



## Montaro Caine

*Sidney Poitier*

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## Montaro Caine Sidney Poitier

An inspirational first novel that blends elements of mystery, science fiction, and metaphysics by the beloved, legendary, and bestselling actor Sidney Poitier.

When a coin is found in a baby's hand, the doctor who finds it sends it up to a lab at MIT, where Montaro Caine, a student, does a work-up on it and discovers it to be made of materials not known on Earth. Caine never learns the owner's identity, but two decades later, as Caine, now CEO of Fitzer Corp in New York City, is facing the possibility of a hostile corporate takeover and experiencing family troubles, a man and woman appear in his office bearing the coin. The find sets off a battle of intrigue and suspense, as scientists, collectors, and financiers all vie to get their hands on it. But the coin, and a second coin that appears, is of more value than mere monetary worth. In this ambitious, page-turning novel, the beloved actor Sidney Poitier takes us from New York to Europe to the Caribbean in an exploration of race, faith, and, beyond all else, the meaning of our lives on earth.

## Montaro Caine Details

Date : Published May 7th 2013 by Spiegel & Grau (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780385531115

Author : Sidney Poitier

Format : Hardcover 320 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Science Fiction, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Montaro Caine for online ebook

### Jen says

Montaro Caine from Net Galley/Random House is due out May 7, 2013.

Description from Amazon: A baby is born with a coin in her hand. An orphan crafts a mysterious wooden object. The CEO of a large corporation finds himself under extraordinary pressure at work and at home. And on a remote hilltop on a Caribbean island, a medicine man seems to understand the meaning of all of these events and to hold the key to the future.

Sidney Poitier, the respected actor and director now in his eighties, has turned his hand to writing fiction, and because Poitier is an actor whose works I've always admired and appreciated, I had to try this book. I liked it, and some of the philosophy behind the work seems in keeping with my image of Poitier--intelligence, integrity, wide-ranging interests, and a strong sense of belief in oneself and personal responsibility.

The book is, unsurprisingly, well-written and is an intriguing mix of philosophy and metaphysical science fiction with a decidedly optimistic faith in both science and humanity. I'm not quite sure of how to describe it, but it held my interest. I'm now determined to read his autobiographical works.

Fiction/Science Fiction. May, 2013. Print Version 320 pages.

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### Leah says

Sidney Poitier can do no wrong. Here in his first novel, he gives the reader an intriguing tale of sci-fi literary fiction. Questions of who we are and what our place is—not just in the world but in the universe—are explored in *Montaro Caine*.

Montaro is a successful businessman drawn into the mystery of two coins found in the hands of newborn babies. The coins are unlike anything else on earth and have properties that are as miraculous as they are inexplicable. The babies who held them (now adults), business rivals, lawyers, doctors, collectors, con men, and even a miracle healer are all connected to these coins and their fate.

Poitier writes elegantly, weaving the lives of his disparate characters together using the science and perhaps even magic of the coins. And there is a visual style to the words that makes it easy to see how well this book would transition to film—the result, no doubt, of Poitier's long and distinguished career as an actor. And there are questions left at the book's end, as there would be in real life, leaving the reader satisfied in some ways and yet with something to think about too, just as the characters are.

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### S says

I read this entire book in one sitting; literally could not put it down. I was pleasantly by surprised Sidney Poitier's writing. Everything about this book drew me in: the author himself; the characters, and the story. I didn't know what to expect as I primarily put this book on my reading list because I love Sidney Poitier in To

Sir, With Love.

To my surprise it was completely up my alley; an intriguing mix of suspense, betrayal, mysticism, metaphysics, travel across galaxies and time... somewhat reminiscent of Lost (well, some parts of it anyway). I really enjoyed nearly everything about it. My only complaints are that (1) Montaro's wife and daughter were not a part of Montaro's discovering his life's purpose and probably the most important information to be imparted to humankind, ever. (2) There was a pretty binary distinction between good and bad in the book. It didn't detract too much from the story for me, but I definitely remembered characters by whether they were the Good Guys or the Bad Guys. (3) The ending was a tad bit preachy, but I was happy with Montaro's resolution. Not so sure about everyone else's.

