

Toni Morrison Strangers Essay

Black Women, Identity, and Cultural Theory Critical Essays on Toni Morrison's Beloved
New Critical Essays on Toni Morrison's God Help the Child Critical Essays on Toni Morrison
Eudora Welty, Whiteness, and Race Black Aliveness, or A Poetics of Being A Political Companion to James Baldwin Catalogue of the Astor Library (continuation)
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ultimately moves beyond these to propose a new cultural aesthetic that aims to center black women and their philosophies book jacket

ten reviews and seventeen essays present critical commentary on the novel beloved by toni morrison

contributions by alice knox eaton mar gallego maxine lavon montgomery evelyn jaffe schreiber shirley a stave justine tally susana vega gonzález and anissa wardi in her eleventh novel god help the child toni morrison returned to several of the signature themes explored in her previous work pernicious beauty standards for women particularly african american women mother child relationships racism and colorism and child sexual abuse god help the child published in 2015 is set in the contemporary period unlike all of her previous novels the contemporary setting is ultimately incidental to the project of the novel however as with morrison's other work the story takes on mythic qualities and the larger than life themes lend themselves to allegorical and symbolic readings that resonate in light of both contemporary and historical

issues new critical essays on toni morrison s god help the child race culture and history a collection of eight essays by both seasoned morrison scholars as well as new and rising scholars takes on the novel in a nuanced and insightful analysis interpreting it in relation to morrison s earlier work as well as locating it within ongoing debates in literary and other academic disciplines engaged with african american literature the volume is divided into three sections the first focuses on trauma both the pain and suffering caused by neglect and abuse as well as healing and understanding the second section considers narrative choices concentrating on experimentation and reader engagement the third section turns a comparative eye to morrison s fictional canon from her debut work of fiction the bluest eye until the present these essays build on previous studies of morrison s novels and deepen readers understanding of both her last novel and her larger literary output

this gathering of critical essays is at once impressive and hospitable characteristic of morrison s own work as well basically the contributors of these pieces react to morrison as a black novelist as a female novelist or as a practitioner of the novel form period black and female or otherwise all of them are interested in how morrison has stretched the boundaries of these three categories points are made counterpoints offered her works are examined and cross examined the general opinion is that in reading morrison critics and general audience alike experience the sheer pleasure of hearing all the resonances of a voice beautiful and powerful isbn 0 8161 8884 x 37 50

faced with eudora welty s preference for the oblique in literary performances some have assumed that welty was not concerned with issues of race or even that she was perhaps ambivalent toward racism this collection counters those assumptions as it examines welty s handling of race the color line and jim crow segregation and sheds new light on her views about the patterns insensitivities blindness and atrocities of whiteness contributors to this volume show that welty addressed whiteness and race in her earliest stories her photography and her first novel delta wedding in subsequent work including the golden apples the optimist s daughter and her memoir one writer s beginnings she made the color line and white privilege visible revealing the gaping distances between lives lived in shared space but separated by social hierarchy and segregation even when black characters hover in the margins of her fiction they point readers toward complex lives and the black body is itself full of meaning in her work several essays suggest that welty represented race like gender and power as a performance scripted by whiteness her black characters in particular recognize whiteface and blackface as performances especially comical when white characters are unaware of their role play eudora welty whiteness and race also makes clear that welty recognized white material advantage and black economic deprivation as part of a cycle of race and poverty in america and that she connected this history to lives on either side of the color line to relationships across it and to an uneasy hierarchy of white classes within the presumed monolith of whiteness contributors mae miller claxton susan v donaldson julia eichelberger sarah ford jean c griffith rebecca mark suzanne marrs donnie mcmahand david mcwhirter harriet pollack keri watson patricia yaeger

in black aliveness or a poetics of being kevin quashie imagines a black world in which one encounters black being as it is rather than only as it exists in the shadow of anti black violence as such he makes a case for black aliveness even in the face of the persistence of death in black life and black study centrally quashie theorizes aliveness through the aesthetics of poetry reading poetic inhabitance in black feminist literary texts by lucille clifton audre lorde june jordan toni morrison and evie shockley among others showing how their philosophical and creative thinking constitutes worldmaking this worldmaking conceptualizes blackness as capacious relational beyond the normative terms of recognition blackness as a condition of oneness reading for poetic

aliveness then becomes a means of exploring black being rather than nonbeing and animates the ethical question how to be in this way quashie offers a black feminist philosophy of being which is nothing less than a philosophy of the becoming of the black world

uniformly excellent essays on the work of the renowned author and his extraordinary relevance in the present moment choice in seminal works such as go tell it on the mountain notes of a native son and the fire next time acclaimed author and social critic james baldwin expresses his profound belief that writers have the power to transform society engage the public and inspire and channel conversation to achieve lasting change while baldwin is best known for his writings on racial consciousness and injustice he is also one of the country s most eloquent theorists of democratic life and the national psyche in this book prominent scholars assess the prolific author s relevance to present day political challenges together they address baldwin as a democratic theorist activist and citizen examining his writings on the civil rights movement religion homosexuality and women s rights they investigate the ways in which his work speaks to and galvanizes a collective american polity and explore his views on the political implications of individual experience in relation to race and gender this volume not only considers baldwin s works within their own historical context but also applies the author s insights to recent events such as the obama presidency and the black lives matter movement emphasizing his faith in the connections between the past and present these incisive essays will encourage a new reading of baldwin that celebrates his significant contributions to political and democratic theory

a yalsa excellence in nonfiction finalist linda barrett osborne s this land is our land explores the history of american immigration from the early colonization of the continent to the contemporary discussions involving undocumented aliens american attitudes toward immigrants are paradoxical on the one hand we see our country as a haven for the poor and oppressed anyone no matter his or her background can find freedom here and achieve the american dream on the other hand depending on prevailing economic conditions fluctuating feelings about race and ethnicity and fear of foreign political and labor agitation we set boundaries and restrictions on who may come to this country and whether they may stay as citizens this book explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups evolved throughout us history particularly between 1800 and 1965 the book concludes with a summary of events up to contemporary times as immigration again becomes a hot button issue exceptional outstanding archival photographs and illustrations complement the comprehensive text and encourage thoughtful discussion an excellent time line and end notes and a thorough bibliography make this an effective research tool school library journal starred review

toni morrison s beloved is probably the most widely studied work of contemporary fiction both in the united states and abroad the novel appeals to readers across various disciplines as such it is now required reading in courses in english and american literature feminist and multicultural criticism and american history in universities and colleges around the world the novel s universal appeal with its unique structure and compelling story has made it the subject of numerous scholarly essays published in reference journals to make the best of these essays more accessible to university students this book offers a volume of selected essays with a critical introduction and annotated bibliography

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