

My cat **Kinja** was named after the fictional Caribbean island first described in Herman Wouk's tale of the Caribbean, *Don't Stop the Carnival*, a story dear to the hearts of all lovers of that beautiful region. He tells us about this wonderful imaginary place in the first two pages of this book as follows:

"**Kinja** was the name of the island when it was British. Now the name on the maps and in the Caribbean guidebooks is Amerigo, but everybody who lives there still calls it **Kinja**.

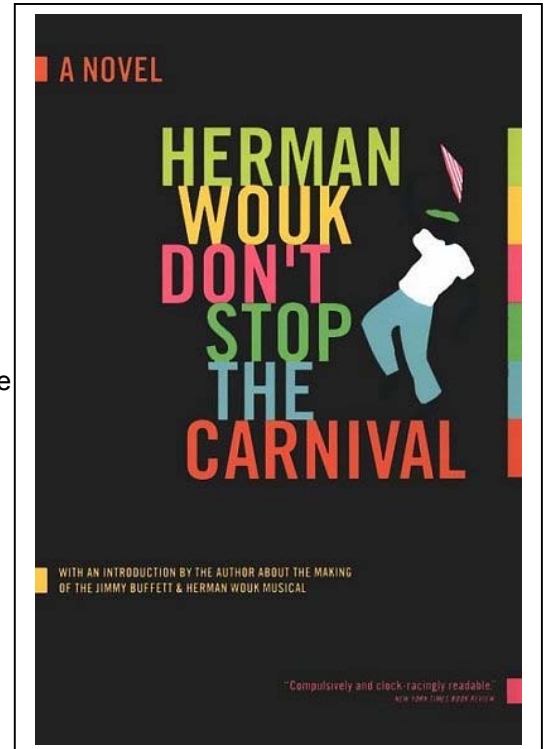
The Union Jack flew over this enchanting green hump in the blue Caribbean for almost two hundred years. Before that the island was Danish; before that, French; before that, cannibal. Smoky gun battles between sailing ships and the old stone fort went with these flag changes; whizzing cannon balls, raiding parties, skirmishes, and an occasional death.

The United States acquired the island peaceably in 1940, as part of the shuffling of old destroyers and Caribbean real estate that went on between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill...The details of the transaction were and are vague to the inhabitants. They were not much interested.

Keen-ja was the short, musical native version of the actual British name, King George the Third Island. Obviously this was a bit awkward for an American possession, so somebody in the Department of the Interior thought of Amerigo. The new name is used mainly on official stationery and in the school classrooms. There the pupils docilely scrawl themes and recite facts about Amerigo, but in the streets and playgrounds they call the place **Kinja**, and themselves **Kinjans**. All through the Caribbean they still say of a native of this island, "**He fum Kinja.**"¹

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¹ "fum" is not a misspelling, ...rather, "fum" is the way a local native of **Kinja** is said to pronounce the English word "from."