

Gorilla My Love Toni Cade Bambara

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A Study Guide for Toni Cade Bambara's "Raymond's Run"

A classic collection from the renowned Gayl Jones, hailed as “one of the most distinguished African American women of letters.” —Ms. Originally published in 1977, *White Rat* contains twelve provocative tales that explore the emotional and

mental terrain of a diverse cast of characters, from the innocent to the insane. In each, Jones displays her unflinching ability to dive into the most treacherous of psyches and circumstances: the title story examines the identity and relationship conundrums of a black man who can pass for white, earning him the name “White Rat” as an infant; “The Women” follows a girl whose mother brings a line of female lovers to live in their home; “Jevata” details eighteen-year-old Freddy’s relationship with the fifty-year-old title character; “The Coke Factory” tracks the thoughts of a mentally handicapped adolescent abandoned by his mother; and “Asylum” focuses on a woman having a nervous breakdown, trying to protect her dignity and her private parts as she enters an institution. In uncompromising prose, and dialect that veers from northern, educated tongues to down-home southern colloquialisms, Jones illuminates lives that society ignores, moving them to center stage.

White Rat

EDGAR AWARD NOMINEE NATIONAL BESTSELLER ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: THE OBSERVER (LONDON) * KIRKUS REVIEWS Wynn and Jack have been best friends since college orientation, bonded by their shared love of mountains, books, and fishing. Wynn is a gentle giant, a Vermont kid never happier than when his feet are in the water. Jack is more rugged, raised on a ranch in Colorado where sleeping under the stars and cooking on a fire came as naturally to him as

breathing. When they decide to canoe the Maskwa River in northern Canada, they anticipate long days of leisurely paddling and picking blueberries, and nights of stargazing and reading paperback Westerns. But a wildfire making its way across the forest adds unexpected urgency to the journey. One night, with the fire advancing, they hear a man and woman arguing on the fog-shrouded riverbank; the next day, a man appears on the river, paddling alone. Is this the same man they heard? And if he is, where is the woman? From this charged beginning, master storyteller Peter Heller unspools a headlong, heart-pounding story of desperate wilderness survival.

Raymond's Run

Ten stories of the Black experience tell of a timid community worker, a troubled political organizer, passengers on a refugee ship, and others

The Residue Years

At long last—a book-length biography celebrates Toni Cade Bambara, a seminal literary, cultural, and political figure who was among the most widely read and frequently reviewed of the well-regarded black women writers to emerge in the 1970s. • Interviews with established writers, activists, and film makers worldwide •

Exclusive access to personal documents previously unavailable for public review or research

My Mommy's Love

Novelist, music journalist, and playwright Meno writes squarely in the American tradition of wringing large effects from small change, revealing the subtlety in the broad stroke and conveying complexity with seeming simplicity.

Bluebirds Used to Croon in the Choir

Here is Gayl Jones's classic novel, the tale of blues singer Ursa, consumed by her hatred of the nineteenth-century slave master who fathered both her grandmother and mother.

The Art of the Story

In Tracking King Kong Cynthia Erb charts the cultural significance of the character of King Kong, from the early 1930s, when Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack's classic film King Kong was first released, to Peter Jackson's 2005 remake. Although King Kong has received much academic attention over the past

twenty-five years, the bulk of these analyses deal with the film's human characters rather than Kong himself. In this revised edition of an influential study, Erb argues that King Kong is a particular kind of cultural outsider who represents a cross-penetration of American notions of exoticism and monstrosity. *Tracking King Kong* considers problems such as race and gender in the King Kong tradition, as well as historical, international, and contemporary audience and fan responses to this classic film and its popular protagonist. Erb begins her examination of King Kong in the 1930s, when the original film was produced and released, extending through the 1970s, when the film and its hero reached the height of their cultural visibility in a remake by Dino De Laurentiis, and concluding with a look at Peter Jackson's version in 2005. The book includes a detailed production history of the original 1933 film based on primary historical and archival sources; a genre study examining Kong's relations to horror, jungle adventure, and travel documentary genres; an analysis of Kong's influence on the Japanese film *Godzilla*; and a look at sequels, remakes, and spinoffs related to King Kong, such as *Mighty Joe Young*. Erb also analyzes Jackson's remake of King Kong, to determine how and why Jackson revised the main character, casting him as a melancholy hero. The revised edition of *Tracking King Kong* updates a groundbreaking study of King Kong as the iconic character enters the twenty-first century. Scholars of film and television studies as well as general readers interested in film and popular culture will appreciate this significant volume.