I did really want the good guys to win. In a way, though, you knew this was inevitable. The story was clearly designed to lead to a foregone conclusion, that good prevails over evil. This was couched in a lot of "but maybe not, it's up to humanity" moments, but the moral of the story kind of punches you in the head over and over.

Still, I really enjoyed the story and hope to read more fiction by Sidney Poitier. However, I get the feeling that this was the big (fictional) story within him that was waiting to be told, and am not sure what tack he would take if he did write another novel.

By the way, I had no idea he was a close friend of Carl Sagan's until the acknowledgements at the end of the book. Very cool.

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## **Garrett says**

A weird and sometimes enthralling but solidly entertaining experiment of a novel that attempts to meld the worlds of the mundanely practical with the cosmic in the same was as the Jodie Foster movie Contact. The book is in part dedicated to Carl Sagan, and owes a lot to his potentialist view of things, but sometimes doesn't really effectively fuse the two (or more) stories it tries to be. Some loose ends are left, and some left deliberately, but ultimately, if one keeps an open mind, one won't be sorry about reading Sidney Poitier's debut novel. It is fun and soap operatically epic, with a wide-ranging geography, multiple characters, and attempt to bridge widely disparate story elements.

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## **Suzy Wilson says**

Like several other reviewers, I first picked up this eARC from NetGalley because of the author's name. Sidney Poitier? Legend! That he can write as well as bring the written word to life through his emotions, was an absolute bonus for me.

Stoked much?

Montaro Caine is an interesting novel and I enjoyed reading it. The premise was interesting and the plot well executed. Two babies, born mere months apart, clutching golden coins in their hands - a secret known to very few, but significant to all. Combine this with a cattle of corporate intrigue and one of medical miracles and you have some pretty interesting threads to draw together.

Draw them together, Mr Poitier does and the novel works as an interesting piece of fiction.

Interesting, that word again!

I really, really want to give this novel more stars ... But ... There are just too many little things that stop me.

Firstly, the writing ... It is beautiful, but it is a little too voluble ... The tale could have been told in fewer paragraphs.

Secondly, the characters. There are just too many. While they were well drawn, and for the most part, memorable, their sheer volume was taxing.

Thirdly, The sub-plot with Caine's daughter Prissy was unnecessary and his choice to dash off solving a coin mystery when there was a massive issue on at home, baffled me. It didn't fit with Caine's character. I'm not sure what value it added to the tale, other than to make me think Caine was a bad father and husband for abandoning them at a time of family crisis.

The coins in baby hands: no ultrasound facilities in the US in the 1980s? If the metal in the coins showed a reading on a mass spectrometer, it is going to cause a blip on an ultrasound machine at one of the monitoring scan times. Just sayin.

That's about it.

I liked it, but I wish it had been tighter.

Still my favourite actor, just not YET my favourite novelist.

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## Lupe Dominguez says

I have, in the past, judged most books that I have read as pre- and post- *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. Now, I feel as though my expectations have risen and books will now be judged as pre- and post- *Montaro Caine: A Novel*. Truly an inspiring and transcending novel, Sidney Poitier, whom I have loved since watching him in *In The Heat Of The Night* and *To Sir With Love*, has built for us a world that we live in now, but with new questions that we fear to ask ourselves.

Many lives intertwine to come to one great, climactic point, and Mr. Poitier does this seamlessly and intricately. The novel begins with young Montaro Caine, coming home to find that his father, Robert Caine, and his mother, sharing what seem to be a wonderful moment (to be fair, Montaro is 8-he just sees his parents are happy). The story goes on to follow Robert and his trip to see another doctor of behavioral science, Dr. Banks. While here, Robert is given a small token from a young child, about Montaro's age, who says to give it to his son. The kicker? Robert nor Dr. Banks had told this young child that he had a son, and the carving, which was very detailed, could not have possibly happened in the mere moments before they met. After his business is concluded, Robert Caine is anxious to get home to his family and to show off his findings. Unfortunately, he never makes it home, and Montaro Caine is given the tools and words from his grandfather to become a man.

