



Classic Fiction of the Harlem Renaissance

By William L. Andrews

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The first collection ever assembled of the most distinctive, influential, and widely appreciated novels and short stories of the Harlem Renaissance, this anthology opens a window on one of the most extraordinary assertions of racial self-consciousness in Western literature. With an insightful introduction to provide historical context and a lucid biographical headnote about each of the authors, this volume brings together under one cover the Harlem Renaissance literature most widely taught. Short stories include "Sweat" (1926) and "The Gilded Six-Bits" (1933) by Zora Neale Hurston, Rudolph Fisher's "Miss Cynthia" (1933), and "The Blues I'm Playing" (1934) by Langston Hughes. The novels *Home to Harlem* (1928) by Claude McKay and Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* (1929) are featured in their entirety, along with major selections from Jean Toomer's *Cane*. Added features include a chapter from Wallace Thurman's *Infants of the Spring* (1932), a notorious *roman à clef* about the Harlem Renaissance, and Rudolph Fisher's half tongue-in-cheek "Introduction to Contemporary Harlemites, Expurgated and Abridged" (1928). For students and teachers alike, there can be no more effective or enjoyable way of exploring the intellectual concerns, the ideological perspectives, and the artistic innovations of the Harlem Renaissance.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural movement that had its heyday in the 1920s and 1930s. It was a period that introduced several new African American writers to the literary scene, including luminaries like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Jean Toomer. In this anthology, these writers are considered, along with less well-known ones like Rudolph Fisher and Wallace Thurman, with excerpts from their most famous works. In his introduction, editor Andrews (Univ. of Kansas) emphasizes the themes present in these classic works: "the meaning of race, the legacy of the folk, the promise of modern life, the potential of art, the building of a nation." For another look at this creative explosion, see *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader* (LJ 3/15/94), an anthology featuring essays, poems, and stories. A good beginning for students of American literature.

- Ann Burns, "*Library Journal*"

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Review

"It's wonderful to have these well-chosen representatives of a vital and interesting movement."--David Ray, *University of Missouri at Kansas City*

"[This edition] reissues *Home to Harlem*, presently out of print, and includes *Quicksand* in its entirety. That alone justifies its cost. The remaining selections are truly representative of the literary period. Editorial comments are excellent and lucid."--Judy Massey, *Loyola University*

"Good choices of Harlem Renaissance prose fiction....The Harlem Renaissance glossary is a useful and timely addendum."--Brenda Marie Osbey, *Loyola University*

"This superb collection will be an invaluable resource for teachers interested in expanding the canon of modern American literature."--Gregory Jay, *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

"An excellent selection of Harlem Renaissance authors. This will acquaint students with the era in a way that no other single literature text can."--James Robert Saunders, *University of Toledo*

"A damn good text."--Anna M. Connlin, *Spalding University*

"A much needed, much appreciated anthology on a pivotal period in American letters. It provides invaluable information."--Nikki Giovanni, *Virginia Technical School*

"A useful introduction to the subject, and the literature contained in it is a most potent argument that one cannot be considered to have fluency in American culture, certainly American Letters, without knowledge of it."--*Quarterly Black Review*

About the Author

William L. Andrews is at University of Kansas.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Murphy:

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