

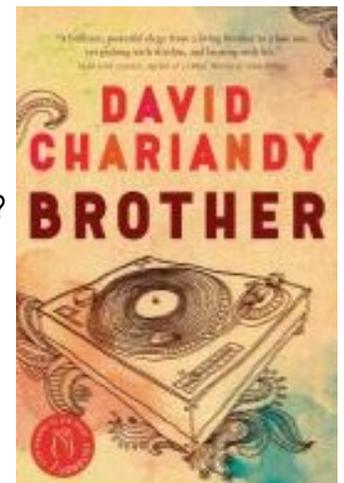


# Brother

## David Chariandy

### Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of *Brother*? What aspects did you enjoy and which aspects did you find challenging in the novel?
2. David Chariandy chooses to circle around and around the stories of Michael and Francis and their mother in *Brother*. Why does he choose this approach, instead of narrating in a direct, linear fashion?
3. What picture is the author attempting to paint of Scarborough, the community in the east end of Toronto where *Brother* is set?
4. In the canon of Canadian literature, one doesn't find too many novels set in Scarborough. David Chariandy sets *Brother* squarely in that community, as he does with his first novel *Soucouyant*. Catherine Hernandez has also recently published a novel about the neighbourhood, and hers is aptly named *Scarborough*. Can you think of other communities which, like Scarborough, have been largely overlooked by Canadian writers? Is Canada's literary landscape and focus now changing, and if so, in what ways?
5. Discuss the ways that music and food enrich the telling of *Brother*.
6. How do you square the intermingling of violence and tenderness in *Brother*, and what is David Chariandy saying in his novel about the lives of young Black men?
7. Describe the family dynamics in Michael's family, how were the relationships between Michael, Francis, their mother, and their father?
8. The older figures in Michael and Francis' world are immigrants, although they themselves are Canadian-born. How does Chariandy incorporate the themes of foreignness and loss of home through the different characters' eyes?
9. In what ways does Francis' death impact Michael, and how does he cope with it?
10. What role does the boys' father play in the book? How have his actions affected them and their mother, and the family as a whole?





# Brother

## David Chariandy

### About the Author

David Chariandy is a Canadian writer and one of the co-founders of Commodore Books. Chariandy grew up in Toronto and lives and teaches in Vancouver. His debut novel, *Soucouyant*, received stunning reviews and nominations from eleven literary awards juries, including a Governor General's Literary Award shortlisting, a Gold Independent Publisher Award for Best Novel, and the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist. *Brother* is his second novel. Chariandy has an MA from Carleton and a PhD from York University. He lives in Vancouver and teaches in the department of English at Simon Fraser University.

**This book is available for download as an eBook. For more information, please visit [lpl.overdrive.com](http://lpl.overdrive.com) or call 519-661-4600.**