"Black People Are My Business"

Fifteen short stories record the author's ideas about the challenge and complexity of contemporary life.

The Pagoda

Once in every one million births, a child is born on Bellac with the Synergistic gene. These children are taken from their parents and raised, trained, and prepared for the day when they will find their Synergistic other half. For when that happens, an entity is created from the combination of both male and female who holds unbelievable powers. An entity who is trained to protect and defend its home world. Grey Dansis is a Synergian. She has reached the time when she must meet the others like herself and hopefully find the male who will become her life-long partner from a crowd of strong, prime adult males who are ready to join the war as soon as they are united with their female halves. Unfortunately Grey has secretly harbored a longing for Rowe Maine. But the man is five years her senior and considered long past acceptance. He is an Unmatched Synergian who has lost his chance to become one of the rare new entities. By law he is no longer able to seek his mate. Now the man is a trainer and teacher at their special school. It won't be long, however, before their world is again attacked by marauders. The creatures

bent on domination are a species the Synergians have never encountered before. And this time the creatures' goal isn't just to conquer Bellac, but to totally wipe the planet's population and its army of Synergians out of existence. Grey has no idea that Rowe, the man she has long been in love with, is her fated other half. Or that the power coming from their union would be the only force strong enough to save Bellac from complete annihilation. Because the law won't even let them touch.

Gorilla, My Love

What are the implications of adopting a primacy of praxis position in feminist theology? How can we respect the diversity of women's experience while retaining it as a useful analytic category? Do these twin resources of women's experience and praxis together imply that feminist theology is ultimately relativist? Through an analysis of the work of some of today's key feminist theologians – Christian, womanist and post-Christian – Linda Hogan considers these and other methodological questions.

Specifying

"Parks has burst through every known convention to invent a new theatrical language, like a jive Samuel Beckett, while exploding American cultural myths and

stereotypes along the way. She's passionate and jokey and some kind of genius."--Vogue

My Hostage My Love

A collection of early, emerging works from some of today's most celebrated African American female writers. When it was first published in 1970, *The Black Woman* introduced readers to an astonishing new wave of voices that demanded to be heard. In this groundbreaking volume of original essays, poems, and stories, a chorus of outspoken women -- many who would become leaders in their fields: bestselling novelist Alice Walker, poets Audre Lorde and Nikki Giovanni, writer Paule Marshall, activist Grace Lee Boggs, and musician Abbey Lincoln among them -- tackled issues surrounding race and sex, body image, the economy, politics, labor, and much more. Their words still resonate with truth, relevance, and insight today.

Gorilla, My Love

My Strength, My Power, My Love

In these fifteen superb stories, this essential author of African American fiction gives us compelling portraits of a wide range of unforgettable characters, from sassy children to cunning old men, in scenes shifting between uptown New York and rural North Carolina. A young girl suffers her first betrayal. A widow flirts with an elderly blind man against the wishes of her grown-up children. A neighborhood loan shark teaches a white social worker a lesson in responsibility. And there is more. Sharing the world of Toni Cade Bambara's "straight-up fiction" is a stunning experience.

Very Nice

Baghdad Blues

Lowe, an immigrant who flees China in the 1890s to seek a better life in Jamaica, finds adventure, estrangement, scandal, and romance as he becomes the owner of a small shop and plays a role in the building of the Pagoda, a school where Chinese workers le

The Body in Question

Toni Cade Bambara takes the reader on a journey from New York to the Deep South and back in this collection of short stories. The book's concerns are with contemporary Black culture and Toni Cade Bambara's writing is rooted in that experience.