Fast forward, and Montaro is at MIT and given the chance to look at some coin that has properties that he can not ever explain. When he and his superior ask for more time to come to more findings, they are denied, and the occasion becomes nothing more than background noise for the next twenty odd years for Montaro.

Then, one day, out of blue, in the midst of personal turmoil for Montaro, two people enter and his whole world changes.

Like I said, there are many lives that are intimately linked to Montaro and each other, but to get into that would be like re-posting the entire novel here on this review. Never have I been held so captivated and enthralled, and never has a book left me with so many questions about life here on Earth, and my connectedness to those around me.

I will leave you with this:

"You are right, of course." Perch said. "You do not know all the answers you seek to know yet; you shouldn't expect to. But you are beginning to ask the right questions, and that is what is most important. Too often, questions take the shape of one's doubts, and those doubts strive to weaken the better selves inside of us. Only by the constant strengthening of our better selves can we win against those doubts. There are doorways everywhere, leading everywhere. Let your better selves guide you and, who knows, one day, somewhere in a place far away, in this world or another, we may meet again."

I look forward to having this book as a permanent fixture in my personal library.

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### **Jennifer Kay says**

My AP review of "Montaro Caine" - <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/poitie...>

"Poitier's novel may carry a heartfelt message about the potential for good within each one of us, but 'Montaro Caine' doesn't live up to its potential."

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### **Kelly Woodward says**

Disclosure time: I recognized Sidney Poitier's name when I started reading this book, but I had no idea who he was. Didn't even know he was an actor. Terrible, I know, considering his many accomplishments. I guess I could use the excuse that he was before my time, which he most certainly was, but I think it's good to know a little bit about the culture of many decades, not just my own. (This is especially important because...well, have you seen some of the swill this generation has produced?) I'm glad that reading Poitier's (first) novel gave me the opportunity to learn a bit more about him. Also...I know age doesn't terribly matter, but I find it vastly admirable that he decided to pursue this new avenue in such a late season of his life. I hope that I don't spend my later years resigned to "doing what I've always done" and am brave enough to venture out and do anything that I haven't gotten around to yet.

Anyway. About the book. Montaro Caine is about the title character and his search to discover the origins of two mysterious coins. The elemental composition of these coins is unlike anything he has ever seen before, and he quickly becomes absorbed in a quest to uncover as much information about them as he can. (Fortunately for him, he is the CEO of a company whose resources are at his disposal.) As murmurings about these strange coins reach other scientists, collectors, and thieves, everyone wants to get their hands on them. What follows is a story of intrigue, deception, and suspense with a dash of family struggles and personal growth.

There are many great things about this book. For starters, Montaro Caine is a great protagonist because he

isn't perfect, but he is noble. I enjoyed watching him figure out his place in the world. The writing is clean and efficient. Also, Poitier is a good storyteller: there are so many characters in this novel, and their stories intertwine so often, that it has the potential to become dizzying and confusing. But it doesn't; Poitier manages his web masterfully. Transitions between scenes and locations are smooth, and it's fairly easy to keep everyone straight. This is no easy feat. Also, although the book is very slow to start, once the action picks up it flows right along and sweeps the reader up in its swift current. I couldn't wait to find out what would happen next.

Okay, negative time. I didn't do this on purpose, I swear, but my complaint with this book is exactly the same as my primary complaint with the last book I reviewed (*Something Wicked This Way Comes*): it gets too teachy-and-preachy for me. I love it when good prevails, but I hate having to be told, "Good is winning over evil. Do you see? These characters are coming out ahead because they are good. And they have love. And integrity of intention." I'd rather an implicit moral than an explicit one.

That being said, I still think this book is worth a read. It's good. I just wanted a stronger ending.

