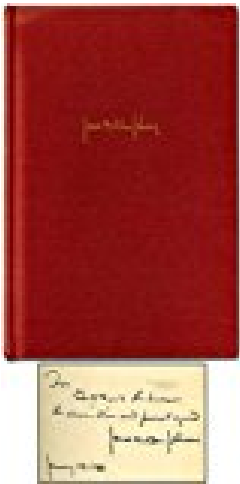


[PDF] Along This Way: The Autobiography Of James Weldon Johnson

James Weldon Johnson - pdf download free book



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Description:

With the possible exceptions of Dr. Alain Locke and W.E.B. Du Bois, no African American excelled on as many different levels as James Weldon Johnson. *Along This Way*--the first autobiography by a person of color to be reviewed in *The New York Times*--not only chronicles his life as an educator, lawyer, diplomat, newspaper editor, lyricist, poet, essayist, and political activist but also outlines the trials and triumphs of African Americans from post-Reconstruction to the rise and fall of the Harlem Renaissance. Born in Florida in 1871 to middle-class West Indian parents, Johnson

recognized the challenges and absurdities of segregated America early on. But it was his experience as a tutor to rural blacks while a student at Atlanta University that was to alter the course of his life: "It was this period that marked the beginning of psychological change from boyhood to manhood," he writes. "It was this period that marked also the beginning of my knowledge of my own people as a race."

With a rare blend of pride and humility, Johnson recounts how he, among other accomplishments, became Florida's first black lawyer in 1898, a diplomat in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and lyricist for his brother Rosamond Johnson's famous song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Johnson's commentary on his epochal novel, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, as well as writings on his works of poetry--*The Creation, God's Trombones, and Fifty Years and Other Poems*--is priceless. Equally important are the logical and even-tempered opinions on race that he wrote for *The New York Age*, which offered comprehensive critiques of Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, and Marcus Garvey, along with his analysis of the racial climate while serving as head of the NAACP. This remarkable man left a mark on the 20th century that goes beyond the boundary of race. --*Eugene Holley Jr.* --This text refers to the edition.

From Library Journal Johnson's theme of moral cowardice sets his tragic story of a mulatto in the United States above other sentimental narratives. The unnamed narrator, the offspring of a black mother and white father, tells of his coming-of-age at the beginning of the 20th century. Light-skinned enough to pass for white but emotionally tied to his mother's heritage, he ends up a failure in his own eyes after he chooses to follow the easier path while witnessing a white mob set fire to a black man. Reader Allen Gilmore contributes a fine reading. Recommended, with hopes for an unabridged edition in the future.?Sandy Glover, West Linn P.L., Ore.
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[James Weldon Johnson]. Boston: Sherman, French & Company, 1912 Copyright, 1912. PREFACE. This vivid and startlingly new picture of conditions brought about by the race question in the United States makes no special plea for the Negro, but shows in a dispassionate, though sympathetic, manner conditions as they actually exist between the whites and blacks to-day. Special pleas have already been made for and against the Negro in hundreds of books, but in these books either his virtues or his vices have been exaggerated. This is because writers, in nearly every instance, have treated the color Johnson, James Weldon, *Along This Way: The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson*, Viking, 1933, Da Capo, 1973. Levy, Eugene, *James Weldon Johnson: Black Leader, Black Voice*, University of Chicago Press, 1973. Price, Kenneth M. and Lawrence J. Oliver, *Critical Essays on James Weldon Johnson*, G.K. Hall, 1997. *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, Volume 19, Gale, 1986. Detailed in his Preface of *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, James Weldon Johnson contends that the Negro's plight for equality and acceptance in the United States was often damaged by "either the Negro's virtues or vices being exaggerated" (Johnson, preface). Back in the days when the written word carried a voice across the nation, James Weldon Johnson asserted that the predominately Anglo-American middle class often read on the extremes of the Negro plight in America. The voice of the white media often detailed the Negro as a primal man that had no right to equality, while the Negro

Complete summary of James Weldon Johnson's *Along This Way*. eNotes plot summaries cover all the significant action of *Along This Way*. James Weldon Johnson claimed that one of the reasons for publishing his autobiography, *Along This Way*, was to finally make clear that his novel *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man* (1912) was not a record of his life. A public figure as important as Johnson hardly needed, however, a justification for adding another book to the growing shelf of autobiographies of distinguished African Americans, such as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, and W. E. B. Du Bois. James Weldon Johnson (June 17, 1871 – June 26, 1938) was an American writer and civil rights activist. He was married to civil rights activist Grace Nail Johnson. Johnson was a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he started working in 1917. In 1920, he was the first African American to be chosen as executive secretary of the organization, effectively the operating officer. He served in that position from 1920 to 1930. Johnson established his James Weldon Johnson was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1871. Among the first to break through the barriers segregating his race, he was educated at Atlanta University and at Columbia and was the first black admitted to the Florida bar. He was also, for a time, a songwriter in New York, American consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua, executive secretary of the NAACP, and professor of creative literature at Fisk University—experiences recorded in his autobiography, *Along This Way*. Other books by him include *Saint Peter Relates an Incident*, *Black Manhattan*, and *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Ser Guy Benton Johnson*. View via Publisher. Save to Library. Create Alert. Cite. Share This Paper. Related Papers. The Allen Institute for AI Proudly built by AI2 with the help of our. The autobiography of the celebrated African American writer and civil rights activist Published just four years before his death in 1938, James Weldon Johnson's autobiography is a fascinating portrait of an African American who broke the racial divide at a time when the Harlem Renaissance had not yet begun to usher in the civil rights movement. detailing his education, his role in the Harlem Renaissance, and his later years as a professor and civil rights reformer, "Along This Way" is an inspiring classic of African American literature. Product Identifiers. Publisher.