Despite being considered the first Haitian novel, Émeric Bergeaud’s *Stella* (1859), has until recently been neglected or denied literary value by literary critics. Stella’s contribution to nineteenth century literature lies in the role of allegory in the novel and the absence of a national foundational myth. As a nineteenth century text, Stella raises questions of genre related to the genealogy between the creole story and the novel. As a representation of the Haitian Revolution of 1791, it portrays a conflicted approach to the legacy of the French Revolution and the Enlightenment. The articulation of the Haitian Revolution and the French is embodied in the characters of Stella, a white French lady exiled in Saint-Domingue, and Marie L’Africaine, a slave and the mother of the Haitian fictional heroes Romulus and Remus. Nevertheless, rather than becoming allegories of national cohesion, they produce a series of non-encounters that ultimately point to an emergent literary and historical sensibility that is distinctly Caribbean.