Toni Morrison's Paradise: A Reader's Guide

Kelly Reames, Western Kentucky University

Description
Continuum Contemporaries will be a wonderful source of ideas and inspiration for members of book clubs and readings groups, as well as for literature students. The aim of the series is to give readers accessible and informative introductions to 30 of the most popular, most acclaimed, and most influential novels of recent years. A team of contemporary fiction scholars from both sides of the Atlantic has been assembled to provide a thorough and readable analysis of each of the novels in question. The books in the series will all follow the same structure: a biography of the novelist, including other works, influences, and, in some cases, an interview; a full-length study of the novel, drawing out the most important themes and ideas; a summary of how the novel was received upon publication; a summary of how the novel has performed since publication, including film or TV adaptations, literary prizes, etc.; a wide range of suggestions for further reading, including websites and discussion forums; and a list of questions for reading groups to discuss. - See more at: http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/toni-morrisons-paradise-9780826453198/#sthash.ozrdrnpi.dpuf

ISBN
9780826453198

Publication Date
9-2001

Publisher
Bloomsbury Academic

Disciplines
Nonfiction

Comments
Kelly Reames her B.A. at Vanderbilt University and her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina. Before coming to WKU in 2002, she taught for two years at Oklahoma State University. Courses she regularly teaches include Survey in American Literature II, The American Novel, and Contemporary Literature. Her interests include life writing and African American literature. She is interested in how authors represent the relationship between physical bodies, perception, and identity, including how people interpret others'
bodies. She is the founder of the Lillian Hellman Society and editor of its newsletter. Her publications include *Toni Morrison's Paradise: A Reader's Guide* and *Women and Race in Contemporary U.S. Writing: From Faulkner to Morrison*. She is currently working on a book on Lillian Hellman and is also under contract with the University of South Carolina press to write a book on Dorothy Allison for their Understanding Contemporary American Literature series.

**Recommended Citation**


https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/english_book/25

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Toni Morrison's *Paradise* has 1 rating and 0 reviews. Continuum Contemporaries will be a wonderful source of ideas and inspiration for members of book clu... Start by marking "Toni Morrison's Paradise: A Reader's Guide" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Paradise is one of Morrison’s lesser known novels. The novel begins with the sharp opening line, “They kill the white girl first” (Morrison 3) and then chronicles the massacre of a group of women by… Paradise is one of Morrison’s lesser known novels. The novel begins with the sharp opening line, “They kill the white girl first” (Morrison 3) and then chronicles the massacre of a group of women by men from an all black town in rural Oklahoma. Morrison stated, “I wanted to signal 1) the presence of race as hierarchy and 2) its collapse as reliable information” (Morrison, Telegraph).

Given this deliberate level of ambiguity, can Paradise be considered a black feminist text? Morrison has resisted this characterization, remarking she “do[es] not write ‘ist’ novels” (Morrisette 141).