



The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader (Portable Library)

From David Lewis

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Gathering a representative sampling of the New Negro Movement's most important figures, and providing substantial introductory essays, headnotes, and brief biographical notes, Lewis' volume—organized chronologically—includes the poetry and prose of Sterling Brown, Countee Cullen, W. E. B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, and others.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This collection magnificently represents the great voices of this era. The volume includes the work of some forty-five Renaissance figures: short fiction and self-contained novel excerpts by Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Wallace Thurman, and Jean Toomer; poems by Gwendolyn Bennett, Countee Cullen, Jessie Redmon Fauset, Langston Hughes, and Claude McKay; essays, manifestos, speeches, and nostalgic reminiscences by Romare Bearden, W. E. B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke, and Richard Wright.

From Library Journal

Editor Lewis is a noted author of several books, e.g., *When Harlem Was in Vogue* (LJ 3/15/81) and, most recently, *W.E.B. DuBois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919* (LJ 8/93). This hefty tome features many significant essays, poems, and stories not readily available to all scholars that are drawn from African American journals of the period, including *Opportunity*, *Crisis*, and *Fire!* In his introduction, Lewis carefully explores tension within this arts and letters movement. The collected excerpts of writers like Cullen, Hurston, Hughes, McKay, DuBois, and Wright represent a balance between those Renaissance supporters and writers who "saw the small cracks in the wall of racism that could, they anticipated, be widened through the production of exemplary racial images" and those who "saw art not as politics by other means--civil rights between covers or from a stage or an easel." This anthology will balance and enhance any modern American literature collection.

- *Faye A. Chadwell, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia*

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From [Booklist](#)

The Harlem Renaissance was a flowering of black culture centered in Harlem between the termination of World War I and the end of the Depression, from which emerged a body of literature that has yet to reach its maximum level of general appreciation. The best of that literature, or at least the most exemplary, is sampled here, with works being presented either in toto or in telling excerpt. General categories include essay, memoir, fiction, poetry, and drama; specific writers include such expected names as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay, but lesser-known names are also represented. There is anger in these pages and also frustration, pride, pain, and elation, but above all there is incredible talent. Reading the collection straight through would be a wonderful education, but most readers will dip in here and there, and that is edifying, too. The editor, David L. Lewis, author of *W. E. B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919* (*Booklist's* 1993 Top of the List winner for Adult Nonfiction), provides an exceptionally informative introduction. *Brad Hooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Winston Nakashima:

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