The River

Tracking King Kong

Corregidora

For the first time in paperback, a haunting novella from the uncannily imaginative author of the national bestsellers *Swamplandia!* and *Orange World*: the story of a deadly insomnia epidemic and the lengths one woman will go to to fight it. Trish Edgewater is the Slumber Corps' top recruiter. On the phone, at a specially organized Sleep Drive, even in a supermarket parking lot: Trish can get even the most reluctant healthy dreamer to donate sleep to an insomniac in crisis--one of hundreds of thousands of people who have totally lost the ability to sleep. Trish cries, she shakes, she shows potential donors a picture of her deceased sister,

Dori: one of the first victims of the lethal insomnia plague that has swept the globe. Run by the wealthy and enigmatic Storch brothers, the Slumber Corps is at the forefront of the fight against this deadly new disease. But when Trish is confronted by "Baby A," the first universal sleep donor, and the mysterious "Donor Y," whose horrific infectious nightmares are threatening to sweep through the precious sleep supply, her faith in the organization and in her own motives begins to falter. Fully illustrated with dreamy evocations of Russell's singular imagination and featuring a brand-new "Nightmare Appendix," Sleep Donation will keep readers up long into the night and long after haunt their dreams.

Black Girlhood in the Nineteenth Century

ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: THE WASHINGTON POST - NPR - GOOD HOUSEKEEPING - FRESH AIR - THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS - LIT HUB - KIRKUS REVIEWS - LIBRARY JOURNAL - THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY Karen Russell's comedic genius and mesmerizing talent for creating outlandish predicaments that uncannily mirror our inner lives is on full display in these eight exuberant, arrestingly vivid, unforgettable stories. In "Bog Girl," a young man falls in love with a two-thousand-year-old girl that he's extracted from a mass of peat in a Northern European bog. In "The Prospectors," two opportunistic young women fleeing the Great Depression strike out for new territory, and find themselves fighting for their lives. And in the brilliant, hilarious title story, a new mother desperate to ensure

her infant's safety strikes a diabolical deal, agreeing to breastfeed the devil in exchange for his protection. The landscape in which these stories unfold is a feral, slippery, purgatorial space, bracketed by the void--yet within it Russell captures the exquisite beauty and tenderness of ordinary life. *Orange World* is a miracle of storytelling from a true modern master.

The America Play and Other Works

Exploration of Bambara's practices of liberation that encourage resistance to oppression and solidarity.

The Flight Portfolio

Ntozake Shange's beloved *Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo* is the story of three sisters and their mother from Charleston, South Carolina. *Sassafrass*, the oldest, is a poet and a weaver like her mother before her. Having gone north to college, she is now living with other artists in Los Angeles and trying to weave a life out of her work, her man, her memories and dreams. *Cypress*, the dancer, leaves home to find new ways of moving in the world. *Indigo*, the youngest, is still a child of Charleston-"too much of the south in her"-who lives in poetry and has the supreme gift of seeing the obvious magic of the world. Shange's rich and wondrous story of womanhood,

art, and passionately-lived lives is written "with such exquisite care and beauty that anybody can relate to her message" (The New York Times).

Orange World and Other Stories

The Sea Birds are Still Alive

"A juicy tale of bad behavior. . . . Very Nice gets pretty mean--but gloriously so." --Entertainment Weekly Rachel Klein never meant to kiss her creative writing professor, but with his long eyelashes, his silky hair, and the sad, beautiful life he laid bare on Twitter, she does, and the kiss is very nice. Zahid Azzam never planned to become a houseguest in his student's sprawling Connecticut home, but with the sparkling swimming pool, the endless supply of Whole Foods strawberries, and Rachel's beautiful mother, he does, and the home is very nice. Becca Klein never thought she'd have a love affair so soon after her divorce, but when her daughter's professor walks into her home, bringing with him an apricot standard poodle named Princess, she does, and the affair is . . . a very bad idea. Zigzagging between the rarefied circles of Manhattan investment banking, the achingly self-serious MFA programs of the Midwest, and the private bedrooms of Connecticut, Very Nice is an audacious, addictive, and wickedly smart take on the way we live

now.