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### **Josh says**

Spoiler alert. This review does contain spoilers so beware.

A novel of mystery that intertwines science-fiction with metaphysics penned by actor Sidney Poitier.

Montaro Caine, the CEO of Fitzer Corp. has been perplexed with the unique properties of a rare coin for decades. Twenty years prior the coin mysteriously appeared in the hands of a newborn baby and ultimately found its way to the young graduate student, Montaro Caine. The young Montaro quickly discovered the strange unearthly properties before having it removed by its unnamed benefactor.

Fast forward twenty years and follow Montaro through Europe and the Carribean in search of now two famous coins that could perhaps unlock the secrets of an alien race or destroy our ancestral one.

While the novel has colorful characters and a well written narrative I felt that this book belonged as a small chapter in a bigger story. I would have loved to jump into the future and see what it is Montaro and gang were able to do with the gifts of the coins. Or perhaps through the alien technology had at least been given a glimpse of their past and final destruction. I guess, too much mystery and not enough meat and potatoes.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher for my un-biased and honest review

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### **Debra Odom says**

This was an easy read and not what I expected. I had to push myself of complete this book.

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### **Gloria Cangahuala says**

Academy Award-winning actor/director Sidney Poitier's debut novel is one filled with mystery, magic, and wonder. Delving into the depths of what it means to be a human being, including our inherent flaws, Poitier introduces the reader to a wide cast of characters - each with their own problems, each with their own

agendas. The characters' lives intersect and interweave, all connected by mysterious coins. What is the meaning of the coins, and what role do they play in the lives of the characters and in the future of mankind on Earth? Poitier's novel at times moves at a good clip, at other times at a leisurely pace. Although never to the point of being so engrossing that I couldn't put it down, I did find the premise intriguing and Poitier's writing elegant and poetic and a pleasure to read. There wasn't as much of a climactic ending as I would have liked, but that in and of itself is a reflection of human nature, which is what this book was really all about.

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### **ANg says**

The premise was interesting. The actual writing style was a nice easy ride. BUT, way to many characters that were underdeveloped , too many subplots and the ending was disapointing. Two unique coins are discovered , valuable in that they are not from this universe and they seem to be alive. Of course there are several parties interested in the coin. There lies the mystery, the coins, where did they come from , who owns them and ultimately what will others do to own them. So a generous 2 stars, a sequel might be interesting just to learn the path of the coin and the universe that it represents.

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### **Tom says**

Didn't know that Sidney Poitier was an author, but his first effort at fiction is good. The plot is a bit complicated, but it's different and holds your attention. I thought the ending could have been stronger.

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### **Mary says**

This book was a good try for a first novel. It started out well, a page turner, and I mentioned to my husband that I was hoping it would not disintegrate later on. Well, the disintegration started in the last quarter of the book, when Montaro Caine started giving long drawn out speeches on how to save mankind. Why do authors feel they need to resort to speeches to get their message across? Very boring and a little condescending. I ended up skimming the speech and was happy that the book was finished. I would say read the book, but beware....

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### **Stephanie says**

It's probably not fair to the author, but when I picked up this novel by Sidney Poitier, I was really hoping the protagonist would be somewhat like Mr. Poitier. Instead he was a white self-made millionaire from Nebraska (or Kansas? Maybe he was from Kansas, and one of the other white self-made millionaires was from Nebraska?) There were several self-made millionaires scattered about.

The main characters were a bit too John Galt-ish; you know the type, hard-core businessman who can play hardball with hard characters but has a hard line of hard ethics that he will not stray from under any hardship. The story is rife with characters with names like "Cordiss Krinkle" (yes!!) and "Kritzman Fritzbrauner". Yet it is not a comedy.

I think something meaningful was supposed to happen in the end. It involved long paragraphs about mysticism and science and how science is really mystical, or maybe the other way around.

If you loved The Celestine Prophecy, you might like this. If you want to experience some of Sidney Poitier's panache and elegance, skip this novel and watch one of his movies.

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