Presentation on Marlon James's The Book of Night Women Day 4

Andrew Strombeck
Wright State University - Main Campus, andrew.strombeck@wright.edu
Marlon James,
The Book of Night Women
Day 4
Today

“Walk in a circle” passage
Details of murders 226-230
Consequences Lilith actions
Francine
Details of murders 226-230

1. Where do you see the following categories?
   – Lilith’s thoughts re woman in the dark
   – Roget’s own actions
   – Lilith’s actions
   – Lilith’s thoughts re: being tortured
   – Lilith’s thoughts re: Robert Quinn

2. How does the category connect to other material from the book?
Night Women and Joseph Andrews

• James, then, presents a complicated account of Lilith and Andrews—the novel is simultaneously alienating, inspiring, and comforting.

• What does this suggest about the complications of James’s own account of slavery?
“Every Negro walk in a circle. Take that and make of it what you will. But sometime the circle squeeze in on itself and get smaller and smaller like a mark, or a head. A head so small that the negro have one chance to stomp it with her foot, stomp it good. Lilith know. She learn and she learn it good. Plenty things be a sin, but every sin come with temptation and chance” (223)