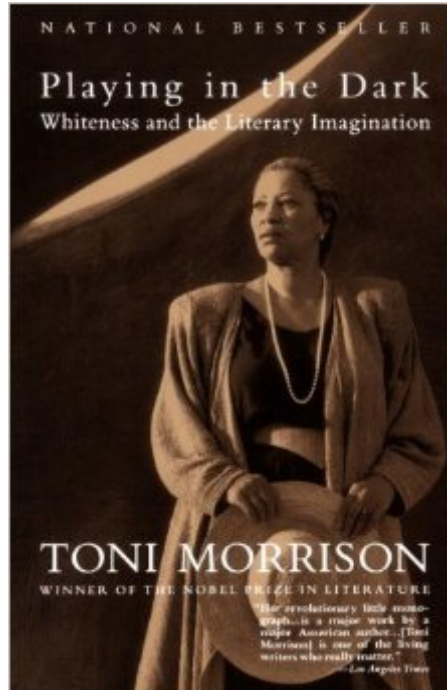


The book was found

Playing In The Dark: Whiteness And The Literary Imagination



Synopsis

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Beloved* and *Jazz* now gives us a learned, stylish, and immensely persuasive work of literary criticism that promises to change the way we read American literature even as it opens a new chapter in the American dialogue on race. Toni Morrison's brilliant discussions of the "Africanist" presence in the fiction of Poe, Melville, Cather, and Hemingway leads to a dramatic reappraisal of the essential characteristics of our literary tradition. She shows how much the themes of freedom and individualism, manhood and innocence, depended on the existence of a black population that was manifestly unfree--and that came to serve white authors as embodiments of their own fears and desires. Written with the artistic vision that has earned Toni Morrison a pre-eminent place in modern letters, *Playing in the Dark* will be avidly read by Morrison admirers as well as by students, critics, and scholars of American literature. "By going for the American literary jugular...she places her arguments...at the very heart of contemporary public conversation about what it is to be authentically and originally American. [She] boldly...reimagines and remaps the possibility of America."--Chicago Tribune "Toni Morrison is the closest thing the country has to a national writer."--The New York Times Book Review

Book Information

Paperback: 91 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (July 27, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679745424

ISBN-13: 978-0679745426

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #26,362 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > African American #29 in Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature #116 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

Customer Reviews

The first few pages are tough going, if like me, it's been ages since you picked up critical theory. Once Morrison fleshes out her key assertions, among them âœ the parasitic nature of white identity â• in American literature, the book begins to enthrall. I canâ™t speak to how much she

adds to this critical lens of race because I'm not well read in this area (though she clearly owes a lot to James Snead whom she quotes at length), but I can speak to the accessibility of her ideas and fascinating discoveries. I would add that a psychoanalytic lens is also in play making for many "searching-of-brow-while-nodding-deliberately" moments. Morrison wants to establish the "American brand of Africanism" reified in canonical texts, and so relies mostly on giants such as Cather, Poe, Melville, Twain and Hemingway. (Styron is as contemporary as she gets.) The text braids three lectures making for a powerful but not overpowering exposure to her ideas, meant to be understood on the first hearing and now reading. Considering the density of the material, I appreciated this lighter treatment, though I would have welcomed more examples. The following passage summarizes many of her inquiries: "How does literary utterance arrange itself when it tries to imagine an Africanist other? What are the signs, the codes, the literary strategies designed to accommodate this encounter? What does the inclusion of Africans or African Americans do and for the work? As a reader my assumption had always been that nothing "happens": Africans and their descendants were not, in any sense that matters, "there"; and when they were there, they were decorative" displays of the agile writer's technical expertise.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination
 Islands, Identity and the Literary Imagination (Anthem Studies in Australian Literature and Culture)
 The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination (Yale Nota Bene S)
 Ecocriticism and Geocriticism: Overlapping Territories in Environmental and Spatial Literary Studies (Geocriticism and Spatial Literary Studies)
 Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors and Literary Agents: Who They Are, What They Want, How to Win Them Over (Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers, and Literary Agents)
 Directory of Literary Magazines 2001 (Clmp Directory of Literary Magazines and Presses)
 The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (Penguin Dictionary)
 Beowulf (Broadview Literary Texts) (Broadview Literary Texts Series)
 Sicily: A Literary Guide for Travellers (The I.B.Tauris Literary Guides for Travellers)
 Literary Market Place 2015: The Directory of the American Book Publishing Industry with Industry Indexes (Literary Market Place (Lmp))
 Dark Fetishes Vol. 1 : (DARK EROTICA): Taboo Erotica (DARK EROTICA SERIES)
 Engendering whiteness: White women and colonialism in Barbados and North Carolina, 1627-1865 (Studies in Imperialism MUP)
 Whiteness in Zimbabwe: Race, Landscape, and the Problem of Belonging
 Property Rites: The Rhinelander Trial, Passing, and the Protection of Whiteness
 The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism and White Privilege
 Not Quite White: White Trash and the Boundaries of Whiteness
 White Reign: Deploying Whiteness in America
 Tor and The Dark

Net: Remain Anonymous Online and Evade NSA Spying (Tor, Dark Net, Anonymous Online, NSA Spying) If I Were a Bird, You'd be The First Person I'd Shit On: Into the Dark Edition: A Swear Word Adult Coloring Book with Relaxing Designs and Vulgar ... N' Coloring Into the Dark) (Volume 3) I Love to F*cking Color! Into the Dark Edition: And Relax with My Swear Word Adult Coloring Book. (Swearing N' Coloring Into the Dark) (Volume 2)

[Dmca](#)