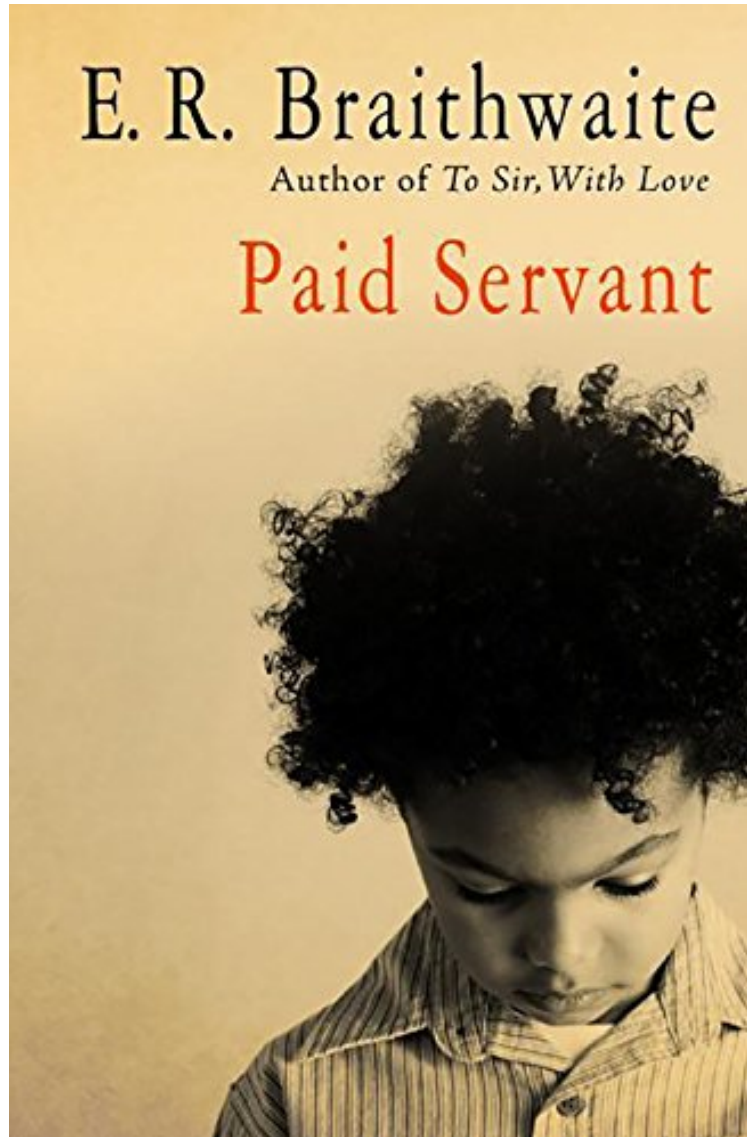


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Paid Servant

E. R. Braithwaite

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E. R. Braithwaite : Paid Servant before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paid Servant:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellentBy MDcaresjust finished reading this wonderful book. what a wonderful man. to sir with love is one of my favorite movies. this book is a deep, heart-felt accounting of his years working with social services placing children. the book is very well written. the stories are a wonderful portrayal of human nature. i highly reccomend this book to anyone with an open heart who cares about children. i plan to read all

of his other books. his writing is very compelling.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great WritingBy Steven FriedmanFrom the author of *To Sir With Love*, comes another riveting story of race and adjusting to life. Highly recommend it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book.By B. WolinskyAfter being laid off from a teaching job thanks to downsizing, Braithwaite gets a job with social services. His job now involves children, not teenagers; specifically, he has to find foster homes and/or adoptions for black orphans. Just like in the USA, it's a losing fight to find people willing to adopt a five year old boy, much less a wealthy white couple to adopt a black one. Then there's red tape, the wishy-washy waffling of the head of the department, the expectation that Braithwaite knows how all black Britons think.In the last book, "*To Sir With Love*," there were a lot of issues pertaining to post-war Britain; fatherless kids, crippled vets, lack of jobs. Now, ten years later, there's a new set of troubles; West Indian parents can't reconcile London life against what they're used to, fathers and mother give up, and these kids are left in limbo. There's a funny scene where the author makes a house call, and gets yelled at by the father from an upstairs window. He yells back "if we were home, you wouldn't be caught dead talking to me from upstairs!" Being in a new country can corrupt you fast.The racism here in the book, as it did in his last one, seems more of a gentile kind of racism; you get a whole lot of "looking down" as opposed to having a brick through your window (though I'm sure that did happen often.) Perhaps it was all a remnant of the British class system?Regardless, the goal of the nations welfare state had certainly changed. By the time these events take place, there were well-kept homes for orphans in Britain. 100 years earlier, in the Dickens age, these children would've ended up in the workhouses.

E. R. Braithwaite, the acclaimed author of *To Sir, With Love*, poignantly recounts his time as a social worker dedicated to Londons abandoned minority children

A kind of social workers journal, offering intimate glimpses into troubled lives but without jargon or tortured psychoanalytic interpretations. The New York Times Book