



# African American Literature Beyond Race: An Alternative Reader

Gene Andew Jarrett

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It is widely accepted that the canon of African American literature has racial realism at its core: African American protagonists, social settings, cultural symbols, and racial-political discourse. As a result, writings that are not preoccupied with race have long been invisible—unpublished, out of print, absent from libraries, rarely discussed among scholars, and omitted from anthologies.

However, some of our most celebrated African American authors—from Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright to James Baldwin and Toni Morrison—have resisted this canonical rule, even at the cost of critical dismissal and commercial failure. **African American Literature Beyond Race** revives this remarkable literary corpus, presenting sixteen short stories, novelettes, and excerpts of novels-from the postbellum nineteenth century to the late twentieth century-that demonstrate this act of literary defiance. Each selection is paired with an original introduction by one of today's leading scholars of African American literature, including Hazel V. Carby, Gerald Early, Mae G. Henderson, George Hutchinson, Carla Peterson, Amritjit Singh, and Werner Sollors.

By casting African Americans in minor roles and marking the protagonists as racially white, neutral, or ambiguous, these works of fiction explore the thematic complexities of human identity, relations, and culture. At the same time, they force us to confront the basic question, "What is African American literature?"

**Stories by:** James Baldwin, Octavia E. Butler, Samuel R. Delany, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Chester B. Himes, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Toni Morrison, Ann Petry, Wallace Thurman, Jean Toomer, Frank J. Webb, Richard Wright, and Frank Yerby.

**Critical Introductions by:** Hazel V. Carby, John Charles, Gerald Early, Hazel Arnett Ervin, Matthew Guterl, Mae G. Henderson, George B. Hutchinson, Gene Jarrett, Carla L. Peterson, Amritjit Singh, Werner Sollors, and Jeffrey Allen Tucker.



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#### **Daniel Kirk:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled African American Literature Beyond Race: An Alternative Reader can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Ross Turner:**

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for your requirements is African American Literature Beyond Race: An Alternative Reader this reserve consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. This is why this book acceptable all of you.

#### **Michael Mantz:**

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