#) (Amistad 2002) was a towering achievement of a novel. It garnered a bouquet of international prizes and honours including the Giller Prize and the [Commonwealth Prize](#) and was co-winner of the Trillium Award.

The book also sold more than 30,000 copies in Canada alone and spent many weeks on the bestseller list. Internationally, it got rave reviews from *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The New York Times*, *The Sydney Herald*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe* and more.

The story takes place over one night on a fictitious Caribbean Island called Bimshire, as a woman takes her time to confess to a murder, as she slowly reveals what led up to it. The gripping story, brought out to a large degree through the dialogue between the two main characters, portrays the history of slavery in the West Indies, along with some of its most devastating effects.

Interviewed in *Quill and Quire* in 2003 after becoming a Giller and Commonwealth Prize celebrity, Clarke revealed to [Donna Bailey Nurse](#) that after 40 years of writing, he was looking forward to getting a decent advance, and had no plans for retiring. He is now in his mid-seventies.

Clarke has written nine novels to date, along with six short story collections and a culinary memoir of Barbados, called *Love and Sweet Food*.