A Joyous Revolt: Toni Cade Bambara, Writer and Activist

Examines the fiction of several modern black American women writers in a Marxist framework

The Salt Eaters

The extraordinary spirit of Toni Cade Bambara lives on in *Savoring the Salt*, a vibrant and appreciative recollection of the work and legacy of the multi-talented African American writer, teacher, filmmaker, and activist. Among the contributors who remember Bambara, reflect on her work, and examine its meaning today are Toni Morrison, Amiri Baraka, Pearl Cleage, Ruby Dee, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Nikki Giovanni, Avery Gordon, Audre Lorde, and Sonia Sanchez. Admiring readers have kept Bambara's fiction in print since her first collection of stories, *Gorilla, My Love*, was published in 1972. She continued to write -- and her audience and reputation continued to grow -- until her untimely death in 1995. *Savoring the Salt* includes excerpts from her published and unpublished writings, along with interviews and photos of Bambara. The mix of poets and scholars, novelists and critics, political activists and filmmakers represented here testifies to the ongoing importance and

enduring appeal of her work.

Savoring the Salt

Long portrayed as a masculine endeavor, the African American struggle for progress often found expression through an unlikely literary figure: the black girl. Nazera Sadiq Wright uses heavy archival research on a wide range of texts about African American girls to explore this understudied phenomenon. As Wright shows, the figure of the black girl in African American literature provided a powerful avenue for exploring issues like domesticity, femininity, and proper conduct. The characters' actions, however fictional, became a rubric for African American citizenship and racial progress. At the same time, their seeming dependence and insignificance allegorized the unjust treatment of African Americans. Wright reveals fascinating girls who, possessed of a premature knowing and wisdom beyond their years, projected a courage and resiliency that made them exemplary representations of the project of racial advance and citizenship.

By the Lemon Tree

As she sits in an infirmary and is questioned by a faith healer, Velma Henry probes her reasons for attempting to commit suicide, and the healing that takes place

affects the lives of her town's Black inhabitants

From Women's Experience to Feminist Theology

Powerful . . . full of impossible hope . . . Jackson's prose has a spoken-word cadence, the language flying off the page with percussive energy. -The New York Times Book Review

Like Life

Fiction. African & African American Studies. California Interest. Set in the Central California countryside and the Southern California desert, BY THE LEMON TREE's old school stories chronicle the collision of wide-eyed childhood with the end of lives human and animal. In "Twice Good" a downtrodden city administrator shows up for a Black Panther protest forty years too late. "Funeral in Fresno" introduces us to an impatient reverend who is forced to confront his past and his future, while in the title story, a young boy born and raised in East Oakland bears witness to life and death in an ancient rural world.

CONVERSATIONS W/TONI CADE BAMB

Conversations with the author of the acclaimed works *Gorilla, My Love*, *The Salt Eaters*, and *Those Bones Are Not My Child*

Best American Short Stories, 1962

A wide-ranging collection of short stories celebrates the postwar masters of the form, including Russell Banks, T. C. Boyle, Amos Oz, Martin Amis, Salman Rushdie, Ann Beattie, Margaret Atwood, Joyce Carol Oates, Ben Okri, Angela Cater, and many others. Reprint.

A Study Guide for Toni Cade Bambara's "Gorilla, My Love"

Hazel is determined to beat her rival in an upcoming race, but when she sees her brother Raymond running alongside her on the track, she realizes there are more important things than winning.

Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

The Devil is dead or is he The World rejoiced when the word spread like wildfire that 'The Devil' had finally been vanquished. Little did they know that sometimes it better to deal with the Devil himself than his Advocate. The World quickly learned

that the only currency the Advocate wallowed in was red - the color of vengeance. In the end it was true, the 'Devil' was dead. An innocent man wore the face of someone who wandered the darker underbelly of life and made the shadows cringe. Trevor was a good Catholic boy who shared groceries with his elderly neighbors; walked their pets; worked an honest job and tried to write the next great novel as he made his way in the world. The problem now was that dark world found out that Trevor was still alive. Would the Devil's Advocate be enough to protect the innocent or would Erik use this chance to revive the Devil of his dreams

Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo

In Like Life's eight exquisite stories, Lorrie Moore's characters stumble through their daily existence. These men and women, unsettled and adrift and often frightened, can't quite understand how they arrived at their present situations. Harry has been reworking a play for years in his apartment near Times Square in New York. Jane is biding her time at a cheese shop in a Midwest mall. Dennis, unhappily divorced, buries himself in self-help books about healthful food and healthy relationships. One prefers to speak on the phone rather than face his friends, another lets the answering machine do all the talking. But whether rejected, afraid to commit, bored, disillusioned or just misunderstood, even the most hard-bitten are not without some abiding trust in love.

The Black Woman

Chosen by John Updike as a Today Show Book Club Pick. Already an award-winning writer, ZZ Packer now shares with us her debut, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*. Her impressive range and talent are abundantly evident: Packer dazzles with her command of language, surprising and delighting us with unexpected turns and indelible images, as she takes us into the lives of characters on the periphery, unsure of where they belong. We meet a Brownie troop of black girls who are confronted with a troop of white girls; a young man who goes with his father to the Million Man March and must decide where his allegiance lies; an international group of drifters in Japan, who are starving, unable to find work; a girl in a Baltimore ghetto who has dreams of the larger world she has seen only on the screens in the television store nearby, where the Lithuanian shopkeeper holds out hope for attaining his own American Dream. With penetrating insight that belies her youth—she was only nineteen years old when *Seventeen* magazine printed her first published story—ZZ Packer helps us see the world with a clearer vision. *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* is a striking performance—fresh, versatile, and captivating. It introduces us to an arresting and unforgettable new voice.

Sleep Donation

"The place: central Florida. The situation: a sensational murder trial, set in a courthouse more Soviet than Le Corbusier; a rich, white teenage girl--a twin--on trial for murdering her toddler brother. Two of the jurors: Hannah, a married fifty-two-year-old former Rolling Stone and Interview Magazine photographer of rock stars and socialites (she began to photograph animals when she realized she saw people 'as a species'), and Graham, a forty-one-year-old anatomy professor. Both are sequestered (she, juror C-2; he, F-17) along with the other jurors at the Econo Lodge off I-75. As the shocking and numbing details of the crime are revealed during a string of days and courtroom hours, and the nights play out in a series of court-financed meals at Outback Steak House (the state isn't paying for their drinks) and Red Lobster, Hannah and Graham fall into a furtive affair, keeping their oath as jurors never to discuss the trial. During deliberations the lovers learn that they are on opposing sides of the case. Suddenly they look at one another through an altogether different lens, as things become more complicated"--

Gorilla, My Love

Writing Unseen Commentaries

The long-awaited new work from the best-selling author of *The Invisible Bridge*

takes us back to occupied Europe in this gripping historical novel based on the true story of Varian Fry's extraordinary attempt to save the work, and the lives, of Jewish artists fleeing the Holocaust In 1940, Varian Fry--a Harvard educated American journalist--traveled to Marseille carrying three thousand dollars and a list of imperiled artists and writers he hoped to rescue within a few weeks. Instead, he ended up staying in France for thirteen months, working under the veil of a legitimate relief organization to procure false documents, amass emergency funds, and set up an underground railroad that led over the Pyrenees, into Spain, and finally to Lisbon, where the refugees embarked for safer ports. Among his many clients were Hannah Arendt, Franz Werfel, André Breton, Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, and Marc Chagall. The Flight Portfolio opens at the Chagalls' ancient stone house in Gordes, France, as the novel's hero desperately tries to persuade them of the barbarism and tragedy descending on Europe. Masterfully crafted, exquisitely written, impossible to put down, this is historical fiction of the very first order, and resounding confirmation of Orringer's gifts as a novelist.

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